



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Transitional Services Workgroup

Minutes from October 19, 2022, Meeting #2

The Transitional Services Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on October 19, 2022, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Indiana Office of Court Services at 251 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, IN 46205. Terrie Decker and Magistrate Robert Vann chaired the meeting.

1. Members Present: The following members of the Committee were present:

- Chair Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Corrections
- Co-Chair Magistrate Robert Vann, Lake County Superior Court, Juvenile Division
- Jill Johnson, Marion County Public Defender's Office
- Victoria Jennings, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
- Chris Dixson, Indiana Department of Corrections
- Chris Stilwell, Indiana Department of
- Terese Bottner, Life Works
- Bart Doan, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
- Nick Orange, Family and Community Partners
- Kate Schedel, Indiana Department of Health

2. Members Present Virtually

- Amber Becker, Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Heather Savage, Indiana Youth Institute
- Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
- Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation
- Brandy Darling, Lake County Prosecutor
- Janet Bohner, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Abraham Hepler, Pierceton Woods/Spencer Home LLC filling in for Deb Johnson

3. Members Absent: The following members of the Committee did not attend the meeting:

- Andrea Ayietta, Keys2Work
- Deb Johnson, Pierceton Woods/Spencer Home LLC

4. Staff: Joseph Fischer, Tyler Mason, and Leslie Dunn attended in person as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

5. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Terrie Decker and Co-Chair Magistrate Robert Vann welcomed the members and thanked them for their attendance at today’s meeting.
6. **Meeting Minutes:** The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the September 21, 2022, meeting. Magistrate Robert Vann moved to approve the minutes. Jill Johnson seconded the motion. Approved unanimously without change.
7. **Overview of DCS providers:** Magistrate Vann provided the workgroup with a full and extensive list of available services through the Department of Child Services (DCS). The question posed is how we should take this list and make it a functional reality for the purpose this workgroup was set out to accomplish. Different members of the workgroup reviewed how these services and providers get on the list, and surrounding details.
 - **General:** DCS has contracts with many services providers encompassing a wide variety of services which are intended to serve the youth who are being released from highly restrictive placements, including DOC.
 - **Standards:** DCS has specific service standards for services intended to assist with transitioning from DOC. They must use an evidence-based model-such as MST (multi-systemic therapy).
 - **Process of becoming a DCS provider:** Standing rotation of RFP’s sent out to the public every 2 years for new/existing providers to submit proposals to DCS. Nearly all services are addressed and updated on this two-year cycle.
 - **Timing:** These providers are required to start working with the target client 60 days prior to release from DOC (30 for residential facility).
 - **Payment:** Depending on the service, some are provided by an hourly basis, and some are on a Per Diem based Model. It was voiced by a service provider that the Per Diem model is a more effective way to facilitate services than an hourly model and seems to be the way DCS is moving toward.
 - i. Service providers note a significant preference for per diem model both in terms of ability to assist individual clients, and the ability to sustain a fully staffed program.
8. **What is next?** Having over the last several meetings delineated the process, the relevant stakeholders, the challenges and the needs at hand, the Transitional Services Committee will move forward with a focus on two broad issues to “deep dive” into. These subgroups will meet to create a detailed list of needs and related recommendations.
 - **Services:**
 - i. Specific services are needed for a successful TRP process.
 - ii. Methods/programming foundations which have proven to be the most successful.
 - iii. An examination of which macro (niche single services) services and which large scale (around services) are needed to fully encompass the youth and family’s needs.
 - iv. Funding structure to promote TRP services rather than “a la cart” services
 - If rates stay stagnant, services will be understaffed or unavailable. How to address a needed increase in rates.
 - Ideal funding structure: per diem vs. hourly individual service structure.
 - v. Geographic limitations: district providers, mobile services, etc.
 - vi. **Mentoring:** The committee agrees that mentoring is one of the most powerful tools to retain engagement yet difficult to put in place.
 - Indiana is one of very few states that do not include mentoring as part of a DCS service standard.

- How to increase mentors available and pay for youth to have access too.
- vii. Best referral source. Can we create a services that is funded without a JC or JD needing to remain open?

- **Legislative**

- i. Creating a statutory mechanism through with the court referring a youth to DOC retains jurisdiction of this youth for post-release support and monitoring.
- ii. Address tension this could cause between certain courts and DOC
- iii. Must not usurp DOC's final determination on release timing.
- iv. The impact this will have on court's probation officers.
- v. Will this entail periodic review hearings or go on inactive status until the child is released?
- vi. Any statutory changes needed to enact the workgroup's services recommendations- particularly funding for youth that is not tied to an open JD or JC case.
- vii. Language that ensures this does not allow courts to use a DOC revolving door for technical violations or infractions, after release.

9. Sub committees: The above topics were divided into two subcommittees to meet monthly and report back to the workgroup, who will then in turn report findings and recommendations back to YJOC.

- Services subcommittee will consist of Nick Orange, Terese Bottner, Deborah Johnson, Heather Savage, Bart Doan, Susan Lightfoot, Janet Bohner, Kevin Elkins, Victoria Jennings, Chris Stilwell, Kate Schedel, Andrea Ayietta, and Amber Becker. Tyler Mason will primarily staff this committee
- Legal subcommittee will consist of Jill Johnson, Janet Bohner, Brady Darling, Chris Dixson. Joseph Fischer will primarily staff this subcommittee.
- Terrie Decker and Magistrate Vann will be active members of both subcommittees.

10. Subject matter reminder: 1359 requires this subgroup to “Develop a plan for the provision of transitional services *for a child who is a ward of the department of corrections.*” Workgroup reiterates that its primary focus is on youth who are sent to DOC. Not youth being released from juvenile centers or residential facilities, regardless of age or other involvement.

11. Future meetings: The next meeting of this workgroup is set for November 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (Eastern Time) at the same location, if available.

12. Closing: Chair and Co-Chair adjourned the October 19th, 2022, meeting at noon.