



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Transitional Services Workgroup

Minutes from November 16, 2022, Meeting #4

The Transitional Services Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on November 16, 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
- 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 Corrections
- Bart Doan, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
- Kate Schedel, Indiana Department of Health
- Deb Johnson, Pierceton Woods/Spencer Home LLC
- Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation
- Brandy Darling, Lake County Prosecutor

2. Members Present Virtually

- Heather Savage, Indiana Youth Institute
- Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
- Janet Bohner, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Abraham Hepler, Pierceton Woods/Spencer Home LLC filling in for Deb Johnson
- Nick Orange, Family and Community Partners
- Terese Bottner, Life Works
- Andrea Ayietta, Keys2Work

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

- Co-Chair Magistrate Robert Vann, Lake County Superior Court, Juvenile Division
- Amber Becker, Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction

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

5. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Terrie Decker welcomed the members and thanked them for their attendance at today's meeting and for recent sub-committee work.
6. **Meeting Minutes:** The workgroup reviewed the minutes from October 16, 2022, meeting. Susan Lightfoot moved to approve the minutes. Debra Johnson seconded the motion. Approved unanimously without change.
7. **Overview of two subgroup's progress and considerations:** Transitional Services Committee reviewed the considerations, concerns, ideas, and recommendations of both sub-committees. Open table discussion.
 - **Services:** Chair Terrie Decker provides an overview of the recent services sub-group. There is a consensus among the workgroup and this subgroup regarding the general nature and type of services we should be providing to youth transitioning out of IDOC. Additional conversation and considerations included:
 - i. CJJA is preparing a survey of how other states oversee their versions of youth in DOC and how they are transitioned out of restrictive placements.
 - ii. Funding type is as important as funding amount. The services group would like to recommend the state adopt a presumption for a "per diem" model as it makes more services available and retains service providers.
 - iii. General agreement that the post-release treatment team should begin working with youth 60 days prior to release, with consideration for behavioral challenges.
 - iv. Mentoring has been proven to be very impactful but is not offered by any involved funding source without a court order.
 - **Legislative:** There is a consensus that jurisdiction in the county courts will be an underpinning recommendation. There are several issues to determine as we determine how this should look. Ongoing conversation and issues include:
 - i. Retention of jurisdiction throughout the incarceration period vs. resuming jurisdiction upon release? Review hearings during incarceration.
 - ii. Any retention OR resuming of jurisdiction of youth being released by IDOC *must* give IDOC the final word on when a youth is released. Jurisdiction adjustment must be crafted to foster successful transitions rather than longer incarcerations.
 - iii. Where will funding for the post release services come from?
 - iv. How will this work for youth 17.5 years old and up? How long will county courts be required to keep a case open after the child is released from IDOC?
8. **Additional thoughts and solutions**
 - QRTP, though new, has been successful in residential facility releases. That model could be considered when crafting the model and timeline of services for release from IDOC.
 - Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's housing assistance and Indiana Department of Workforce Development's job assistance programs need to be included and brought into these teams rather than outside resources. If they are part of the transition, they can offer more help.
9. **Future meetings:** The next meeting of this workgroup is set for January 18th, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (Eastern Time) at the same location, if available. Sub-Groups to meet again in December.
10. **Closing:** Chair and Co-Chair adjourned the November 16th, 2022, meeting at noon.