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# Youth Justice Oversight Committee

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## **Diversion Work Group**

**November 18, 2022**

**12:30 pm**

**Indiana Government Center-South**

**Harrison Hall, Conference Room 18**

**302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

## **Minutes**

1. Ms. Fitz called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Magistrate Sally Berish, Katie Elmer (Zoom), Tracy Fitz (chair), Trisha Hanes, Megan Horton (co-chair), Kay Knorr, George Mavranicolas (Zoom), Rachel McCaffrey, Shannon O'Toole, Sarah Welcome, Julie Whitman (guest), and Diane Mains (staff) (attendance sheet attached)

2. September 23, 2022 meeting minutes

Ms. O'Toole motioned to adopt the minutes as written. Ms. Knorr seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

3. Updates from the Grants, Best Practices, and Data and Definitions Subgroups

- a. Ms. Horton distributed a working document outlining: (attached)
  - i. Research based best practices and considerations discussed in the best practices subgroup
  - ii. Takeaways from queries to counties and program providers from the grants subgroup
  - iii. Proposed recommendations/considerations to share with the Grants Work Group
- b. Document was reviewed and discussed: Work Group identified additional information to add to the document:
  - i. Types of promising programs/practices identified in research, e.g., restorative justice and teen courts
  - ii. Potential best practice program parameters or encouraged practices: add Youth and Family Engagement (good opportunity for regional collaborations)
    1. Engaging youth and families in program development
    2. Family-centered programming
  - iii. Elaborate options for up-front funding/startup funding for new programs and include stakeholder training money.

- iv. No substantive data considerations at this point, but add language to incorporate data tracking and sharing into grant agreements/MOUs
    - v. Add "offramp" visuals as a reminder of encouraging a continuum of diversionary options and identifying decision-points at which different diversion options may be implemented
  - c. Identified recommendation/consideration to share with the Screening Work Group: provide training on the IYAS Diversion Tool to broader group of local stakeholders so those involved with developing, implementing, administering, assessing and/or referring to diversion programs have a clear understanding of the tool that is being used to assess eligibility.
- 4. Diversion Grant Program parameters
  - a. See above
  - b. This subgroup will discontinue its ongoing meetings, and will instead convene on an ad hoc basis as needed.
- 5. Research Based Diversion and Informal Adjustment Policies and Procedures
  - a. Best practices subgroup will continue to meet
  - b. The subgroup will turn its attention to definitions (including statutory definitions for grants) and the continuum of decision-points. Engagement is higher when there is direct contact between community providers and the child/parents. Eliminate probation/courts if possible to increase outcomes. More about restorative justice than punishment. Each program will have its own process for accountability.
    - i. Need to begin discussion on Informal Adjustments. Ms. Horton will contact the Probation Standards Committee on this topic.
  - c. The subgroup discussed scheduling the next meeting during the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> (potentially the 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am or noon).

Ms. Horton will revise the document consistent with today's discussion and provide it to the Grants Group.

Ms. Whitman reminded the group of the availability of the Youth and Family Advisory Committee to assist with Diversion's work. This Committee is meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month. Diversion Work Group can submit proposals/potential recommendations to this committee at any point to get their feedback and input.

- 6. Ms. Fitz adjourned the meeting @ 1:49 pm.

Next meeting: **January 27, 2023 @ 12:30 pm**