



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Transitional Services Workgroup

Minutes January 18th, 2023, Meeting #5

The Transitional Services Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on Jan 18th, 2023 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
- Bart Doan, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
- Amber Becker, Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation

2. Members Present Virtually

- Co-Chair Magistrate Robert Vann, Lake County Superior Court, Juvenile Division
- Terese Bottner, LifeWorks
- Deb Johnson, Lasting Change
- Brandy Darling, Lake County Prosecutor
- Kate Schedel, Indiana Department of Health
- Janet Bohner, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Andrea Ayietta, Keys2Org
- Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation
- Heather Savage, Indiana Youth Institute

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

- Nick Orange, Family and Community Partners

4. Staff: Joseph Fischer, Tyler Mason, Julie Whitman, and Leslie Dunn 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. Staff distributed the agenda and additional paperwork for review.
6. **Meeting Minutes:** The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the November 14th 2022 meeting, meeting. Approved unanimously without change.
7. **Preparation of Draft and Summary for YJOC Review:** The Committee has urged our taskforce to not hold back the workgroup recommendations. Pushback will exist no matter what. We should make a full and thorough recommendation and not take pushbacks as a factor. As the Chair prepares to write the draft the group used this meeting to go through the broad categories of recommendation and determine what the recommendations will be.

- **Three broad portions of workgroup recommendation were agreed upon:**
 - i. A statutory amendment mandating that Judges who send youth to IDOC/DYS retain jurisdiction over that youth during and after their release.
 - This was selected by the workgroup as preferable to other presented options.
 - ii. A formulated transition plan including a timing recommendation, a staffing recommendation, a budgetary recommendation, and a framework for bringing all appropriate service providers together with the youth and their family.
 - iii. Services will be provided from DCS contracted service providers. A thorough list of services which should be made available at the conclusion of the workgroup's efforts.
- **Additional content for the draft, and beyond.**
 - i. This workgroup's recommendations are the best solution to the problems it was assigned to consider. However, it could stretch DCS providers even thinner. This can be in part avoided by encouraging DCS to reimburse services providers in transitional services cases at a per diem level.
 - Limiting service provider liability for transporting youth for these cases might also ease some of the burden in adding new cases to DCS contracted service providers.
 - ii. Employment planning, vocational training, Work One etc. Should be included in the youth's transition and be brought into the transition plan early.
 - iii. Part of the plan for a more coordinated and thoughtful release will be hiring reintegration coordinators for IDOC/DYS. This budgetary need should be included in the workgroup report, along with increased DCS funding.
 - iv. Since the court will retain jurisdiction throughout the youth's commitment to IDOC/DSY, this will allow the ongoing participating of the youths attorney.

8. **Additional Group Discussion**

- Is it possible to accomplish interagency liaisons with each state agency involved in the success of transitioned youth?
- The group consensus is that this plan should cover youth up to 21, to mirror the age of youth who can be at IDOC/DYS through Juvenile Court.
- QRTP process continues to be a preferred model for a transition plan in the workgroup.
- Continue to ensure that youth leave with medical information, at minimum a month of medication, appointments set up and any remaining medical coverage.

- The workgroup reiterated the need to address the needs of each individual child as a unique set of facts and needs. It will require screening tools and a different formulation for each youth. There is NO correlation between the type of offense and risk level. It must be individual based.

9. Future meetings: The next meeting of this workgroup is set for February 15th, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (Eastern Time) at the same location, if available.

10. Closing: Chair and Co-Chair adjourned the January 18th, 2023 meeting at noon.