



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Diversion Work Group

January 27, 2023

12:30 pm

Fuse East

201 N. Illinois Street, 2nd floor, Indianapolis

Minutes

1. Ms. Fitz called the meeting to order 12:37 pm.

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

2. The November 18, 2022, meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously adopted.
3. Updates from the Best Practices, and Data and Definitions Subgroups
 - Ms. Horton distributed the updated working document on diversion for discussion.
 - Members are still gathering data from some locations to ensure that all options are represented on the continuum.
 - Final report components:
 - A visual representation of the continuum of diversion options will be included in the final report.
 - A communication plan so that stakeholders are aware of all diversion options.
 - Start with the least restrictive diversion option that is appropriate and exhaust prior options before moving on to a more restrictive option.
 - Rely on DCS provider standards to ensure effectiveness of diversion programming.
 - Collection of diversion data that can be feasibly required of a program.
 - Execute data agreements between the program and providers and other agencies so that shared definitions are used and there is a commitment to collect and report data. Consult with Data Work Group.
 - Stakeholder training, particularly on the IYAS.
 - Parental involvement is key. Determine and address any barriers to engagement by the youth and parents.
 - The youth need to be able to relate to and feel comfortable with program staff for good outcomes.

- Determine what incentivizes youth and incorporate appropriate practices into programming.
- Ms. Horton will obtain diversion information from Lake and Tippecanoe counties and update the diversion continuum as needed.
- Ms. Dunn stated that the Mental Health Work Group inquired about how best to include mental health services in diversion. Often referrals are made at the time of diversion or paperwork provided. Porter County has a mental health diversion program that Ms. Horton will gather information from Porter County to include in the final report.

4. Informal Adjustments

- A case may be referred back to an informal adjustment process after a petition is filed. This option needs to be included in the continuum.

5. Meeting with the Youth and Family Advisory Committee will be held on February 18, 2023, beginning at 1:00 pm via Zoom. All members were invited to attend this meeting. The Chair will be expected to present on the tasks assigned to the Diversion WG, then ask for input and questions. The Committee will provide written recommendations from the meeting to our WG.

6. The YJOC will meet on February 8, 2023. Final report due at the April YJOC meeting. Members would like some guidance on how specific our recommendations should be. Volunteers sought to help draft the diversion report. Ms. O'Toole volunteered to assist with writing the final report.

7. Ms. Fitz adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Next meeting: **March 17, 2023 @ 12:30 pm**
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