



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Screening and Assessment Work Group

February 10, 2023

Minutes

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on February 10, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Regions Bank Building Event Center. Shannon Chambers chaired the meeting.

1. **Members present in-person.** The following members of the workgroup were present in-person:
 1. Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation, Chair
 2. Judge Andrea Trevino, Allen Superior Court, Co-Chair
 3. Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
 4. Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
 5. Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
 6. Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
 7. Senator Jean Breaux, Senate District 34
 8. Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
 9. Kory George, Wayne County Probation
 10. Judge Kim Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court 2
 11. Don Travis, Department of Child Services

2. **Member present electronically.** The following members of the workgroup were present electronically:
 1. Alison Cox, Porter County Detention Center
 2. Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation
 3. Rachel Patterson, Clark County Probation

3. **Members absent.** The following members of the workgroup did not attend the meeting:
 1. Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office
 2. Brittany Simmons, Indiana Office of Court Services/JDAI
 3. Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction

4. **Staff.** Michelle Goodman, Leslie Dunn, and Nick Akerman attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

5. **Guests.** Amber Becker, Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

6. **Welcome and introductions.** Shannon Chambers called the meeting to order and welcomed the workgroup members.
7. **Approval of November 2 & 30, 2022 and January 20, 2023 minutes.** The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the November 2 & 30, 2022, and January 20, 2023 meetings. Judge Dowling moved to approve the set of minutes and Lindsey Grossnickle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously after a roll call vote.
8. **Report from YJOC meeting.** Shannon Chambers provided an overview of the February 8th Oversight Committee meeting. She reported that JC Barnes presented information on risk assessment and the IYAS to the group and there was a very good discussion as a result. During the workgroup report, there was a discussion whether requiring all referrals to have an assessment before a diversion decision would result in bringing youth further into the system. The meeting is recorded and archived if members would like to watch it.
9. **Discussion on gathering stakeholder feedback.** Judge Trevino, building off the discussion at the last meeting, reported that 40 counties had one or more stakeholders participate in our outreach process. The workgroup did not have any additional feedback to provide since the last meeting. Judge Dowling asked how the risk assessment language and terms were reviewed as it relates to race and equity efforts to minimize bias. There was consensus that all tools and work should be evaluated to address this concern.
10. **Discussion on workgroup deliverables and report outline.** Judge Trevino reminded the workgroup of the information contained in the action plan and the workgroup deliverables. She then asked the workgroup to review the report outline. Regarding recommendations, the workgroup agreed that the IYAS tools are validated tools approved by the Judicial Conference, which comply with the requirements of HEA 1359. The workgroup agreed that stakeholder education must include how each tool is used in the decision-making process.

Next, the workgroup discussed the diversion decision point and noted other related statutes for consideration (e.g., IC 31-37-8-1 and statute providing the prosecutor direct the preliminary inquiry to be completed). The discussion included reviewing the definition of diversion from HEA 1359, which places the decision on diversion with the prosecutor, and that the recommendations should outline how referrals are received and processed, what triggers the assessment process (e.g., paper referrals, arrests, or both), and when the assessment is completed, etc. The workgroup discussed the various local policies on eligibility for diversion and the need to ensure that defense attorneys also have access to the assessment information. The workgroup decided to recommend policies and procedures must be developed for each county and recommended IC 31-27-8.5(d) include “unless dismissed by the prosecutor” to clarify when an assessment and Preliminary Inquiry would be made. It was recommended to consider the flexibility needed at the local level while having some minimums for statewide consistency. The workgroup suggested adding the key statutory references to the case flow chart in addition to when the assessments are required. Regarding our technology systems to produce the Preliminary Inquiry, the workgroup would recommend allowing the ability to add multiple tools to a single report (e.g., IYAS-Detention Tool, JDAI – Detention screening tool, and the IYAS-Diversion Tool). In addition, the Supervised Release System should allow disposition of charges to allow for the Diversion option.

Regarding the detention decision point, the workgroup agreed to have both the IYAS-Detention Tool and the JDAI-Detention Screening tool (if a JDAI county) available and used for this decision. The workgroup discussed needing to specify when the tools are completed and how that information would be provided. The workgroup referred to IC 31-37-6-6(a) in discussing this decision point. The workgroup agreed that a process should be outlined for these steps and specify if these can be in the Preliminary Inquiry or provided in another manner.

Regarding the dispositional decision point, the workgroup agreed the current IYAS policies are adequate. The workgroup discussed how this information is currently provided, with some counties including the IYAS-Dispositional Tool with the Preliminary Inquiry while others include it with the Pre-Dispositional Report. The workgroup also discussed that some dispositions are made without a report for the hearing and whether there should be criteria for waiving the Pre-Dispositional Report similar to what is already done with adult Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports.

11. Report on Probation Standards Committee. Shannon Chambers reported that the Probation Standards Committee is continuing to work on the proposed changes to the probation standards and their presentation to the Youth and Family Advisory Group. After the meeting with the Advisory Group, the Probation Committee will have to approve the proposal prior to presenting it to the Judicial Conference Board of Directors. The Committee also provided a draft of the standard guideline for consistent use of risk assessments for feedback. The workgroup reviewed the materials and agreed to add text to the guideline to require the sharing of the assessment information with decision makers in advance of the decision.

12. Youth and Family Advisory Group invitation. Shannon Chambers reminded the workgroup that our meeting with the Youth and Family Advisory Group is Saturday, March 18th meeting via Zoom. We are to provide information on screening and assessment and receive input from their group on our work. The workgroup did not have any suggestions at this time for questions to present. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

13. Future workgroup meetings. The workgroup confirmed the following meeting dates for 2023:

- Friday, March 10 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 21 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 12 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 2 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.