



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Data Work Group Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting Details

Date and Time of Meeting: March 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location of meeting: Indiana Office of Court Services, 251 N. Illinois St,
Indianapolis, IN, Suite 800

Minutes prepared by: Lisa Thompson

II. Attendees

Members present in-person:

- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine, Chair
- Mary Kay Hudson, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair
- Judge Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit/Superior Court 3
- Christine Reynolds, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Melanie Pitstick, Marion County Juvenile Probation
- Kristi Bruther, Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center
- Kaitlyn Christian, Management Performance Hub
- Josie Fasoldt, Governor's Office of Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Traci Lane, Madison County Juvenile Probation
- Olga Volokhova, Indiana Youth Institute
- Judge Paul Felix, Hamilton Circuit Court (afternoon)

Members present electronically via Zoom:

- N/A

Members absent:

- Sarah Schelle, Indiana Department of Correction
- Nikki Ford, Indiana Department of Child Services

Guests present:

- Corajeon Medina, Department of Child Services (morning)

Staff present:

- April Dubree, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Leslie Dunn, Indiana Office of Court Services

Staff present electronically via Zoom:

- Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology

III. Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2023 Meeting

Committee members were provided a copy of the February 2, 2023 meeting Minutes prior to today's meeting. Kristi Bruther made a motion to approve the Minutes; Judge Mullican seconded the motion. Work group members unanimously approved the February 2, 2023 meeting Minutes.

IV. Review of Draft Work Group Report to YJOC

Prior to the meeting, work group members were presented with a draft of the Data Work Group report that is being written on behalf of the YJOC. Mary Kay Hudson walked the work group members through the content of the report for feedback, as well as authorization to continue working toward a final work product in the coming weeks. It was noted that the substance of the report was drawn from conversations had by this group, going back to last summer when the work group first convened. Additional information and commentary have been added to footnotes to help provide background information.

The first section of the report is arranged by the deliverables, as outlined in HEA 1359. There is first a preamble or introduction to this report, outlining what the YJOC was asked to accomplish.

Deliverable # 1: Goals

The work group members unanimously approved the goals listed in the draft report.

Deliverable # 2: Definitions

The YJOC Data Dictionary mostly represents the youth characteristics required for RED reporting, with the addition of social security number, gender, home county, educational level, and risk level through the IYAS. Additional suggestions were made to clarify county of residence (instead of home county), as well as also collecting county where the offense occurred. It was noted that sex and gender should be collected separately, as they are two different and distinct characteristics. Josie Fasoldt recommended adding a characteristic for disability as to ensure we are covering all aspects of inclusivity. Mary Kay noted that this area may need to be studied further in order to address challenges in collecting this data.

The list of Case Processing Events was reviewed, and recommendations were made to include additional data points to adequately track each event. These additions will help refine the youth justice process and ensure we are collecting data that represents all possible pathways through the system. The work group briefly discussed the additional recommendation for a Juvenile Abstract of Judgment (or something similarly named) to standardize juvenile disposition data.

It was noted that the Youth Justice Programming and Services section should simply list generic items, but also include a footnote to clarify that this is intended to support local jurisdictions and their data collection around programming. This area is not necessarily intended to include data that will be aggregated at the state level.

Deliverable # 3: Standard Protocols and Procedures

In this area of the report, the Data Work Group is attempting to manage expectations and openly share that what the YJOC has been asked to accomplish is a difficult task.

The YJOC plans to evaluate the adopted data elements by pulling a sample of data from Odyssey, SRS and Quest case management systems for approximately 20 counties. This exercise would help identify the data counties collect today, and what data we can readily gather at the state level. From there, we can work with those data sets as a starting point, while continuing to identify gaps/challenges and assess data integrity issues.

Once the initial assessment phase is complete, we will be able to better identify our goals and show that we are making a good-faith effort toward that goal. We would then identify approximately 5 counties willing to commit to becoming champions of this data. They would adopt the Data Collection Protocol and help identify any challenges and barriers in the first year. This endeavor will allow us to revise our data definitions and determine what system enhancements may be needed.

Deliverable # 4: Performance and Data Measures

The work group discussed that there really is not a baseline for statewide data, nor are there any recommendations around performance measures in juvenile justice.

The work group agreed to first focus on Process Measures, rather than Performance Measures. Initially, there is a greater need to track who the youth are, length of time to certain events, and whether outcomes were in alignment

with recommendations (as a few examples). Once a solid foundation is established on Process Measures, we can work toward evaluating services and interventions that lead to outcomes. Further discussion will be needed to define outcomes, such as re-engagement with the justice system (within a timeframe), educational attainment/graduation rates, employment status, entry into the adult criminal justice system, emotional health, etc.

Deliverable # 5: Data Reporting

There is an opportunity to condense this section further. Lisa Thompson will work on revising this section to include an acknowledgement of the responsibility to collect this data, while identifying challenges.

Deliverable # 6: Research Agenda

Mary Kay and Dr. Aalsma will work together to revise this section to make a stronger connection between the Research Agenda (from 2022) to the pilot project that has evolved from this work group's recommendations.

Under Research Objective # 1, the report needs to clarify the plan to select 5 counties to assess what is readily available in order to expand data quality. The Research Objective will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, with the larger goal of expanding to all 92 counties. An invitation letter will be sent from IOCS or from the Data Work Group to counties to request volunteers for this work. Ideally, we would like to work with counties with diverse populations, and counties who are either JDAI sites or who are comfortable using data. We will need to ensure a balance between Quest and SRS jurisdictions, as well as rural and urban counties. Judge Felix volunteered Hamilton County to participate.

Nancy Wever shared that Voices just received a grant from AECF to evaluate the practices of probation from the youth and family perspective.

Deliverable # 7: Costs of Collecting and Reporting

Lisa Thompson shared with the work group the breakdown of how costs were determined. In total, the YJOC will be requesting \$200,000 up-front for essential technology changes to support the required data collection and reporting outlined in HEA 1359, plus an additional \$1.5 million biennially to support ongoing technology needs to support data sharing, the implementation of a training and technical assistance team, and to sustain the YJOC's Research Agenda.

Members discussed the Recommendations section and suggested additional language. Members discussed the merits of enhancing the current Log of Juveniles

Held, rather than replacing it altogether. One option to improve this data is to require a more timely use of the Log of Juveniles Held so that the data is more reliable and as close to “real-time” as possible.

Members discussed the impact of juvenile expungements on the data as a whole. Mary Kay pointed out that this area needs to be explored further to assess the extent of the impact of expungements on measuring process and outcome measures.

The list of Existing Initiatives will be incorporated into Deliverable # 5 when explaining data reporting needs. Nancy Wever volunteered to revise the section pertaining to the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

The work group agreed to remove the section pertaining to the Review of Other Work, as those initiatives and tasks have already been addressed throughout other areas of the report.

The Challenges and Opportunities sections will need to be expanded further. The work group also discussed writing a conclusion for the data report. Mary Kay will discuss with Leslie Dunn to see how that can be accomplished as part of the full YJOC report.

V. Data Dictionary Updates

There are five terms that still need to be defined: Probation, Presumptive Waiver, Non-Presumptive Waiver, Petition to Modify Dispositional Decree and Order Granting Modification to Dispositional Decree. Mary Kay will work with her staff to draft a definition for Probation. IOCS staff will review the Juvenile Benchbook for guidance on Presumptive and Non-Presumptive Waivers. Judge Mullican and Judge Felix will work together to define Petition to Modify Dispositional Decree and Order Granting Modification to Dispositional Decree before April 6, 2023.

VI. Prep for Youth & Family Advisory Group Meeting

The Data Work Group is scheduled to attend the Youth & Family Advisory Group Meeting (virtually via Zoom) on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Dr. Aalsma and Mary Kay Hudson plan to attend to present on behalf of the Data Work Group. Lisa Thompson will attend to take notes. Judge Felix may attend if his schedule allows.

Nancy Wever shared that she has stepped in as the liaison to the Youth & Family Advisory Group since Julie Whitman’s departure. She shared that other work groups have prepared a presentation to explain the progress made by their

committee. It is also recommended to ask 3-5 questions of the youth and to seek their input for recommendations.

VII. Next Meeting

The next Data Work Group meeting will be on **Thursday, April 6th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Indiana Office of Court Services, Indianapolis.**

The next Youth Justice Oversight Committee Meeting is **April 12th at 10:00 am** at Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C, Indianapolis. There will be a live webcast of this meeting available on the Youth Justice Oversight Committee website: www.in.gov/youthjustice.