



# Youth Justice Oversight Committee

## Diversion Work Group

March 17, 2023

Fuse East

201 N. Illinois Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Indianapolis

## Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:46 pm.
2. The Work Group approved the January 27, 2023, meeting minutes.
3. Draft Diversion Report
  - The report is still in draft format. The members determined that nothing was missing from the report.
  - YJOC will review the report and provide feedback at the April meeting. YJOC meets again on May 10 for final report adoption.
  - Members discussed each section of the draft report to ensure all needed information is present and reflects the work of the group. After discussion as noted below each section of the report was adopted.

### Discussion

- I. Introduction – Tracy will write this section.
- II. Recommendations
  - A. changed title to Diversion Grant Parameters (review legislation to use the same wording)
    - Include grantee reporting requirements
    - Require a sustainability plan
    - Allow planning grants
    - Allow up-front funding for programs that are newly created
    - Refer to language in statute to determine what grant parameters are specifically listed and determine if our recommendations can fit within this language; may require statutory language change at some point in the future
  - B. Diversion Program Best Practices (Kay and Shannon)
    - Clearly defined target population and referral process. This section was discussed at length by the members to determine if our discussions around diversion match the statutory parameters. Members expressed concern that the statute limits diversion to informal adjustments and/or participation of the prosecutor. Many of the diversion programs discussed by the group can occur at points earlier in the process (e.g., contact with law enforcement) that do not require the formal intervention of the juvenile justice system or creating a case.

Members discussed the role of risk assessment in the various diversion off-ramps. Explaining our interpretation of the current language and if we proposed any different interpretation (“If the interpretation is ..... then.....”)

- Community-Based Partnerships and Programs (Kay)
  - Data-informed (Shannon)
  - Collaborative Development and Strong Organization, Cross-Agency Partnerships (Shannon)
  - Develop a continuum of diversionary options (Megan)
  - Developmentally appropriate program content, focused on changing behavior, problem-solving, and enhancing pro-social skills (Sarah)
  - Develop operation policies (Sarah)
  - Equity and cultural competency (Kay)
  - Youth and family involvement (Kay)
- C. Types of Diversion Programs (Tracy and Megan)
    - Teen court
    - Restorative justice
    - Police-led programs/”pre-arrest” diversion programs
    - Service coordination
    - Add Community Service to either the service coordination section or counseling/skill building section
    - Counsel/Skill building
  - D. Informal Adjustments
    - Committee needs to define informal adjustment and reference back to statutory language. “IAs are diversions from formal court processing.”
    - Viewed as a separate “off-ramp” within diversion category
    - Remove the second recommendation from this section. Replace with “Make counties should strive to implement informal adjustment programs that focus on meeting specific goals or participating in specific services tailored to the risk and needs of each youth referred.....”
  - E. Data Considerations – remove section as topic will be addressed by the Data Work Group
  - F. Youth and Advisory Group (Tracy)
  - Conclusion?????
  - Remove list of YJOC members

4. The report writers, Megan, Tracy, Shannon, Kay, and Sarah will flesh out report in time for the YJOC April meeting. The chairs will keep the rest of the work group members apprised of the progress.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm.

Next meeting: **May 19, 2023 @ 12:30 pm**  
**201 N. Illinois Street, Second Floor**  
**Indianapolis**