



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes from November 29, 2023 Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on November 29, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Fuse Center West. Judge Dana Kenworthy chaired the meeting.

1. Members present.

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- Judge Dana Kenworthy, Chair
- Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Indiana University
- Steve Balko, Indiana Department of Education
- Serrilla Blackmon, Division of Mental Health, FSSA
- Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Wayne Superior Court 3
- Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- Mary Kay Hudson, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- Emily Krauser, Indiana Housing and Economic Development Authority
- Devon McDonald, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation, and the Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- Magistrate Amy Richison, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts
- Sarah Sailors, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- Joel Wieneke, Indiana Public Defender Council
- Kia Wright, Voices Corporation

2. Members who attended the meeting via Zoom.

None

3. Members absent.

Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Shannon Chambers

4. Staff.

Leslie Dunn, Nick Parker, Michelle Goodman, April Dubree, Joseph Fischer, Lisa Thompson, Lindsey Petitt, Megan Horton, Payton Lester, Chris Biehn and Mindy Pickett from the Office of Judicial Administration attended. Mark Fairchild and Blane Cook from the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) attended.

5. Welcome and Introductions.

Judge Kenworthy introduced herself and thanked former Chair Retired Justice Steve David. Members shared their appreciation for Justice David’s leadership and passion.

6. Grants Update.

Devon McDonald from Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) said that the first round of grant applications totaled \$3.1 million (over all three grant categories). He noted that they will offer another round of grants. Several counties just applied for planning grants; these counties will need another grant to implement their plans. There were several people who started the grant process but did not complete it, and people who attended the webinars that did not apply for a grant; ICJI will contact them to find out why. The largest number of grants was in the diversion grant category, with eighteen grant applications. A few of these were multi-county applications and six were planning grants. There were fourteen community alternatives grants and eight behavioral health applications. The largest amount requested was for the behavioral health grants at \$1.5 million, most of which were substance abuse programs; some were for therapy programs; some were for multi-county programs. They anticipate offering another round of grants in the summer of 2024. Devon noted that once the money is obligated, it carries over from year to year. There is a concern that in two or more years the money will not be obligated; Devon will check whether the funds will revert.

Mary Kay Hudson suggested that it might be helpful to check with legislators to find out if the funds can be used for data support. Judge Kenworthy noted that Representative McNamara said that December 12 is the deadline to make legislative suggestions. She asked members to get any legislative suggestions to her before the deadline. Dr. Aalsma noted that the local communities have trouble identifying service providers; the workforce problem is a big issue across the state and we need innovative ideas on this. Sirilla Blackmon asked if the grant funds can be given to small agencies up front. Devon stated that advances are only allowed if the fund states that this is allowed. Devon stated that if they do that, the agencies will have to provide invoices and expenses up-front. Judge Kenworthy noted that this is a legislative action item along with making the grants coincide with the counties’ budget cycles.

Behavioral health assessments remain a problem; could we do outreach to providers to see if they can target a grant toward this issue? Devon recommended that they invite potential grant applicants to attend a meeting before the next round of funding to discuss. It would be helpful to have a clearinghouse of programs where counties can go look and see if there is a program similar to what they are considering. Mary Kay Hudson envisions putting the grants awarded on the YJOC website with details on the programs and contact information for new counties so they can reach out if they want more information or to coordinate a site visit. When the YJOC grants are awarded, IOCS should put the information in the Wednesday Weekly message to judges and let them know there will be future opportunities. Nancy Wever stated that JDAI has an interactive map that shows alternatives to detention in JDAI counties and we could possibly do something similar.

7. Workgroups:

a. Data

Data is a huge component; there are definitions and data across five or more systems. The Data Workgroup laid out a staged approach. They will start working with a couple of counties—both urban and rural as well as JDAI and non-JDAI counties. Resources will

be needed to get statewide data in real time to see how a youth moves through the system. The Data report proposed a two-pronged project. They want to assess data practices in twenty volunteer counties; assess variations in local practices. They recommended identifying five counties to do more intensive work with and putting practices into place to see what it will take to obtain the juvenile justice data we want to collect. IOCS is undertaking internal work on a data warehouse with consultants and youth justice data is a top priority. IOCS is discussing how they can support counties and shore up resources. IOCS is responsible for reports around local detention policies, and on detention overrides and diversion. There are lots of different practices.

b. Screening and Assessment

Michelle Goodman presented on behalf of Shannon Chambers. They recommended policy amendments regarding screening and training consistent with SEA 1359. They wanted to align policies with the new requirements. Any policy recommendations will go to the Judicial Conference Board of Directors; this will be the next step. They are reviewing the re-validation studies by University of Cincinnati on IYAS/IRAS to determine other changes in policy and procedures surrounding the risk assessment tools. They are also considering staffing and other resources available at IOCS.

c. Behavioral Health

The workgroup was charged with reviewing diagnostic assessments, the use of telehealth and creating a behavioral health plan. They looked at diagnostic criteria and what is needed to maintain youth in the home. They identified rules around telehealth. They talked about resources from DCS and enhancing the capacity to use DCS providers and to use MOU's with community mental health centers. DMHA is building 988 and mobile response stabilization services to cover everyone; they need to look at partnerships, the overlap and any gaps. Workforce is an issue for everyone. They need to expand their high acuity group that reviews cases with a multi-disciplinary approach. Judge Kenworthy said this sounded like their local SHOCAP/Safe Policy and this might be an opportunity to use local process as a model for the state level. She also noted we needed to coordinate with the Behavioral Health Commission.

d. Diversion

The workgroup created diversion grant parameters that encouraged regional partnerships and planning grants. They created best practices for diversion; identify a target population and a referral process, and programs need to be collaborative and include data. Informal adjustments do not have to mirror standard rules; should be tailored to the child rather than be a checklist. Their next step is to create a resource kit for counties to use when planning diversion programs. They will review and highlight what programs are working well and make that available to other counties. Outreach and messaging regarding the grants needs to continue.

Mary Kay notes that OJA is working on a report that requires counties to provide information on diversion; this is very challenging. We do not have a lot of information and we need to spend time thinking about this. The request is to have the number of

youth diverted and the outcomes. There will need to be system modifications to do this. We need to figure out how to collect this information moving forward. Devon noted that there is a lot of pressure to get the funds out to the counties, but he asked if we are putting the cart before the horse because we do not have the infrastructure and the workforce. Mary Kay suggested we communicate that we need flexibility as to how the grant funds can be spent; we have significant needs for data; we have to collect data and have no mechanism to do so. Counties did not have time to prepare for the grants. We have to give counties time to see what other counties are doing but we also need a plan to share with legislators as to how we move forward.

Judge King notes that JDAI funds are easier to apply for than the grants and that the behavioral health grants are a problem because they do not have providers. How can we use the grant funds to increase the providers? We also need quality programs. Flexibility in the use of funds is necessary to move the ball forward. Judge Kenworthy offered to talk to Representative McNamara about how to use the money to attack the barriers and address critical issues such as data infrastructure if the group agreed she should do that. No objections. Nancy Wever noted that community organizations are critical; diversion works best when it is as far away from the court as possible.

e. Transitional Services

This workgroup was to develop a plan and policies for transitional services but ended up recommending further study through the data workgroup. They will work with five counties to do a process evaluation to study transitional services. DOC is seeing more kids placed with them because there is no other place for them to go but DOC is not the right place for these kids. They have started conversations with DCS to address these concerns.

Terrie noted her co-chair is not continuing. Judge Kenworthy asked the chairs to check with their workgroups between now and our February meeting to see who wants to continue.

f. Probation Standards

Magistrate Foley stated that Probation Standards completed their work and has disbanded. The Probation Committee and the Judicial Conference Board of Directors accepted the workgroup's recommendations, and the changes were adopted 6/14/2023, effective July 1, 2024. They have started providing training to judicial officers and probation officers. Others may need to reach out to their stakeholder groups to share information on the changes and offer training.

g. Youth and Family Advisory Group

They want to know ways to stay engaged and would like to be included moving forward. The Voices website has their report and additional information.

8. Approval of Minutes from June Meeting.

Nancy Wever moved to approve the minutes; Magistrate Foley seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Committee members unanimously approved the June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

9. Legislation.

Judge Kenworthy asked members to let her know as soon as possible about any potential legislative changes so we can talk to Representative McNamara.

10. Wrap-Up/Closing.

Judge Kenworthy asks the workgroup chairs to schedule a meeting between now and our meeting in February and to find out which workgroup members will continue. Judge Kenworthy asked YJOC members to reach out and join any of the workgroups if they are interested. She also asked workgroup chairs to put together an action plan with short- and long-term action steps and submit it prior to the next meeting. Judge Kenworthy will be reaching out to the workgroup chairs to set up a time to meet.

11. Next Meetings.

Thursday, February 1, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00-12:00

Thursday, April 4, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00-12:00

Thursday, June 6, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room B, 10:00-12:00

Thursday, August 1, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00-12:00

Thursday, October 3, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00-12:00

Thursday, December 5, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00-12:00