



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Transitional Services Workgroup

Minutes from January 18, 2024

The Transitional Services Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on January 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Indiana Office of Court Services at 251, N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, IN 4605. Terrie Decker chaired, and Magistrate Carolyn Foley co-chaired the meeting.

1. Present: The following members of the Committee were present:

- Chair Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Corrections
- Co-Chair Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen County Juvenile Center
- Jill Johnson, Marion County Public Defender's Office
- Bart Doan, Indiana Department of Workforce Development,
- Emily Krauser, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
- Chris Dixson, Indiana Department of Corrections
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation
- Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
- Victoria Jennings, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
- Heather Savage, Indiana Youth Institute
- Christ Stillwell, Indian Department of Corrections
- Brandy Darling, Lake County Prosecutors Office
- Terese Bottner, LifeWorks
- Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation/JDAI

2. Staff: Joseph Fischer, Tyler Mason, and Leslie Dunn attended in-person as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

3. Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chairs Terrie Decker and Magistrate foley welcomed the members and thanked them for continuing or volunteering to serve. Introductions were made.

4. Review of Recommendations: Terrie gave historical background of this workgroup's recommendations- both recommendations proposed by the workgroup to the YJOC, and the transitional services recommendations proposed by the YJOC in their report. Some substantial changes, some were not. Terrie reviewed one recommendation at a time to create long term and short-term goals:

- a. Enhance Opportunities for all youth released from DYS to receive transitional services
 - i. The workgroup discussed conducting an information gathering survey/questionnaire among judicial officers or counties who send youth to DYS.
 - 1. Seeking a better understanding of how different counties handle youth returning (IE county specific services, community services, court-based services, etc.).
 - 2. What criteria are judges using?
 - 3. The goal of this survey and information gathering task is to create a best practice to help judges determine when transitional services would be appropriate for youth returning from DYS. : Best practice or criteria for when a youth should be placed on traditional services
- b. Collaboration to update and monitor TRP service standards
 - i. Before we dig into the standards and what might be best changed or updated the workgroup needs to determine if they are effective. Lake County and Marion County both use these services, and this can be a part of the above-referenced information gathering.
 - ii. DCS was not able to attend this meeting. This topic will be held for Sarah Sailors or David Reed to attend. Staff to initiate conversations with David.
 - iii. Are there other services we should consider beyond what was included in the conversation previously?
- c. Ensure only serious probation violations lead to recommitments to DYS
 - i. This topic has been addressed in the update of the probation terms. However, the workgroup will continue to seek methods of promoting this idea throughout the YJOC process.
- d. Foster greater collaboration among state agencies
 - i. Judicial Conference – June 11th and 12th – Terrie will be doing a presentation about DYS. Although the focus will be educating judicial officers about what DYS is set up for, what they can/cannot do, and what options are available to Judges, she will include the need for greater collaboration, probation/parole issues, etc.
 - ii. Workgroup to formulate ways to increase the involvement of DYS youth with other agencies who can offer them assistance and services.
 - 1. IDHM, IDWD, IDOE, etc.
 - iii. 211 as an option for the public to access. But this is not something that the courts do a decent job accessing. Run by FSSA. Increase awareness about this service.
 - iv. There will also be a mention of this at the upcoming Justice Services conference.
- e. Future research on transitional services models
 - i. National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - ii. National Center of State Courts
 - iii. Casey Foundation – what recommendations would they have
 - iv. This category will be ongoing- collect any alternative TS Models available and discuss with workgroup & YJOC.

- f. Sub- committee to review referrals to DYS
 - i. Already formed and taking steps to ensure appropriate youth are being referred to YJOC. Terrie will regularly update the workgroup.

 - g. Ongoing collection of data
 - i. This is a component of the first recommendation. However, the workgroup expects this to be a longer-term goal. As YJOC proceeds this workgroup with work in tandem with the data work group to ensure data is both being collected and utilized.
- 5. Future meetings:** The workgroup agreed that future meetings will be the first Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:30, excluding February.
- 6. Closing:** The Chair and Co-Chair thank workgroup members for their input and travel. We will meet next on March 7th @ 1:00 PM. Room will be different due to construction.

DRAFT