



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on February 1, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C. Judge Dana Kenworthy chaired the meeting.

Members Present:

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- Dana Kenworthy, Chair
- Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Indiana University
- Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education
- Serrilla Blackmon, Division of Mental Health, FSSA
- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- Senior Judge Darrin Dolehanty
- Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- Devon McDonald, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- 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, Inc.

Members Attended Via Zoom:

None.

Members absent:

Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Tracy Fitz, Mary Kay Hudson, Emily Krauser

Staff:

Leslie Dunn, Nick Parker, Michelle Goodman, April Dubree, Payton Lester, Colleen Saylor, Joseph Fischer, Lisa Thompson, Megan Horton 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.

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes from the November 29, 2023 Meeting:

Magistrate Foley made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Devon McDonald seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the November 29, 2023 minutes.

Grants Update:

Devon McDonald reported that thirty-two programs were funded across the three grant categories during the first grant cycle. The Diversion grants had the most applications. There were a few planning grants that were denied because they sought funding for unallowable expenses. For the grants not approved in the first round, ICJI will be contacting the applicants and providing feedback. Another round of grants will be released in March and there will be weekly webinars about the grants. They anticipate having grants available quarterly. Prior to the meeting, he shared a grant cycles timeline for future grants, a summary of grants awarded in the first round and a summary of the barriers and successes.

The lack of advanced funding was identified as a major barrier to counties applying for the grants. HB1194 is currently pending which allows these grant funds to be advanced rather than reimbursement based. The General Assembly had some concerns about this provision so the provision on the advanced funds will sunset in 2025 so it can be reviewed at that time. If this bill passes, it will be effective upon passage.

Legislative Update:

Mark Fairchild, Executive Director of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) reported that they provide overarching support on legislation that impacts areas that intersect with YJOC. They sent letters of support for HB 1194, which would allow the YJOC grants funds to be provided in advance.

Workgroups:

Judge Kenworthy has been meeting with chairs and filling open slots in the workgroups. Magistrate Foley has agreed to co-chair the Transitional Services workgroup with Terrie Decker. Judge Dolehanty retired yesterday but he has agreed to co-chair the Behavioral Health workgroup with Serrilla Blackmon. They are working on a co-chair for the Screening and Assessment workgroup to work with Shannon Chambers. Magistrate Richison will be a member of the Diversion workgroup. Judge Kenworthy asked chairs to let her know if a particular discipline area is missing from their workgroups. She would like to finalize membership by February 16. She asked that the workgroups update their rosters.

Judge Kenworthy asked the workgroups to meet in between the YJOC meetings. She added that if workgroups have issues to bring to YJOC to let her know and they can be presented to the full YJOC, especially if it impacts all the workgroups. She suggested that it may be helpful for the chairs to meet quarterly; IOCS can set that up and the meetings can be virtual or in person, whatever is preferred by the chairs.

Updates from Workgroups:

Data:

Dr. Aalsma reported that the Data Workgroup has not met yet (their meeting was cancelled due to weather); they are meeting February 13. They do not need additional members. Their plan for their first meeting is to go over their report and the plan they laid out to focus on data quality and resources. Nancy Wever is going to give them a presentation on eight counties that the JDAI strategists are working with on collecting data from early diversion to treatment. He also noted that many of the workgroups are dealing with data so they should stay in touch with the Data workgroup to make sure we are all on the same page.

Screening and Assessment:

Shannon Chambers reported that their workgroup was also cancelled due to the weather, and they are now meeting on February 16. They have five workgroup members who did not return and they lost their co-chair. They are working on getting these positions filled. They invited IOCS education staff to attend their meeting to present about training they are doing and to brainstorm on how to get the information out to the right audiences.

Behavioral Health:

Sirrilla Blackmon reported that she had an internal meeting with her new co-chair. They lost several members. They are currently reviewing who is missing and will identify who they might like to add and will present that to Judge Kenworthy.

Diversion:

Megan Horton reported that they have not met yet but will be meeting February 7. Most of their members came back. They are looking to fill a few roles. They have identified a few concrete next steps:

- A resource guide for developing new diversion programs and providing concrete guidance based on best practices. Dr. Aalsma noted that it would be helpful to include information on how counties pay for diversion programming.
- Continue to support counties throughout the state and may develop a clearinghouse or dashboard.
- Support outreach around the YJOC Diversion grants.

Transitional Services:

Terrie Decker reported that most of their members are returning. They are working on a survey. She talked to Sarah Sailors about adding David Reed to their workgroup to help with their discussion about the DCS service standards. She also met with 211 to learn more about what they offer. Their next meeting is March 7. Magistrate Foley noted that they had extensive discussions about the lack of knowledge about what transitional services are currently available. They will be focusing on what currently exists in order to create a resource manual or a best practice guide.

Grants:

The Grants workgroup has not met yet. They are looking into ethics related to the Grants workgroup membership; no one who may apply for a grant should be a member.

Wrap-Up /Closing:

Judge Kenworthy asked YJOC members to share some specific challenges we need to know about so we can address them as a group.

- Judge Graham noted they got some pushback from law enforcement because they were not included in any of the committees that discussed these issues. She asked if we need to add them to the Diversion workgroup. If we are asking them to partner, they should be included.
- Kia Wright feels the community voice is missing from the table. She asked if there is a place for them in any of the workgroups that need membership. She asked if we could engage the people involved in the earlier work. Judge Kenworthy agreed that we do need the voice of experience. Funding may be a question.
- Devon McDonald asked how we can distinguish this funding from JDAI. Some of this work is already funded through JDAI; how do we get JDAI involved and how do we distinguish between the two? If counties already have programs funded at the local level, ICJI cannot fund them.
- Judge King noted that JDAI is designed for more urban areas and this legislation is looking at helping rural communities. Rural communities need resources and they do not often get an opportunity like this. The lack of providers is the number one issue for rural counties. Families need services and they cannot get them due to lack of providers.
- Magistrate Richison shared that they struggle to get buy-in and engagement from parents; they cannot get them to see the value in changing their beliefs to participate in the programs.
- Sirrilla Blackmon wants to be part of the conversation about funding; they have a state level meeting and they are discussing what different groups are funding.
- Judge Kenworthy noted that we are shifting our focus to action steps. Some counties thought they could only apply in one grant category, but one county applied in all three categories and connected them together and received the grant. Judge Kenworthy asked about regional pooling of resources and Devon McDonald said that they encouraged this; they recognize that this is the only way some counties will be able to use grant funds.
- Devon McDonald noted that parents do not reinforce good behaviors when youth come out of residential or services; we need to train the parents on this.
- Dr. Aalsma noted that in his research projects, having parents' voice involved is very helpful and led to shifts. He noted that parent navigators can help parents through the system and to feel heard.
- Kia Wright said we put a lot of expectations on parents that are hard for them to meet. She noted that parents might be more willing to participate if daycare is provided. She also noted that what parents need may not be what we are funding. We need to ask families what they need.
- Joel Wieneke asked what our role is; do we wait for local communities to bring ideas to us or do we reach out and encourage local communities to focus resources or seek grants addressing these issues? What is our role in identifying the issues and helping them apply? He asked if we need to have experts identify the issues and present and develop a strategic response to issues?
- Judge Kenworthy said counties can provide examples for other counties. Some jurisdictions may use issue-spotting and can share examples in the grant webinars. CISC is a logical umbrella for these issues; they bring all three branches of government together and look at how statewide policy can provide support on key issues.

- Kia Wright noted that a lot of groups are working on these issues, but they are in silos; they are not talking to each other or working together.
- Sarah Sailors said that as we look at gaps, we should remember that parenting is hard, nonetheless with addiction and mental health issues. We have to fill gaps for the parents or the children will not get the support they need to live in a healthy environment.
- Steve Balko echoed what Sarah Sailors said, we need to engage with the whole family.
- Judge Kenworthy closed by saying that she is happy to engage with members individually. Her role is to help put the pieces together and make sure connections are made.
- Judge Kenworthy asked IOCS staff if they had any input? They did not. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meetings:

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