



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes from February 16, 2024 Screening and Assessment Work Group Meeting

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on February 16, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services – Fuse Conference Center. Shannon Chambers chaired the meeting.

1. **Members present.**

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation, Chair
- Judge Kimberly Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court 2, Co-Chair
- Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction

2. **Members present electronically.** The following members of the workgroup were present electronically:

- Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
- Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

3. **Members absent. The following members of the workgroup did not attend the meeting:**

- Alison Cox, Porter County Detention Center
- Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation
- Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
- Senator Jean Breaux, Senate District 34
- Don Travis, Department of Child Services

4. **Staff.** Michelle Goodman and Leslie Dunn attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

5. **Guests.** Judge Dana Kenworthy, Chair of YJOC, and Chad Long from Indiana Office of Court Services.

6. **Welcome and introductions.** Shannon Chambers called the meeting to order and welcomed the workgroup members.

7. Approval of Minutes from June Meeting.

The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the May 12, 2023, meeting. There were no edits or amendments offered. A vote was not taken since there was an insufficient number of members present in person.

8. Review of workgroup membership.

The workgroup received an update on the current workgroup membership list and was advised that the Indiana Office of Court Services would identify a replacement for the JDAI representative. The workgroup discussed considering adding a second judicial officer.

9. Discussion on workgroup recommendations and implementation activities. The workgroup discussed its recommendations that were adopted by the YJOC last summer. The workgroup discussed current activities related to these items, assessed which recommendations should be current priorities for implementation, and how to move forward with current priorities.

The two recommendations related to the IYAS Tools are covered by current policies, but the workgroup emphasized that additional training would help reinforce current requirements. The workgroup also concluded that written reminders to judges and probation officers would be helpful. The workgroup also wanted to learn more from the JDAI state strategists on current activities with their sites as it relates to using the IYAS and JDAI Detention Screening Tools. The workgroup noted that prosecutors and defense attorneys also need more education in this area. The workgroup also discussed reviewing available data to help identify whether the tools are being completed.

There were two recommendations related to the risk screening and assessment policies. The workgroup had previously provided a proposal to update the IYAS policies, which will be reviewed alongside other potential recommendations from the Risk Assessment Task Force to provide a comprehensive proposal to the Judicial Conference Board of Directors. The workgroup also discussed stakeholder education and reminding counties to submit their local policies related to detention decisions.

On sharing risk screening and assessment results, there were three recommendations. The workgroup identified the need to update the Standard Preliminary Inquiry as a current priority to permit multiple IYAS assessments within a single report. Education on the Probation Standards regarding the Preliminary Inquiry, Pre-dispositional, and Modification reports is a topic that the Indiana Office of Courts Services (IOCS) addresses with probation and can do so with judges. The IOCS Education Division has already been planning training on these reports for the Justice Services Conference and is continuing to explore other educational formats for ongoing training. We will need to consider how to partner with other stakeholders for training on the content of these reports. The final recommendation in this section was on the report cover sheet to aid in providing

information on the IYAS Diversion Tool, IYAS Detention Tool, and the DST, if applicable, for these early decision points when a Preliminary Inquiry is not prepared. Nichole Phillips and Miriah Anderson agreed to work on a model cover sheet for the workgroup to review.

The next set of recommendations regarding education covers the following areas: certified and authorized users of IYAS Tools, stakeholders, and training content. IOCS currently provides all initial and recertification trainings, so implementation of this recommendation is ongoing. In addition, the IOCS Education Division provides periodic booster sessions at conferences and one version is also available on demand. These booster sessions are not tracked for attendance. In requiring annual booster sessions, a policy change would be needed and a method for tracking compliance. IOCS is currently looking at ways to develop additional curriculum for booster session and training updates with the University of Cincinnati. Regarding the quality improvement requirement, IOCS is providing an overview at the Justice Services Conference and has plans for other sessions in the fall. One consideration is what criteria or requirements are needed for those attending quality improvement training to perform this level of peer review. The workgroup agreed that providing a reminder on the importance of booster sessions would help get agencies ready for this work. Regarding stakeholder training, the workgroup agreed more training is necessary and recommended this information be included within orientation sessions and refresher training. The workgroup agreed to make a request to the IOCS Education Division for training on the IYAS tools at new judge orientation. For Indiana Public Defender Council, such training is typically via webinar and could be tied to commission requirements. For Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, in addition to sessions offered at Spring and Winter Conferences, there could be some on-line sessions in addition to training at the new prosecutor's conference. The workgroup thought a letter to these entities could get the dialogue started. The workgroup agreed that the training content for prosecutors and public defenders could be the same. Workgroup members will gather more information from DOC and DCS regarding stakeholder training needs. Other training content would include the forms and reports used to communicate screening and assessment results and when the tools would be conducted based on the same case flow chart the workgroup created for the report to YJOC.

There were two recommendations on data and research, which also intersect with the Data Workgroup. The most current research on reliability and revalidation for the IYAS was completed in 2023, so this type of study would not occur for 3-5 years. The workgroup discussed what steps should be in place to ensure that these studies are completed in the future. Regarding the use of complementary assessments, the Probation Officers Advisory Board is compiling a list of additional tools.

10. Discussion on workgroup electronic meeting policy.

The workgroup reviewed the current electronic meeting policy and agreed to consider any amendments once the workgroup membership is finalized.

11. Future workgroup meetings. The workgroup scheduled the following meeting dates for 2024:

- Friday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 26 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 8 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.