



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Transitional Services Workgroup

Minutes March 7, 2024

The Transitional Services Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on March 7th, 2024, from 1:00 PM through 2:30 PM (EST) in the Indiana Office of Court Services at 251 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, IN 46205. Terrie Decker Chaired and Magistrate Carolyn Foley Co-chaired the meeting.

1. **Members Present:** The following members of the workgroup were present:
 - Chair Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Corrections
 - Co-Chair Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen County Superior Courts
 - Jill Johnson, Marion County Public Defender's Office
 - Kate Province, Indiana Office of the Public Defender
 - Emily Krauser, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
 - Chris Stilwell, Indiana Department of Correction

2. **Members Present Virtually:** The following members of the workgroup attended virtually:
 - Terese Bottner, LifeWorks
 - Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation
 - Chris Dixson, Indiana Department of Corrections
 - Bart Doan, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
 - Kevin Elkins, Lake County Probation
 - Heather Savage, Indiana Youth Institute
 - Brandy Darling, Lake County Prosecutor
 - Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation

3. **Staff:** Joseph Fischer, Tyler Mason, and Leslie Dunn attended in person as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration. Mark Fairchild, IOCS staff and Executive Director of CISC attended as well.

4. **Meeting Minutes:** Meeting Minutes: The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the March 7th, 2024, meeting. Motion for approval by Chris Dixson, seconded by Co-chair Magistrate Foley. March 7, 2024, minutes approved unanimously without change.

5. **Updates on tasks, recommendations, and information gathering:**
 - Chairs update workgroup on focus group meetings. Magistrate Foley to send requests to appropriate judicial officers. The intention is to have our first focus

group meeting prior to the next workgroup meeting.

- Joseph Fischer and Leslie Dunn summarize conversation with David Reed of DCS regarding Transition from Restrictive Placement service standards. Information from this meeting was positive, and DCS is open to working together to update service standards to better meet the needs of youth. This service is explicitly designed for youth transitioning out of DYS and has active service providers in every county in Indiana.
 - David Reed to present similar information to the workgroup. Sarah Sailors confirmed much of what was summarized to the workgroup.
- Chair Terrie Decker summarizes meeting and discussion with the representative from 211 for resource identification, as recommended by Emily Krauser. Workgroup to request a broader presentation and form a subgroup to plan for greater dissemination of this information once it is better understood.
- Ongoing efforts to learn more about what happens in other states and how it might be applied to Indiana. Complicated by how differently Indiana's DYS is structured from other states. Tyler Mason provides national data and methodology. Leslie Dunn to seek information from Judge Graham as the NCJFCJ representative from Indiana.
- Behavioral Health group has begun a workgroup on high acuity youth to help inform a policy or practice on who should and should not be considered for DYS placement. Once they have begun in earnest, our groups will work together and present info to workgroup and YJOC.
- Data workgroup is applying for a grant to assist with collecting and extracting information from DYS youth data.
- Recommendation to address probation standards and technical violations is being actively addressed by the probation standards workgroup. Further exploration of general standards vs. DYS standards as that process continues and evolves.
- DCS and Amber Becker give updates on multidisciplinary meetings for youth involved with either DYS or DCS. Continual projects and attempts to pull in as many agency providers as would be helpful and relevant in cases.

6. Additional Topics of Discussion:

- Incorporation and analysis of IYAS release tool.
- "Warm Handoff" is identified (and reaffirmed) as a key component. Transitional service providers should be involved prior to the release date. Anecdotally and from all members' experience, this is more effective than a youth leaving with appointment times for providers they have not yet met. Although this is well accepted among all stakeholders as true, the workgroup will seek data on this.
- **Mentors:** Members note options of IYI, Mentor database, Mentor Indiana, CASA mentor standards and 211. DYS is looking into adding mentoring services at facilities however this would not follow through release due to funding structures

and jurisdictional issues. DCS does not have specific youth mentor standards and is not an offered service.

7. **Future meetings:** The next meeting of this workgroup is set for Thursday, April 4th, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM.
8. **Closing:** Chair and Co-Chair adjourned March 7, 2024, at 2:30 PM.