



# Youth Justice Oversight Committee

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## Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2024

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on December 5, 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 School of Medicine
- ☒ Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education
- ☒ Sirrilla Blackmon, Division of Mental Health, FSSA
- ☐ Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Marion Superior Court 7
- ☒ Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- ☐ Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- ☐ Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Senior Judge
- ☒ Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- ☐ Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- ☐ Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- ☒ Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- ☒ Emily Krauser, Indiana Housing and Economic Development Authority
- ☐ Devon McDonald, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- ☒ Jade Palin, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- ☒ Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- ☒ Catheryne Pully, Indiana Office of Court Services
- ☒ 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:

Hon. Darrin Dolehanty and Mag. Carolyn Foley

### Members Absent:

Hon. Marshelle Broadwell, Terrie Decker, Hon. Faith Graham, Devon McDonald and Joel Wieneke

### **Staff:**

Leslie Dunn, April Dubree, Payton Lester, Colleen Saylor, Lisa Thompson, Megan Horton and Michelle Goodman from the Office of Judicial Administration attended. Mark Fairchild and Blane Cook from the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC)

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

### **Approval of Minutes from the October 3, 2024 Meeting:**

Mag. Amy Richison made a motion to approve the October 2024 minutes as written; Tracy Fitz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

### **Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) Update:**

Mark Fairchild, Executive Director of the CISC, has been working on three legislative proposals and made recommendations about language regarding the YOJC grants and the responsibilities of YJOC. He wants to make sure the language meets our needs. The first legislative proposal adds language to the statute creating the YJOC to provide that YJOC will support implementation of the plans as outlined in the amendment and will submit an annual report by September 1.

The second proposal requires behavioral health grantees to engage in collaborative service planning. This language was added to mirror the diversion and community alternatives grant statutes. The proposal also includes language allowing ICJI to use grant funds to strengthen their grant management capacity, to provide quality assurance and technical assistance, and to support and coordinate data collection. Further, the proposal requires ICJI to provide stakeholders an annual report including performance measures; ICJI indicates this process already exists. ICJI also noted that existing language requires ICJI to provide such reports to itself, which appears unnecessary and confusing; ICJI suggests this unnecessary language be removed.

The third proposal addresses the diversion and community alternatives grants, providing that ICJI will consider recommendations of YJOC when adopting a funding formula. The proposal also adds language to require grantees engage in collaborative service planning with local or regional justice reinvestment advisory council or another local collaborative body that includes juvenile justice system stakeholders. The collaborative service planning shall inform grant solicitation, with support for rural communities as a required funding priority, inform how funding and programming could be used more effectively and consider efficiency that may be achieved by implementing the programming on a regional basis. Both the second and third proposals also contain language changing “counties” to “grantees” so it is clear that other entities, not just counties, can apply for grants.

Catheryne Pully asked whether the Executive Director (ED) of the CISC should be added as a member of the YJOC given the connection between the two entities. Catheryne moves to add the ED of CISC as a member of the YJOC. Judge King moved to amend the motion to provide we recommend to the Chief Justice that we add the ED of the CISC. A roll call vote was taken and the motion as amended passed unanimously. The request will be forwarded to Chief Justice Rush for final approval.

Dr. Aalsma made a motion to proceed with the first proposal adding the implementation duties of the YJOC. Sirrilla Blackmon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the proposal was unanimously approved. Members discussed the other two legislative proposals regarding the three grant categories. Judge King expressed concern that the proposed change indicating ICJI “may” use a funding formula will negatively impact rural counties and make the grants less attractive to rural counties. Judge King stated that it would be beneficial for the YJOC to have some oversight of the grants; he requested that we keep the language stating ICJI “shall” use a funding formula to prioritize rural counties. After discussion it was agreed to leave the “shall” language as is but add language stating that the formula will take “into consideration the recommendations of the YJOC.” This change will allow the formula to be adapted and will add flexibility. Shannon Chambers moved to adopt this change to the legislative proposal and Nancy Wever seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Judge King voted no to the change because he thinks the term “grantees” is confusing and that we should not change it from “counties.” Tracy Fitz, Jade Palin and Judge Dolehanty abstained. The remaining members approved; the motion to adopt the legislative proposals on the grants passed with the noted amendments. The proposals will now be forwarded to Senator Crider and Representative McNamara for their consideration to be introduced as legislation during the 2025 session of Indiana General Assembly.

### **Children with High Acuity Needs Project Committee Presentation:**

Staff from several state agencies presented on the Children with High Acuity Needs Project, or CHANP. Since August 2022, leaders from the Governor’s Office, Family and Social Services Administration, Dept. of Child Services, Dept. of Education, and Dept. of Correction have collaborated on a multi-agency effort to ensure Indiana’s system of care is best equipped to meet the needs of children with high acuity needs. Nationwide, there is a health crisis affecting children with complex needs. Current systems of care are not fully equipped to meet the needs of all children, particularly those with high acuity mental and behavioral health needs. There is not a clear definition of high acuity children, but they share certain qualities.

The State is collaborating on four work streams and the Rapid Response Team to provide services to children with high acuity needs, with participation from multiple agencies. The work streams are: 1) **a cross-system navigator** which offers comprehensive care coordination across programs from all state services; 2) **Intensive foster and respite care** which provides specialized foster care and respite care through intensively trained foster parents; 3) **Gatekeeper process review** to implement enhanced gatekeeper responsibilities with pilot sites & update administrative code; and 4) **Youth transitional homes and caregiver coaching** which offers care in community-integrated group homes in tandem with caregiver coaching. The rapid response team that provides emergent case support. Work stream-specific goals and metrics will be tracked to measure the project’s impact. The project is guided by their “north star objective” to support and serve children with high acuity needs and their caregivers with responsive, collaborative, strengths-based, and continuous care to ensure Hoosier children can live happy and fulfilling lives in the community. They would like feedback from stakeholders. Nancy Wever suggested that the State team consider adding representation from courts, particularly the juvenile justice system.

## Workgroup Updates:

### **Grants Workgroup:**

Jade Palin reported that ICJI and members continue to do outreach to the community. They are presenting to Youth Service Bureaus. They are currently scoring grants and will meet in January or February to make decisions. The number of applicants is up so their outreach must be working.

### **Data Workgroup:**

Dr. Aalsma reported that they have selected 24 pilot counties and are getting closer to implementation. The workgroup is developing a survey to examine data quality.

### **Screening and Assessment Workgroup:**

Shannon Chambers reported that their technology group project overview and timeline was presented to the Judicial Conference Board. The workgroup received feedback, made changes and have a revised proposal that was provided to several judicial committees. The final proposal will go to the Judicial Conference Board for a vote this month. IOCS is offering IYAS training and re-certification training in 2025. The workgroup needs Board approval of the forms at the December meeting so they can implement the forms by the July 1, 2025, effective date. The forms reflect the minimum required information to comply with the requirements of HEA 1359. The Board has the final approval authority. Shannon's request for YJOC approval of the forms is treated as a motion. Nichole Phillips seconded the motion, and a roll call vote is taken. Tracy Fitz abstains; the remaining members vote in favor and the forms are approved.

### **Behavioral Health Workgroup:**

Sirrilla Blackmon presented a diagnostic assessment guidance document to assist judicial officers, probation officers and public defenders in understanding what it means to make a referral for a diagnostic assessment. The workgroup wants to determine how to best disseminate this information to stakeholders. Sirrilla makes a motion for approval of the guidance document. Shannon Chambers seconded the motion. Judge King requested more information on how the document will be used. Judge Kenworthy clarified that there is often existing information about a child that judges and probation officers do not know about, and they do not know what questions to ask. The document will help them know where to find existing information and guide decision-making. It is also a starting point for more training to be done. Magistrate Richison sees no downside to sharing the guidance; it does not dictate anything, it just prompts a thought process as to what they need to make a decision, which is extremely helpful. A roll call vote is taken on the motion to approve the document, and it unanimously passes.

### **Diversion Workgroup:**

Tracy Fitz reports that they are working on a diversion program directory. The Diversion Workgroup created an information form to send to counties to fill out for each diversion program. They hope to send it out with a letter from Judge Kenworthy. The workgroup is trying to finalize the data points they want to capture.

### **Transitional Services Workgroup:**

Magistrate Foley stated that everything is in the report they submitted. They were meeting monthly and are now meeting every other month. The sub-committees will meet as needed regarding different templates and draft documents for best practices.

**Wrap-Up /Closing:**

Members were asked if there was any other business; there was not. Meeting was adjourned.

**2025 Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A

Thursday, August 14, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Wabash Hall 1+2

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A

Thursday, December 11, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Wabash Hall 4+5