



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes from March 14, 2025 Screening and Assessment Work Group Meeting

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on March 14, 2025, 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
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
- Shelby Price, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Judge Kimberly Dowling, Senior Judge, Co-Chair
- Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction
- Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation

2. **Members present electronically.** No members appeared remotely.

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

- Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
- Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office

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

5. **Guests.** Michelle Henkle and Chad Long, Indiana Office of Court Services, and Mark Fairchild and Payton Bowling, Commission on the Status of Children.

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

7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes.** The workgroup reviewed the minutes from September 2024. Judge Dowling moved to approve the minutes and Marc Kniola seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 8. Report from YJOC meeting.** The YJOC received an update on the work of the Children's Commission and Mark Fairchild provided more current information on the Commission's work, which includes testifying on HB 1098 regarding youth, family and caregiver engagement with the Commission, working on the needed appropriations within the budget bill, and testifying on HB 1403 regarding the YJOC grant administration to align with current processes and specifically addressing the ability to provide advance funding to help get programs started, which can be done now but is set to expire. In addressing workgroup questions, Mark reminded the workgroup that the current funds for grants are in a non-reverting fund with ICJI, so there are still funds available for distribution.

Shannon Chambers also summarized the workgroup reports made at the last YJOC meeting. The Grants Work Group is monitoring the legislation. There was a question on how counties can learn more about grantee programs and activities. Mark Fairchild responded that IJCI is working on ways to showcase them, and they have information online. One concern raised was identifying local individuals who can manage and oversee this type of work, and the current grant application text might be read as limiting. The Data Work Group is staying updated on the juvenile reports project, continuing with the data evaluation work with numerous counties, and working with the Diversion Work Group. Also, IPAC expressed an interest in pre-system diversion data. The Behavioral Health Work Group is working on guidance regarding diagnostic evaluations and that materials are under review by several groups. They are also looking at opportunities related to telehealth and considering work addressing the needs of high acuity youth being assigned to the Behavioral Health Commission if it is reinstated. The Diversion Work Group is also looking to post a directory of diversion programs. The Transitional Services Work Group is developing a best practice guide focusing on collaboration since there are no evidence-based practices. They have identified some items that would be better under the Behavioral Health Work Group's scope and challenges with data on effective services. There was also a brief discussion that DMHA and the Behavioral Health Work Group will be working more closely on some of these activities.

- 9. Discussion on workgroup recommendations and implementation activities.** The workgroup received an update on the technology subcommittee's work with the Juvenile Reports Project. IOCT is updating the technology and will be incorporating the coversheet as well and beginning work on the interface with Quest. The project team is updating some of the text instructions and information within INCite. There will be a session at the Justice Services Conference in April to provide education on the updates, which are effective July 1, 2025.

Michelle Henkle and Chad Long provided an update on their division's educational activities related to this workgroup. They held a booster session for IYAS trainers and advised them they are also looking at developing more booster training materials. There will be IYAS booster session offered at the Justice Services conference in April and still providing multiple avenues for booster sessions (webinars, on demand, etc.). They have

also been working on IYAS recertification and addressing feedback on that process. One suggestion was to help staff better understand areas that are missed. These items are typically addressed in aggregate during booster sessions which focus on common sections that are more challenging to score. One area for future improvement is updating training and certification videos, but this requires more resources. The stakeholder training materials are ready, and the recording should be completed in March 2025.

The workgroup reviewed the action plan and the proposed updates on activities. Based on the discussion, there were additional updates made to the materials as well, specifically addressing the completion date for recommendations 3, and 5, the activities in recommendation being updated to show the status of stakeholders training recording, and showing activities 10, 11, and 12 as ongoing since IOCS has commenced or is continuing activities within these recommendations. The workgroup also discussed methods for providing stakeholder education (e.g., in-person conferences (JDAI conference, prosecutor conference, judges conference, etc.), webinars, on demand, etc.) and discussed prior offerings as examples. One consideration was incentivizing participation with the ability to provide CLE hours. It was mentioned that the IYAS was discussed at the Juvenile Judges Orientation. The workgroup recommended that the YJOC help encourage and connect stakeholders with the recording and seek out in-person stakeholder sessions. When the workgroup reviewed recommendation 14 there was a question related to the outcome and there was a question on the methodology. The methodology and process were developed by the UC research team in consultation with several representatives from Indiana. The two overarching recommendations were to improve training and booster sessions and address data gaps. The ability to address data gaps falls under the work of the Data workgroup.

The workgroup then discussed the status of the action items generally and assessed their recommendations for moving forward now the YJOC will be doing the same assessment and working on a strategic plan in the later part of 2025. The workgroup's consensus was that the original charge is completed, and this workgroup does not need to continue to meet. They were supportive of being able to provide support to IOCS on training efforts (e.g., providing feedback on content, input on connections to stakeholders, etc.) on a less formal, as needed basis and if needed, YJOC could also reconvene/reestablish this or a similar workgroup as needed.

10. Schedule 2025 meetings. The workgroup discussed the upcoming meeting considering the meeting discussion and decided to cancel the May 2025 meeting date. The workgroup meeting dates for 2025 are:

- July 11, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- September 12, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- November 2025 - TBD