



# Youth Justice Oversight Committee

## Diversion Work Group

March 26, 2025

## Meeting Minutes

1. In-person Attendees: Megan Horton, Tracy Fitz, Trisha Hanes, Chad Crews, Kay Knorr

Virtual attendees: Jasmine Clark

2. A quorum was not reached, so the November meeting minutes were not approved.

3. Tasks

- Indiana Youth Diversion Program Directory –
  - The group reviewed a letter that Tracy drafted that will accompany the email to probation departments. There were no recommended edits, so this letter will be provided to Judge Kenworthy for her review and edits.
  - Megan provided context and an update about the progress on the Diversion Program Directory. This directory will be available online and will provide an opportunity for counties to explore existing diversion programs being implemented across the state. At this point, we are ready to begin gathering information from counties to include in the directory. When the group met previously, we decided on the questions that we'd include in the form sent to probation departments to collect local diversion program information. Since we met last, Megan explored some other, more efficient ways to gather this information, namely using a Microsoft Form that can be sent out via a link in an email to counties, and the responses will populate an Excel Spreadsheet. This option will allow for easier data collection and easier dissemination of the information form. Megan demonstrated the form that she put together and the group agreed that this method will be more efficient than sending out a blank word document for counties to return.
  - Next steps –
    - Megan will ensure that the link is accessible from non-Microsoft Outlook email addresses in case any recipients are using other email platforms.
    - The group asked about whether this information could be included as an "FYI" at the upcoming Justice Services Conference. Megan will check into this with the IOCS Education Team
    - Megan will send the Microsoft Forms link and the draft letter to the full workgroup to test the functionality of the link and to provide feedback for the form and the letter.

4. Other Business

- The group discussed truancy issues. Megan will connect with a couple counties who are implementing truancy diversion programs to see if they want to come to a future meeting to present what they're doing. Also, there are several state level groups currently meeting with a

focus on truancy and chronic absenteeism, so we want to keep informed on this work, but not duplicate efforts.

- The group discussed what's next for this work group. The YJOC is currently having a conversation about the future plans for the YJOC and the work groups. This group discussed that once we get the directory up and running, we have completed two of our primary objectives. While we intend to keep the directory updated and potentially also do further exploration of programs to be able lift up successful programs or model programs, we discussed whether we need to exist in our current form. We talked about the potential to meet less frequently, possibly on an as needed basis to complete certain tasks. We also discussed that the youth justice team at IOCS is available to provide youth justice system technical assistance to all counties, so does some of this work live with that group going forward?

5. Next Meeting: May 28, 2025, at 1:00 pm  
215 N. Illinois Street, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Indianapolis

6. Adjourn Meeting