



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2025

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on June 12, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A. 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
- ☐ Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Marion Superior Court 7
- ☒ Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- ☐ Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- ☐ Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Senior Judge
- ☒ Mark Fairchild, IOCS, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- ☒ Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- ☒ Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- ☐ Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- ☒ Elizabeth Houdek, Indiana Public Defender Council
- ☐ Doug Huntsinger, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- ☒ Waylon James, Indiana Department of Child Services
- ☒ Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- ☐ Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- ☐ Catheryne Pully, Indiana Office of Court Services
- ☐ Magistrate Amy Richison, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts
- ☒ Sarah Sailors, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- ☐ Nancy Wever, IOCS, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- ☐ Kia Wright, Voices, Inc.

Members Attended Via Zoom:

Hon. Marshelle Broadwell, Catheryne Pully, Nancy Wever, Kia Wright

Members Absent:

Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Stephen Balko, Terrie Decker, Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Judge Faith Graham, Doug Huntsinger, Nichole Phillips, and Magistrate Amy Richison.

Staff:

Leslie Dunn, Payton Lester, Colleen Saylor, Chris Biehn, Megan Horton, Michelle Goodman, Tyler Mason, Nick Ackerman, Shelby Bear, Sadia Maqsood and Mindy Pickett from the Indiana Office of Court Services. Brittany Kelly from the Indiana Office of Behavioral Health and Jade Palin from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2025 Meeting:

Approval of the minutes was deferred due to the absence of a quorum. Judge Kenworthy requested that the approval of the February 13, 2025 meeting minutes be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) Update

Mark Fairchild provided an update on several bills from the legislative session.

- House Enrolled Act 1098 creates a hub for the family and youth caregiver initiative. They will examine what is working throughout the state, collect best practices and make sure we are integrating the voices of biological parents, foster parents, and youth in all areas. This bill had unanimous support throughout the session.
- Senate Enrolled Act 482 is the truancy and chronic absenteeism bill. There are ongoing discussions with the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) workgroups and YJOC about this topic. They have two years left on the Best Youth Initiative. They are gathering information on absenteeism and then will look at solutions and how the YJOC grants may be able to help local jurisdictions.
- House Enrolled Act 1403 better aligns the YJOC with the CISC; the language describing the YJOC was adapted to reflect its ongoing role rather than the initial role of gathering information and making recommendations. Putting YJOC clearly under CISC allows some workgroups to meet remotely. HEA 1403 also adds that recommendations from the YJOC can be used to adjust the funding formula for YJOC grants; this provides more flexibility to address any barriers and get the funds out to counties. HEA 1403 also removed language that called the behavioral health grants a “pilot program.”
- House Enrolled Act 1605 mostly relates to the Department of Child Services and improving the time to permanency. We will continue to watch closely how this rolls out. They may create a CISC workgroup on improving the time to permanency.
- Judge Kenworthy noted that the workgroups that can currently meet virtually are the Behavioral Health Workgroup, the Data Workgroup, and the Grants Process Workgroup. The other three workgroups (Diversion, Screening and Assessment and Transitional Services) do not qualify to meet virtually due to having more than one person serving on the workgroup who also serves on the full YJOC.

Electronic Monitoring Annual Report

Michelle Goodman provided information about the 2024 Annual Electronic Monitoring Report. It is available on the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC) website. The State JRAC must collect information for all agencies providing electronic monitoring and then provide a report to the Legislature and the Judicial Conference Board of Directors. The Judicial Conference Board of

Directors received the report in April. The data is reported either in averages or with specific quarterly information as appropriate. This report includes an additional national publication published last summer. JRAC has a workgroup reviewing the national standards to see if they can be incorporated into local processes. There was some positive improvement; they collect the “highest level of offense” for pre and post dispositional youth and the highest offense was “offenses against a person;” last time, it was “other crimes.” Due to a legislative change, they will no longer report on false location alerts as of July 1, 2025 and the annual report deadline was changed from March 1 to May 1.

Behavioral Health Services for Youth

Brittany Kelly, the State Court Behavioral Health Administrator from the newly created Office of Behavioral Health, presented a PowerPoint on the impact of behavioral health issues on justice system involvement. This office was created a year ago by the Chief Justice. They also created the Behavioral Health Committee that has fifteen judicial officers and four workgroups. Brittany created a Behavioral Health Landscape Report that was provided to YJOC members; the report outlines various state and national resources on behavioral health and related issues. Sarah Sailors shared that we should also connect with [Indiana 211](#), which maintains a list of resources which can connect people based on zip code. Sarah will ask a representative from 211 to present at the next meeting.

Workgroup Updates

Grants Process Workgroup—Chris Biehn

The Grant reviewers last met on May 15 to review grant applications. There were four diversion grants requesting \$3.8 million; one community alternatives grant requesting \$180,000; and nine behavioral health grants requesting \$6.5 million. There were also several grants deferred from February. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) Board met on June 6, 2025 and adopted the Grant review team’s funding recommendations. For applications denied, ICJI offers technical assistance to applicants. A new round of grants will open in the near future. The timeline will align with the ICJI Board meetings. The Grants Process Workgroup of the YJOC may create subgroups on the application process and on developing performance measures.

Data Workgroup—Chris Biehn

The Data Workgroup has an ongoing Data project with Dr. Aalsma’s team. Twenty-four counties shared data. There are significant challenges regarding data quality and many differences between jurisdictions. Significant system improvement is needed. They looked at data going back five years. Some data quality issues have clear resolutions; many do not. Around 80% of the youth are missing Social Security numbers. The data requires “harmonization.” They are doing diversion surveys and interviews at the county level. There is a real lack of understanding as to what “diversion” means; every county looks at it differently. They are working with administrators from the Supervised Release System (SRS) and Quest. SRS is in eighteen of the participating counties but 46% of the data is from the 6 Quest counties. Recommendations will be forthcoming. Preliminary recommendations will include standardized categories and definitions, establishing data governance, developing automated tools and validation rules, and improving data linkage. The next

step is state court data integration. Five counties will be chosen to adhere to a certain set of data standards to allow for further analysis.

Screening and Assessment Workgroup—Shannon Chambers

Last time they met in March they assessed their priorities and received updates from IOCS on technology and training. They had sixteen total recommendations. Some are ongoing and are consistent with existing policies and practices. Some changes are effective July 1. IOCS presented at the Justice Services Conference and is working on stakeholder training. Motivational interviewing training is ongoing. Recommendations 14 and 15 should be delegated to IOCS and the Data Workgroup to complete as resources allow.

At this time, their work has been completed and they are ready to disband. They can collaborate with IOCS in the future as needed. Judge Kenworthy asked YJOC members for feedback on this workgroup disbanding. Chris Biehn agreed that the items delegated to the Data Workgroup were in alignment with their focus. Magistrate Foley stated that if they have completed their tasks, they should disband. Any members leaving this workgroup could also join other workgroups if they want to do so. Judge Kenworthy asked Shannon Chambers to ask the workgroup members if any of them would like to join another workgroup. Shannon will ask the workgroup members and will let YJOC know. There is no objection by anyone present for the workgroup to be paused until this can be finalized with a vote at the next meeting.

Behavioral Health Workgroup—Sarah Sailors

Senior Judge Dolehanty stepped down from the committee. Brittany Kelly joined the committee. The membership is shifting some as they enter a new phase of implementation. The Diagnostic and Evaluation Benchcard for Judicial Officers and Guidance for Probation Officers are completed and are posted on the YJOC website. Copies of the Benchcards were provided to judicial officers at the Juvenile Judges Meeting in June and Dr. Woolsey and Dr. Verdon from the Division of Youth Services at the Department of Corrections presented to the judges about these tools. The Clinical Process subgroup is working on definitions. They will review their work product and may add more members to the subgroup. Trying to determine common terminology is a big undertaking. Moving forward, the workgroup will support the behavioral health grant implementation. They will examine areas of the state not accessing funds and create a heat map to show where grants were provided. They will consider practical guidance, best practices, and relevant law on telehealth services. They want to look at service gaps and where the funds are going to try to get the money where it needs to go and fill the gaps.

Sarah Sailors stated that the Department of Mental Health has done some of this work already and overlaid where funding is available. They have ideas through the Children with High Acuity Needs Project (CHANP), a multi-agency effort to improve support for children who have difficulty accessing the best services due to the complexity of their needs. The project includes cross-agency rapid response teams, intensive foster and respite care, and programs to help children transition from residential care back to their communities. Jade Palin stated that ICJI also has a map on their website showing where funding is available. Judge King stated that there may be funding available in rural counties where they do not have the population to support it. Their primary need is behavioral health services but it is hard to get a program going for small populations. The recent legislation did make the funding more flexible. In the last grant round, Porter and Starke Counties applied together to serve both counties with behavioral health services and we would like to see other agencies do this as well. Judge Kenworthy noted that school-based

services are also growing. Magistrate Foley suggests talking to Library Foundations because many in rural areas use public libraries for internet access.

Diversion Workgroup—Tracy Fitz

This workgroup is working on the Diversion Directory. They have eighty individual programs now and are working with IOCT on an online Directory. They just sent another reminder to Chief Probation Officers. There have been discussions about the Youth Justice Team at IOCS being responsible for ongoing technical assistance to counties and for updating the Directory going forward. The workgroup plans to meet once more to finalize the Directory, then they would like to phase out. The workgroup may also meet once a year to review programs. They hope to be able to show the Directory to the YJOC at the next meeting. Judge Kenworthy noted that she shared some examples of successful programs with the judges at the conference.

Transitional Services Workgroup—Mag. Carolyn Foley

The workgroup last met in May. DYS created a Teams channel with DCS and other state agencies to staff cases where youth are preparing for release from DYS without other community supervision or family support. They had their first case staffing, which went well. They are working on the Transitional Services Practice Guide. Judge Kenworthy reviewed it and had suggestions, so they are working to incorporate that feedback. They hope to present the Guide to the YJOC at the next meeting. Judge King asked how the Teams channel worked. It is run by DYS, who initiates the collaboration with other state agencies such as DCS, usually for youth transitioning out of DYS without a place to go; it is more geared toward finding a placement for the youth. The Teams channel is a space to virtually staff the difficult case and develop potential solutions.

Wrap-Up /Closing:

Sarah Sailors stated that there is a lot going on at DMHA; they are looking at making sure they are putting youth in the correct program/services and how that is paid (Medicaid or state funding). They are looking at funding for Community Mental Health Wraparound Program (CMHW) and for the Child Mental Health Initiative (CMHI). Their primary goal is to keep kids in the community and not to have to go to a higher level of care. They want to make sure they have the right program to meet the kids' needs and, if so, work to leverage Medicaid dollars to support these kids. DMHA is scheduling listening sessions on these issues. Judge King noted that his county may look at Upstream based on Judge Graham's presentation at the Juvenile Judge's Conference. Judge Kenworthy shared a happy story from Tippecanoe County; they used YJOC grant funding to help get a youth into services immediately. The youth felt such relief and support that he asked to be seen the next day, too. These grant dollars are designed for getting services to youth promptly. Judge Kenworthy thanked everyone for working so hard to help address these challenges. Meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

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