



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Data Work Group

Minutes from July 8, 2025 Data Work Group Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Data Work Group met on July 8, 2025 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Matt Aalsma and Chris Biehn chaired the meeting.

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine, Co-Chair
- Chris Biehn, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair
- Kristi Bruther, Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center
- Morgan Leever, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Judge Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit/Superior Court 3
- Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Traci Lane, Madison County Juvenile Probation
- Corajeane Medina, Department of Child Services
- Olga Volokhova, Indiana Youth Institute

Members Absent:

- Kaitlyn Christian, Management Performance Hub
- Melanie Pitstick, Marion County Juvenile Probation
- Christine Reynolds, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Judge Paul Felix, Indiana Court of Appeals

OJA Staff Present:

- Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology
- Leslie Dunn, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Brendan O'Connor, Office of Data Governance and Analytics
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Mark Fairchild, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Guests Present:

- Katie Schwartz, Indiana University School of Medicine

2. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2025 Meeting

Committee members were provided with a copy of the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes prior to today's meeting. Judge Mullican made a motion to approve the minutes; Kristi Bruther seconded the motion. The work group members unanimously approved the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes via rollcall vote.

3. Review/Discuss Diversion Report

Also prior to today's meeting, members were provided with the Initial Diversion Progress Report from the IU School of Medicine. Katie Schwartz presented a PowerPoint presentation to summarize the content of the report and to help facilitate further discussion regarding next steps.

Through surveys and interviews, the IU research team found that while some counties follow written diversion policies, many do not have any documented policies in place. Additionally, there is significant variation in how – or whether – diversion opportunities and decisions are recorded within the local case management systems of SRS or Quest.

When speaking with counties, the IU research team found that despite the statutory definition of diversion—specifically, a decision made by the prosecutor to prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system—many jurisdictions apply the term more broadly. Counties reported various interpretations and practices, including diversion decisions made by law enforcement, the use of interagency agreements (such as with schools), and what are often called “informal informals,” where no formal agreement exists but the case is held open by Probation to see if the youth meets certain expectations. Some counties also described withholding prosecution or judgment contingent upon successful completion of a diversion program. In other cases, a simple “warn and release” was referred to as a diversion opportunity.

Review of administrative data revealed significant variation in how and where diversion decisions are recorded within the systems. For instance, in Quest, the “Refer to Other Agency” option is frequently used to indicate a diversion, while in SRS, diversion is typically noted under Referral Recommendation or Referral Outcome—often using the broad categories of “Pending” or “Other.” There is concern that some counties may be selecting “Informal Adjustment” for cases that do not meet the formal criteria. Additionally, “Pending” is sometimes used to track diversion opportunities during a trial period, as agencies wait and see whether the youth successfully completes the program.

Looking ahead, Lisa Thompson and Chris Biehn are scheduled to meet with IOCS staff next week to propose updates to the Probation Quarterly Report, with a targeted effective date of January 2026. The request will include adding “Diversion” as a selectable option in both the Referral Recommendation and Referral Outcome fields. The discussion will also explore whether diversion should be incorporated into the Supervision modules of both SRS and Quest, allowing real-time tracking of diversion status, participation, and outcomes. Lisa emphasized that the ability to track diversion data in real time would

support county compliance with IC 31-37-8.5-6, which mandates annual reporting to OJA on key data points such as demographics, risk screening, offense details, service engagement, and program completion. OJA is responsible for submitting an annual summary report to the Governor, Chief Justice, and Legislative Council. If approved, any system changes would ideally be piloted before full implementation.

Before moving forward, several important questions must be considered: What types of diversion should be included—only those defined in statute, or also non-statutory practices? Should diversion tracking extend beyond Informal Adjustments? Limiting the data to statutory diversions may overlook a wide range of common practices used across counties.

Additional questions include:

- Should diversions be tracked in real time during program participation, or only upon completion or disposition?
- Can existing system fields accommodate this data, or is a new module, table, or form needed?
- Should historical records be updated to reflect these changes?
- What key dates and data elements should be consistently captured for each diversion case?
- Finally, if “Diversion” is added to the dropdown menus, how do we ensure consistent, accurate use that aligns with the intended definitions?

The committee agreed that all forms of diversion should be tracked, provided there is a clear method to categorize and maintain accuracy in the data. Members discussed the importance of adding subcategories for diversion to reflect the variety of practices identified through IU’s surveys and interviews. Katie Schwartz will draft a preliminary list of diversion types for review and circulate it to the group via email. Members are encouraged to provide feedback. If needed, a follow-up meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM via Zoom.

Nancy Wever noted that a “wait and see” approach should not be considered a diversion. This practice is more accurately described as a deferral, where further action is postponed pending compliance, and should be excluded from the new diversion tracking options.

4. Diversion Next Steps

Following the completion of the Diversion Report, we will begin a more focused phase of work with five selected counties to enhance data quality and improve documentation practices—particularly regarding the new diversion-related data elements.

As part of this effort, a review of current data practices will need to be reviewed to assess the extent of necessary data clean-up. Given the volume of existing data, it will not be feasible to clean every detail. Instead, the goal is to identify key decision points where data accuracy is most critical. Dr. Aalsma proposed using the “Sequential Intercept

Model” to pinpoint those critical junctures where decisions significantly influence a youth’s trajectory through the system. The group will revisit this model at the next meeting to determine where to focus quality improvement efforts within the five counties.

5. Other Business

Lisa Thompson shared an update on the Juvenile Reports changes, which officially launched on July 1, 2025. She reminded the group that the updates were implemented in response to recommendations from the Screening & Assessment Workgroup and were designed to bring the Preliminary Inquiry, Predispositional Report, and Modification Report into alignment with new statutory requirements. So far, that deployment has been a success.

6. Next Meeting

The next YJOC Data Work Group meeting will be on **August 12, 2025 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm** via Zoom.

The next Youth Justice Oversight Committee Meeting is **August 14, 2025 at 10:00 am** at Indiana Government Center South, Wabash Hall 1+2, 402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN. There will be a live webcast of this meeting available on the Youth Justice Oversight Committee website: www.in.gov/youthjustice.