



# Youth Justice Oversight Committee

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Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2025

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on August 14, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Wabash Hall 1+2. 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:

Shannon Chambers

## Members Absent:

Judge Marshelle Broadwell

### **Staff:**

Leslie Dunn, Payton Lester, Colleen Saylor, Chris Biehn, Michelle Goodman, Nick Ackerman, Mindy Pickett, and Georgia McCart from the Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS). Blane Cook from IOCS and the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC).

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

### **Approval of Minutes from the February 13, 2025 and June 12, 2025 Meetings:**

There was not a quorum at the June 12, 2025 meeting so the meeting minutes from the February meeting could not be approved. Judge Faith Graham moved to approve the February 13, 2025, minutes as written; Nancy Wever seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Magistrate Carolyn Foley made a motion to approve the June 12, 2025, minutes as written; Judge Faith Graham seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

### **Electronic Communication Policy:**

A copy of the Electronic Communication Policy adopted by the YJOC was provided to members. Judge Kenworthy discussed the policy and reminded members about the attendance requirements. We will be reviewing this policy to make sure it is consistent with the new laws as they apply to the YJOC Workgroups. Only one member of the YJOC can serve on each workgroup if the workgroup wants to meet remotely.

### **Library Partnership:**

Magistrate Foley had suggested at the prior meeting that we consider a partnership with libraries regarding providing space for telehealth, or other meetings that require an internet connection. Judge Kenworthy spoke with State Library staff who were very enthusiastic. They were aware of at least one county that received funding to set up space for telehealth for people without internet access. The library staff reached out to Doug Huntsinger at the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) about this. Judge Kenworthy suggested that this issue be delegated to the Behavioral Health Workgroup since this is for telehealth purposes.

### **Commission on Improving the Status of Children and Legislative Update, Mark Fairchild:**

It is time to start planning for the next legislative session. At the next CISC meeting they will be working on proposed legislation for the next session regarding family access to youth in detention. CISC is also working on integrating YJOC work under CISC due to HEA 1403. They are not looking at changing any processes. CISC is working on a position statement on chronic absenteeism that states it is a multi-system issue requiring a coordinated response, not just a school issue. They will be working with the Department of Education (DOE) to develop metrics on what the level of chronic absenteeism should be. Please send any comments on this issue to Mark. Magistrate Richison asked when the metrics would be determined. Mark indicated that the discussions are underway and we should have them by the end of the year.

### **Children with High Acuity Needs Project, Sarah Sailors:**

This project has been in the works for several years. Sarah is still working on the project in her new role at the Department of Mental Health (DMHA). The project came out of a grass roots effort to develop real-time solutions for kids while we develop systemic solutions for the gaps in services. There were children in county DCS offices who needed appropriate treatment and placement; in order to act quickly, they started the Rapid Response Team to staff cases, problem-solve, make referrals, and try to find the best placement. They developed four core areas to work on and they have made a lot of progress in all the workstreams. Further details about CHANP are available in the PowerPoint presentation that Sarah Sailors provided. The Rapid Response team has staffed over sixty children. They are studying data on the age of the kids, their diagnoses, etc. Their next big step is launching cross-system navigators.

Dr. Aalsma asked if they have considered how to fund services for kids who do not have contact with the system and/or are diverted from probation and DCS. They have had conversations with judges about their needs and where the service gaps are. Judge Kenworthy noted that this is the age-old question as to who pays. It is hard for judges to understand the funding streams. Judge Kenworthy asks if there is a funding component in the cross-system navigator to help people understand the funding. Sarah stated that right now, DMHA is paying but they are looking at other funding sources for sustainability. Tracy Fitz asked what triggers the Rapid Response Team process and whether they will have standards for this. Sarah stated that they are working on that, especially with the schools where they are piloting it. Judge Kenworthy asked if there was a gap that the Behavioral Health Workgroup could fill and noted that this may be a good fit with the dual status process in the counties that use it.

### **Workgroup Updates:**

#### **Grants Workgroup, Judge Lori Schein and Doug Huntsinger:**

Doug Huntsinger stated that the Workgroup had an organizational meeting on August 13 to discuss re-structuring and the separation from the Grants Review Committee, whose members are statutory. ICJI still has \$42 million in the fund for grants. They hope to make changes to the funding formula. They are pausing new applications for this year so they can streamline processes. They have reviewed barriers to applying for the grants and compliance. They will pilot the new process and funding formula in early 2026 with less rigid standards and processes for all three grant categories. They hope to have two funding cycles in 2026 to exhaust the remaining funds.

#### **Data Workgroup, Dr. Matt Aalsma and Chris Biehn:**

Dr. Aalsma reported that the Data Workgroup has been doing a deep dive into data quality with twenty counties to see what is being collected and how it is similar and different, what we want to have and what is missing. At deeper/later points in the system, data is better but a lot is missing on the front end with diversion. Diversion has exploded but we do not have good data. They sent out a survey to counties to find out what data is collected for diversion programs and then followed up with eighteen interviews to clarify. Data quality is very broad but there are best practices around data to consider. They are working to quantify this systematically and make improvements. The next phase will focus on five counties who volunteer to improve their data quality.

### **Screening and Assessment Workgroup, Senior Judge Kimberly Dowling and Shannon Chambers:**

They have not met; they completed their deliverables and have asked to disband. Judge Kenworthy stated that we did give them permission to disband since they completed their tasks and thanked them for their great work.

### **Behavioral Health Workgroup, Magistrate Anah Gouty and Sara Sailors:**

Sarah Sailors noted that they have had some membership changes. Referee Cintron from Elkhart County has joined the workgroup and Kory George left. They have a subgroup, the clinical process subgroup, working on proposals for standard definitions for stakeholders so we all speak the same language and have the same understanding of different tools. They are close to having a final work product for YJOC to review. They are working on a one-page summary of telehealth that identifies what the statutes allow and what is paid for by Medicaid and private insurance. They will partner with the Grants Workgroup to determine how they can better support rural counties to access funds. Judge Kenworthy also asked them to work with the public library system to figure out how we can collaborate to make space available for telehealth appointments.

### **Diversion Workgroup, Tracy Fitz and Megan Horton:**

Tracy Fitz said that they have not met since the last YJOC meeting, but they have gathered information on about eighty diversion programs from thirty-five counties. They are working on a format to put the information into the directory. They will have this done in August or September and will present it to YJOC. After this, their work will be completed for now; they may still meet once or twice a year to keep the directory updated, but most technical support to counties around the diversion grants and programming will be provided by the Justice Services Division.

### **Transitional Services Workgroup, Magistrate Carolyn Foley and Terrie Decker:**

Magistrate Foley reported that they are working on a best practices guide for transitional services. They will be meeting soon to go over the guide. They would also like to have a draft to provide to YJOC at the next meeting.

### **Wrap-Up Discussion:**

Judge Kenworthy let the workgroups know that she would like to have any work product for the YJOC to review to be provided to YJOC members ten days before the next YJOC meeting; **work product for the next meeting should be provided to YJOC members no later than October 1, 2025 for their review.**

Judge Kenworthy shared her observations from a conference she attended recently:

- Indiana has an unprecedented level of collaboration among agencies and branches of government. Of the 35 states represented at the conference, only two states in the country identified this type of collaboration—Indiana and Kansas.
- They had a speaker, Hasan Davis, who was dyslexic and who always got into trouble when he was a youth; he had champions who helped him through and he became the head of juvenile justice in Kentucky. The people in this room can “hold the line between harm and hope” for our young people. (Quote from Hasan Davis) Judge Kenworthy is thankful for this group and proud of us.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

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