



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2025

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on October 9, 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:

Nancy Wever, Kia Wright

Members Absent:

Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Terrie Decker, Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Mark Fairchild, Waylon James, Mag. Amy Richison

Staff:

Leslie Dunn, Payton Lester, Colleen Saylor, Chris Biehn, Mindy Pickett, Blane Cook, Audrianna Lingren and Megan Horton from the Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS).

Others Present:

Aleanya Moore from Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and Ann Carruthers from Clark & Floyd System of Care.

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes from the August 14, 2025 Meeting:

Doug Huntsinger moved to approve the August 14, 2025, minutes as written; Magistrate Carolyn Foley seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Approval of the Revised Electronic Communications Policy:

Judge Kenworthy shared that the Electronic Communication Policy could be amended due to legislation that placed the YJOC under the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC). The proposed amendment allows workgroup meetings to be held remotely as long as the workgroup has no more than one (1) member of the governing body (YJOC) as a member. The amendment also provides that workgroups are not required to live stream their meetings. Magistrate Carolyn Foley moved to approve the revised Electronic Communications Policy; Doug Huntsinger seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the revised Electronic Communications Policy was approved. Judge Kenworthy noted that each workgroup can take this back to their workgroup and adopt this policy if they would like.

Commission on Improving the Status of Children and Legislative Update

Blane Cook, the Coordinator for the CISC, provided an update. The CISC started strategic planning for 2026-2028. The plan will be finalized at the December meeting. This will not change YJOC; it will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts. Their next meeting is October 15 and they will be discussing the strategic plan, older youth services, and minimum family visitation for youth in detention. Blane noted that the Child Welfare Task Force created by HEA 1273 was meeting that afternoon and it was open to the public. CISC will support legislation next session to create a fund for family recovery courts; they will not request funds, just an account for donations and other monies. Blane introduced Audrianna Lingren, a new contractor for the CISC.

Workgroup Updates:

Grants Workgroup, Judge Lori Schein and Doug Huntsinger:

Doug Huntsinger reported that ICJI has \$43 million left to be granted. They are pausing the RFP process to re-evaluate the funding formula and adjust the RFP and contracting processes. The Grants Workgroup proposed changing the funding formula. For small communities with a population of less than 25,000, they proposed increasing the amount of the grant cap to \$150,000. Grants for mid-tier communities of 25,000-50,000 people will remain at \$85,000 and counties with a large population of over 50,000, grants will remain at \$80,000. Only two planning grants have converted to actual grants so they are looking at how to incorporate planning into the regular

grants. The next step is to review a draft of the new application. Doug made a motion to approve the proposed funding formula; he said that they would come back to the YJOC if the workgroup decided that additional changes are needed after the next round. The funding formula only applies to Diversion and Community Alternatives grants, not to Behavioral Health grants; there is no limit on the amount for the Behavioral Health grants. Catheryne Pully seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Nancy Wever stated that a plan for the grants program is due January 1, 2026 to the CISC and legislative council. The Grants Workgroup has questions about this. Nancy asked what information the YJOC needs from the Grants Workgroup for this plan and who will prepare it. Judge Kenworthy stated the grant plan requires four (4) items of information; she asked that the Grants Workgroup gather this information and provide a draft to the YJOC by the December 2025 meeting. IOCS provides staff support on the reports and can assist with putting the information into ADA-compliant format and editing and finalizing the report. Judge Kenworthy noted that Doug Huntsinger drove to Fort Wayne to the Judicial Annual Meeting to let the judges know how we are streamlining the process to make the grants easier to apply for. We are hoping to entice additional communities to apply for grants, especially smaller communities.

Data Workgroup, Dr. Matt Aalsma and Chris Biehn:

Dr. Aalsma reported that the Data Workgroup met in August and September and finalized a new definition of diversion for the Juvenile Probation Quarterly Report that will be effective January 1, 2026. IU team and the workgroup did a deep dive into diversion and created a separate report on the state of diversion across the state. They met with Tracy Fitz and Megan Horton, chairs of the Diversion Workgroup, about this. It is unclear what information we are capturing, and clarity is needed. The information is very county and program specific. They will share the report with YJOC when it is completed.

A broader report from the survey of the twenty-four (24) counties will also be forthcoming. Of the twenty-four counties, there were eleven (11) with strong interest in working on data quality improvement and three (3) with some interest. The other counties did not respond. They are getting together to select the five pilot counties to work on data quality and improvement. Tracy Fitz asked for the definition of diversion. Dr. Aalsma said the definition is long; he will send it out to everyone. The definition is only for purposes of the Juvenile Probation Quarterly Report and to identify how diversion is being used. They are striving to coordinate with similar data quality efforts of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC). The definition of diversion is in the statute; this is more about how we are capturing the data.

Behavioral Health Workgroup, Magistrate Anah Gouty and Sara Sailors:

They have met twice. They drafted a resource on telehealth and are hoping to finalize it at their November meeting and present to YJOC at the December meeting. They have been discussing how they can support the Grants Workgroup on the Behavioral Health grants and help local communities operationalize their application and the ongoing work. They are pausing on this and waiting to see what the new Behavioral Health grant application will look like; Sarah Sailors asked to meet with Doug to see how they can support the Grants Workgroup.

They finalized two documents: the “Recommended Juvenile Diagnostic Assessment and Intake Report Contents” for clinical staff/providers and the ” Juvenile Mental Health: Assessment and

Evaluation Tools” for judges. Sarah is requesting approval of the documents for posting on the website. The Juvenile Diagnostic Assessment and Intake Report provides recommendations to providers as to what items should be included in the reports so they are helpful to judicial officers in making decisions. These reports are dense and do not point to recommendations and immediate needs of the youth. They had a lot of input from providers in the field and told them that judges need to see specific information which should be placed at the top. Catheryne Pully asked Sarah if they could put a date on the documents so we know if they are current. Catheryne made a motion to accept the document with the addition of the date; Doug seconded it. The motion passed and the vote was unanimous. Workgroup members will take the forms back to their agencies to share and to help all of us get on the same page.

The second document, Juvenile Mental Health: Assessments and Evaluation Tools, is a guide for judges and juvenile justice staff to help them understand the types of assessments and evaluations available and the best practices for using them. This is designed to be a snapshot about what each tool entails so we can get the right youth to the right provider. DCS worked with them on developing this tool. This document provides a link to a 2007 publication on mental health jargon by Dr. Tom Grisso. Dr. Aalsma will reach out to Dr. Grisso to ask if there is an updated jargon publication. Judge King asked if there is a hierarchy to the evaluations and if they are in any order; from a judicial perspective, it would help to put them in order from least involved to more intensive so he knows what to use first. Judge King made a motion to list them in that order. Sarah said that this makes sense and agreed to list them that way on the document with intake and assessment first, then psychological and lastly psychiatric so it flows from least intensive to most intensive. Judge King made a motion to approve the document with this amendment. Shannon Chambers seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Diversion Workgroup, Tracy Fitz and Megan Horton:

The Diversion Workgroup met with the Data Workgroup. This sparked a lot of discussion about the fact we are not capturing information well. The Diversion Workgroup created a Diversion Directory that will be published on the YJOC website once all the workgroup members have a chance to review it. Megan showed a demo of the Directory. They will be ready to go live soon. Once they do, their deliverables will have been met; however, they want to continue to meet once a year to update the Diversion Directory and the Juvenile Diversion Toolkit. You can search the Directory by program type, county, and target populations. There are seventy-five (75) programs in thirty-five (35) counties included. Once you pull up a program, you can go to the PDF which provides more detailed information on each program like a program description, how it is funded, how long it has been in place and contact information for the program. They used a form to gather this information for the Directory and they will add the form to the website so people can use the form to add programs. Megan would like to update the Directory eventually to include outcomes. Judge Kenworthy suggested linking to the Directory to the grant application to help counties brainstorm ideas for their grants. YJOC will vote to approve the Directory in December, before it goes live. Judge Kenworthy would like it to be ready in December so we can incorporate it into the next grant cycle. Judge Kenworthy noted that Indiana is a leader by having this information available for people to use, and it puts us in a good position when large federal grants come out. Judge Kenworthy reminded everyone that documents and work product should be turned in by December 1, 2025 for consideration at the December 11, 2025 YJOC meeting to allow ample time for members to review.

Transitional Services Workgroup, Magistrate Carolyn Foley and Terrie Decker:

Magistrate Foley shared that the best practices sub-workgroup met and reviewed feedback on the best practices guide they are preparing. IOCS is making edits and adding some graphics. They hope to submit it at the next YJOC meeting in December. Judge Graham noted that they have had positive feedback on their handgun intervention program so far; it should be listed in the Diversion Directory as well.

Wrap-Up Discussion:

Judge Kenworthy opened the floor for discussion and to share any initiatives. Sarah shared that CHANP launched two navigator pilots, one for youth exiting hospitalization and an upstream one at a school. Judge King has a new stakeholder collaborative; they have a data, services, and case processing group. They had 100% attendance at the first meeting. They are scheduled to sign an MOU based on the DCS and OJA letters about collaboration. Youth and parents are engaged and work on conflict resolution skills. Tracy Fitz said the prosecutors are having a juvenile conference and she is speaking on sexting and the dangers of young people with phones. Steve Balko said chronic absenteeism has been his focus. Magistrate Foley has a new judge and a new Chief Probation Officer. They are working on their diversion program with the prosecutor to expand the number of offenses eligible under the prosecutor's mandate. They are implementing transitional services. Nancy Wever said the youth justice team at IOCS is planning a JDAI local leadership conference at the end of the month. Dr. Aalsma had a half day juvenile trafficking training and is doing some focused outreach to victims; this will go statewide next month and will provide more services to victims. He also noted that Riley Hospital has a new gun violence treatment program with education and case management for youth who were victims of gun violence. Liz Houdek stated that the public defenders have a three-day juvenile trial practice institute next month. Kia Wright reported gun violence is taking its toll; they lost two people to gun violence in the past month. They are launching a new program focusing on young people most at risk of being victimized and to be a perpetrator. They bring in family, identify needs, offer incentives; it includes assessments and mentoring. It is intensive and they meet with the family 3-5 times a week. It has been operating for 45 days. They are coordinating with providers and IMPD in real time. Judge Kenworthy stated that as part of HEA 1605, there is a limitation on time for parents to complete services in CHINS cases; she wondered if this would create delays and problems for probation kids. Or could it relieve some pressure since DCS will not be providing services for as long? YJOC grants may be a way to fill the gap in services.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Thursday, December 11, 2025, 10AM-12PM, Indiana Government Center South, Wabash Hall 4+5

2026 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room C
Thursday, April 9, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room C
Thursday, June 11, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A
Thursday, August 13, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A
Thursday, October 8, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A
Thursday, December 10, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A