



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Data Work Group

Minutes from February 10, 2026 Data Work Group Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Data Work Group met on February 10, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Matt Aalsma chaired the meeting.

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine, Co-Chair
- Kristi Bruther, Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center
- Hon. Paul Felix, Indiana Court of Appeals
- Traci Lane, Madison County Juvenile Probation
- Melanie Pitstick, Marion County Juvenile Probation
- Hon. Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit/Superior Court 3
- Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Kaitlyn Christian, Management Performance Hub
- Morgan Leuner, Indiana Department of Child Services

Members Absent:

- Chris Biehn, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair
- Bri Youn, Indiana Youth Institute
- Corajean Medina, Department of Child Services

OJA Staff Present:

- Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology
- Mark Fairchild, Commission on Improving the Status of Children
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Catheryne Pully, Indiana Office of Court Services

Guests Present:

- Katie Schwartz, Indiana University School of Medicine
- Steve Brown, Indiana University School of Medicine
- Amanda Bullock, Indiana Department of Child Services

2. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2025 Meeting

Committee members were provided with a copy of the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes prior to today's meeting. Judge Sarah Mullican made a motion to approve the

minutes; Melanie Pitstick seconded the motion. The work group members unanimously approved the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes.

3. Children's Commission Update

Mark Fairchild from the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC, commonly referred to as Children's Commission) provided an update on the history of the YJOC work groups and discussed considerations for their future structure. He explained that since the YJOC functions under the larger Children's Commission, it is considered a second-tier body within the broad structure. Both bodies have established work groups to study key issues and there may now be overlap between the work groups of the Children's Commission and those of YJOC. As part of ongoing strategic planning efforts, the Children's Commission is exploring ways to better align these efforts in order to reduce duplication, improve meeting efficiency, and ensure a more coordinated and effective approach to advancing the work.

One proposal discussed was whether the YJOC Data Work Group could merge with the CISC Data Work Group. It was noted that the merger would not necessarily create additional work, though membership composition and meeting frequency could change. Under a potential joint structure, the combined work group would review any data recommendations brought to either the Children's Commission or YJOC to ensure they meet standards for data integrity. The group could also review pending legislation that includes data-related requirements to assess feasibility and implementation considerations. Additionally, the joint group could examine data gaps and disparities across system entities and partner organizations.

Members were advised that no decision is required at this time; however, discussion was held regarding the current scope of work of the CISC Data Work Group and whether its goals and objectives align with those of the YJOC Data Work Group. Members also referenced the requirements of HEA 1359-2022, which calls for improvements in data collection, standardized definitions, and greater clarity around data quality and gaps before expanding data-sharing efforts. Members also emphasized the importance of maintaining the momentum and focus the YJOC Data Work Group has built. Concerns were raised about potentially taking on additional responsibilities, becoming distracted from current priorities, and ensuring that all voices remain heard, particularly if membership expands.

Regarding next steps, no fixed timeline has been established. The group agreed that further discussion is needed, with the goal of reaching a decision prior to the next full YJOC meeting on April 9th. It was noted that the CISC Data Work Group has expressed support for a proposed merger.

The next YJOC Data Work Group meeting is March 10th at 2:30 p.m. Members discussed the possibility of holding an additional meeting prior to that date to develop potential options and prepare for a vote.

4. Approval of Previous Reports

Dr. Aalsma reported that the two finalized reports (Diversion Survey & Interviews and Data Quality Evaluation) were distributed to the full YJOC in advance of Thursday's meeting. The reports are being shared in their final form for informational purposes only, and no feedback will be requested from the full committee.

Dr. Aalsma also noted the importance of providing participating counties with a summary of the findings. He discussed developing a one-page briefing to share key data highlights with counties and will also consider providing the full de-identified report. The IU Data Team will work on this prior to the next meeting.

5. Common Data Elements & Process for Improvement

Katie Schwartz presented a PowerPoint to provide an update on the data quality initiative, including the current process and future plans. Phase 1, which involved producing the Data Quality Report, has been completed. Phase 2 is underway, which will focus on piloting data quality improvement strategies. The IU Team is collaborating with IOCS Juvenile Justice Strategists, Nick Ackerman and Beca Stockman, to support training efforts. An introductory meeting with pilot sites is scheduled for February 20th.

The long-term goal is to build a sustainable, large-scale data quality improvement plan centered on a common data model that standardizes how data are defined, collected, and transferred. It can also identify key variables and clarify data purposes such as interoperability across systems, reporting requirements, research, and cross-sector data linking. Katie further explained approaches for structuring the data model, beginning with people, then tracking events, locations or stages, transactions, and programs or services, with agreement on definitions as a key priority. The **Sequential Intercept Model** was discussed as a framework for identifying important system touchpoints to capture. Key focus points for the pilots will be the use of the definition for Referral that was previously adopted by the YJOC, as well as incorporating the new PI/Referral Recommendation definitions that were just adopted for Diversion tracking.

Pilot counties include Marion, Johnson, Madison, Bartholomew, Huntington, and Ripley Counties. The pilot will involve reviewing baseline data, implementing improvement strategies, and evaluating changes over time, including reductions in missing data. The group also discussed how data will move into the common data model, using training methods, system changes, and data processing. Other action items may include data entry training with the IOCS Juvenile Justice Strategists, recommending potential system-level changes (possibly tested with Quest), and documenting data processing needs.

As far as next steps, the IU Data Team will present definitional issues for further discussion at the next meeting and will also plan to meet with the pilot counties prior to the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next YJOC Data Work Group meeting will be on **March 10, 2026 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm** via Zoom.

The next Youth Justice Oversight Committee Meeting is **February 12, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 4+5 in Wabash Hall, 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.