



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Behavioral Health Work Group Minutes (May 14, 2026)

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Behavioral Health Workgroup met on May 14, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:03 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Sarah Sailors chaired the meeting.

I. ATTENDEES

Members present:

- Sailors, Sarah – Division of Mental Health & Addiction (FSSA) (Co-Chair)
- Holland, Amber – Division of Mental Health & Addiction (FSSA)
- Fisher, Rachael – Riley Children's Hospital
- Kelly, Brittany – Office of Behavioral Health, Indiana Supreme Court
- Maqsood, Sadia – Indiana Office of Court Services
- Frantz, Zoe – Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Cintron, Mag. Heidi – Elkhart County Superior Court 6
- Frazer, Rebekah – Indiana Department of Education

Members absent:

- Duchac, Dr. Neil – Indiana Department of Correction
- Gouty, Mag. Anah – Lawrence County Circuit Court (Co-Chair)
- Hollabaugh, Austin – Indiana Department of Child Services

Staff present:

- Fairchild, Mark - Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- Dunn, Leslie - Indiana Office of Court Services

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Telehealth one-pager status
 - Mark reported that it is near finalization with all major groups between CISC and YJOC having a chance to look over it. Final approval by YJOC would be the next step.
- Continuation of the BHWG
 - Sarah inquired about next steps for where the BHWG would exist under the CISC/YJOC framework. Mark noted that options would either be to continue as a workgroup under the YJOC, or move its work into a subcommittee under the CISC Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force. After further discussion, Amber Holland shared a preference that the BHWG remain under YJOC and specialize in youth justice related behavioral health issues, while maintaining a dialogue with the CISC task force to avoid duplication of efforts. Sarah Sailors noted that this also made sense as a way to identify gaps and targeted service needs for the YJOC grants workgroup.
- Identification of Priority Areas
 - Brittany Kelly shared that she has had many conversations with judicial officers on the need for more support in making placement decisions and having awareness of the availability and options for placement. Sarah agreed and suggested a resource be created to assist with triaging behavioral health concerns of judicial officers.
 - Rachel Fisher and Sarah also noted an uptick in referrals overall, creating further bedspace concerns and a heightened need to make sure that placements are appropriate for level of need and community-based and/or diversion options are also considered. Rachel noted this is further exasperated when medical needs are also present.
 - Zoe Frantz noted that this would also be an opportunity to make better connections with courts and law enforcement under the new CCBHC framework. Sarah also added that fixing the gatekeeper process was a priority for these same reasons.
 - Magistrate Cintron further added that judicial officers are often in a difficult position where they are limited by the information presented to them, which may not present a complete picture of the youth's needs and make it difficult to make informed decisions regarding behavioral health needs.
 - Sarah summarized the discussion by suggesting YJOC grant support, identifying and addressing service gaps, and judicial officer education and support as key priority areas.
- Open Discussion

- Amber shared progress on a program to ensure Medicaid enrollment prior to release from secure juvenile detention facilities and some jails, which would also include screening and targeted case management. This will be a multi-phase project started with limited sites while policies and practices are being developed and tested, but should result in reduced recidivism due to unmet needs post-release.

IV. NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting will revisit the priority area discussion to establish specific goal areas.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 16, 2026 – 10:00am-noon	IGCS, Cardinal Hall, Conference Room F
September 17, 2026- 10:00am-noon	Microsoft Teams
November 19, 2026 – 10:00am-noon	IGCS, Cardinal Hall, Conference Room F