



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Behavioral Health Work Group Minutes (July 16, 2026)

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Behavioral Health Workgroup met on July 16, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Cardinal Hall, Conference Room F. Mag. Anah Gouty and Sarah Sailors co-chaired the meeting.

I. ATTENDEES

Members present:

- Gouty, Mag. Anah – Lawrence County Circuit Court (Co-Chair)
- Sailors, Sarah – Division of Mental Health & Addiction (FSSA) (Co-Chair)
- Duchac, Dr. Neil – Indiana Department of Correction
- Frantz, Zoe – Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Frazer, Rebekah – Indiana Department of Education
- Hollabaugh, Austin – Indiana Department of Child Services
- Kelly, Brittany – Office of Behavioral Health, Indiana Supreme Court
- Maqsood, Sadia – Indiana Office of Court Services

Members absent:

- Cintron, Mag. Heidi – Elkhart County Superior Court 6
- Becker, Amber – Division of Mental Health & Addiction (FSSA)
- Fisher, Rachael – Riley Children's Hospital

Staff present:

- Scott, Lyndsey – Learning Consultant, Indiana Office of Court Services

Guests or speakers present:

- Fairchild, Mark – Director, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from May 14, 2026, meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- The group reviewed a compiled priority list from the broader YJOC brainstorming session and narrowed focus to items intersecting behavioral health.
- Three top priorities emerged: THC/Cannabis placements, Family Engagement, and System Coordination.
- Several items were identified as already being addressed by other agencies and will be monitored rather than owned by this group.
- The group must finalize priority claims before the August 13th YJOC meeting.

Top priorities confirmed:

- THC and Cannabis placements votes
- Family/Parental Engagement (Parent Project, painting the teen brain)
- System Coordination (DCS, Probation, Courts)

Second most important priorities:

- Community Navigation
- Peer Support Integration
- Continuum of Care (Diversion/ ATD's)
- System Coordination

Third most important priority:

- Standardized treatment in detention centers

Deferred to other groups (to eliminate duplication):

CMHI/CMHW education → already led by CHANP/Austin's team

MH career pathway / workforce → Bowen IU + Rural Health Transformation funds

Transition services → multi-system use workgroup under CISC

Relative care support → Child Health & Safety workgroup

Priority Items Discussed from the YJOC Planning Priorities:

THC/Cannabis: Most frequently cited concern across YJOC members; national data shows rising treatment demand and access delays for youth.

Family Engagement: Shift toward viewing parents as solutions, not problems;

Parent Project cited as highly successful in JDAI counties; TBRI practitioner framing resonated with the group. Courts can order participation in delinquency cases, though buy-in improves when voluntary.

System Coordination / Dual-Status Youth: Inconsistencies in how dually involved youth (CHINS + delinquency) are managed across counties; workload tensions between DCS and probation; need for institutionalized coordination to survive leadership turnover (50 new sheriffs).

Residential Placement: Barriers include inconsistent admission criteria, PRTF bed decline, reimbursement rate disparities between Medicaid and DCS/DOE payers, and facilities avoiding system-involved youth due to administrative burden. DMHA pays ~\$7.4M/year in Medicaid match for non-system youth PRTF access.

Peer Support: Underutilized; national/state certifications exist for youth peers; certified peers could unlock Medicaid billing. *Brain Changes* (founded by Glenn Close) and Project Lifesaver models cited as existing traction points.

Standardized Treatment in Detention Centers: Facilities independently contracted; no statewide standard; group sees opportunity for minimum service guidance.

Community Navigation: Mobile crisis units praised as transformative; preference to build on 211/988 infrastructure and improve interoperability rather than create new systems.

Proposed 2027 Meeting dates:

Judge Gouty proposes meeting in person every third meeting due to travel distance for her and Judge Cintron. Meeting space can be discussed and agreed upon during next meeting.

Teams: January 14, 2027, at 10 am

Teams: March 11, 2027, at 10 am

In-person: May 13, 2027, at 10 am

Teams: July 15, 2027, at 10 am

In-person: Sept. 23, 2027, at 10 am

Teams: Nov. 18, 2027, at 10 am

Open Questions:

- How to connect non-system-involved families to PRTF/community resources before justice involvement, given private insurance gaps and lack of awareness.
- Whether kinship navigators can extend support capacity to JD-side relative placements.
- Feasibility of using mobile crisis staff as embedded community navigators for youth.

IV. NEXT STEPS

1. Final priority list to be submitted before August 13th YJOC meeting.
2. Protective orders involving juveniles flagged but needs more information and scoping before direction is set.

3. Whether this group can formally support peer support legislation (e.g., Phil Scripps bill) being revisited in the General Assembly.
4. Austin Hollabaugh: Explore relative care support options and kinship navigator capacity for JD cases.
5. Sarah Sailors: Keep group updated on MH career pathway work being done by other workgroups.

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 17, 2026- 10:00am-noon

Microsoft Teams

November 19, 2026 – 10:00am-noon

IGCS, Cardinal Hall, Conference Room F