



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Data Work Group

Minutes from August 11, 2026 Data Work Group Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Data Work Group met on August 11, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine, Co-Chair
- Chris Biehn, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair
- Kristi Bruther, Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center
- Hon. Paul Felix, Indiana Court of Appeals
- Melanie Pitstick, Marion County Juvenile Probation
- Kaitlyn Christian, Management Performance Hub
- Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Hon. Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit/Superior Court 3
- Beca Stockman, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Traci Lane, Madison County Juvenile Probation

Members Absent:

- Corajeana Medina, Department of Child Services
- Morgan Leuner, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Bri Youn, Indiana Youth Institute

OJA Staff Present:

- Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology
- Nick Ackerman, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Catheryne Pully, Indiana Office of Court Services

Guests Present:

- Katie Schwartz, Indiana University School of Medicine

2. Approval of Minutes from July 14, 2026 Meeting

Committee members were provided with a copy of the July 14, 2026 meeting minutes prior to today's meeting. Colleen Saylor made a motion to approve the minutes; Melanie

Pitstick seconded the motion. The work group members unanimously approved the July 14, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. IUSM Final Report: Recommendations and Next Steps

Dr. Matt Aalsma and Katie Schwartz provided an overview of the recommendations included in the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) final report. The report was previously presented to the Data Work Group, and no major edits have been received. Members were reminded that any additional comments could still be submitted.

The work group reviewed the recommendations using two primary considerations: priority and cost/resources, with each categorized as either high or low.

One goal for Phase 2 was to work with pilot counties to develop a common data model for tracking diversion, with particular focus on Referral Recommendation and Referral Outcome. It was also noted from our last meeting that the Indiana Office of Court Technology (IOCT) has developed a method for linking Preliminary Inquiry (PI) reports to IYAS-Diversion and IYAS-Detention Tools. However, current data only allows for review of diversion decisions after a referral has been received by probation. Referrals and decisions made by prosecutors, law enforcement, schools, or other entities before or in lieu of a referral reaching probation are not currently captured. The work group discussed the importance of understanding these pre-referral decisions, particularly because ICJI funds programs in this category.

The IUSM recommendations were summarized as follows:

- Revise Referral Recommendation response options and definitions, which would also inform the Referral Outcome response options.
- Operationalize Referral Outcome through a system-derived field that captures decisions related to the disposition of a referral.
 - Add two data entry fields to capture additional decision points: Prosecutor Action/State Decision and Court Action on Referral.
- Develop a common data model that reflects each stage of youth justice system involvement.
- Improve training and technical assistance related to data entry and the common data model.

Revision of Referral Recommendations

The work group discussed proposed revisions to the Referral Recommendation response options. The goal would be to make the options mutually exclusive, remove unnecessary language that had been retained from probation quarterly report instructions, and eliminate the "Other" and "Waive" options. The group agreed that the two new diversion-related response options implemented January 1, 2026 ("Diversion by Prosecutor" and "Diversion by Policy") should remain. The basic definitions for "File Petition" and "Informal Adjustment" should also remain. "Refer to Another Agency or County" would be changed to "Refer to Another Jurisdiction", and "Dismiss" would

become "Take No Action." It was clarified that "Informal Adjustment" should retain the dual-status option. The group also discussed whether "Diversion by Policy with dual status" is a viable option and whether additional review is needed to determine whether the option is supported by statute. This issue may need to be assigned to a new work group for further consideration. It was also discussed that Referral Outcomes may vary between Prosecutor Action/State Decision and Court Action on Referral, so separate logic and considerations will be needed to ensure proper use at each stage.

Several implementation considerations were identified, including feasibility, staff time, cost, and priority. Changes would require coordination among IOCT, IOCS, and Quest, including potential system changes to SRS, Quest and IOCR (for probation quarterly report submissions), costs will need to be considered for SRS, Quest and ICOR modifications, and time and effort will be needed for corresponding updates to the IOCS Probation Quarterly Report manual. The group discussed the need for the YJOC to formally support and provide direction on these changes and whether an additional work group may be needed to address this and other identified priorities. The timeline for implementing system changes was also discussed. Because changes to these fields can only be implemented effective January 1st of each year due to quarterly reporting guidelines and availability to adopt changes, the proposed revisions may not be feasible until January 2028. The group discussed whether a formal work plan would be beneficial to identify the various participants, barriers, costs, and other implementation requirements.

Training and communication were identified as important considerations. There is already some confusion regarding the two diversion-related Referral Recommendation options that became effective January 1, 2026. Colleen Saylor suggested that the Collaborative Communication meetings with the Department of Child Services (DCS) could provide an opportunity to communicate new information.

Operationalize Referral Outcome as a System-Derived Field

The work group discussed the recommendation to add Referral Outcome as a data point to the Probation Quarterly Report, with the intent to capture the disposition of a referral beyond the probation recommendation and provide a more complete picture of what ultimately happens with the referral. As with the Referral Recommendation changes, feasibility, staff time, cost, and priority were also identified as key considerations. The group characterized this recommendation as a high-need, high-cost item because significant clarification is still needed and implementation would affect multiple groups.

Common Data Model for Other Stages of Youth Justice System Involvement

The group discussed additional recommendations related to developing a common data model that captures the various stages of youth justice system involvement. Suggestions include adding a process indicator to show which agency reviewed the referral first (prosecutor's office vs. probation department). Clarification is also needed as to the definition of Referral Date (date received by probation department), as well as the definition of "Referral Outcome Date." Nancy Wever noted the need to better define

when and how a referral is considered closed or completed, which is different from closing a case. The work group also discussed whether a "Waiting/In Process" status would be appropriate for both Referral Recommendation and Referral Outcome.

Other Outstanding Issues

Additional outstanding issues and potential future priorities were discussed. These included:

- Tracking youth or cases that move across jurisdictions (leads to double-counting).
- Capturing decision changes and process variation over time.
- Developing a separate Diversion Module in SRS, similar to the Pretrial module, to keep diversion information separate and facilitate diversion reporting.
- Developing a training guide to help staff understand and consistently use the common data model.
- Exploring row- or line-level data submission for probation quarterly reporting, rather than aggregate reporting. This is consistent with the direction of other data initiatives.
- Exploring a centralized data warehouse/repository that could house juvenile data from multiple systems, including juvenile detention data, regardless of the system in which the data originated.
- Exploring measures that demonstrate how youth justice system involvement and services affect outcomes in a child's life, such as school attendance, GPA, employment, and other measures. Judge Felix noted the potential value of this type of information, while Beca Stockman emphasized the need to be mindful of net-widening and over-tracking or over-monitoring youth.
- Providing counties with reliable data that can be used to inform local decision-making. Colleen Saylor noted the value of counties having access to data they can trust.

The group discussed that additional work groups may be necessary after the full YJOC reviews and provides direction on the recommendations. The recommendations and potential next steps will be discussed with the full YJOC Committee on August 13th.

4. YJOC Priorities

The group reviewed recommendations being considered by the full YJOC Committee. At the June YJOC meeting, members each identified three priorities based on the work of the various work groups and discussed how those recommendations could be addressed. Chris Biehn asked the Data Work Group members to review the full list of recommendations and provide any feedback or comments to him prior to the August 13th YJOC meeting. The feedback will be shared with the full YJOC Committee as it considers and establishes its priorities.

5. Next Meeting

The next YJOC Data Work Group meeting will be on **September 8, 2026 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm** via Zoom.

The next Youth Justice Oversight Committee Meeting is **August 13, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A, 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.