



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2026

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on August 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C. 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 Dawkins 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:

Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Shannon Chambers, and Judge Faith Graham.

Members Absent:

Magistrate Amy Richison, Doug Huntsinger, Waylon James, Sarah Sailors, and Judge Marshelle Dawkins Broadwell

Staff:

Chris Biehn, Rose Walker, Reilly Sommers, David Sexton, Payton Lester, Alayna Leonard, and Megan Horton from the Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS).

Others Present:

Amber Holland from the Division of Mental Health and Addictions (DMHA). Dalayna Anderson, Beca Stockman and Ellen Sheets from ICJI.

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

Workgroup Update:

Grants Workgroup, Magistrate Carolyn Foley:

The amount currently awarded in grant funds is less than initially hoped, though still substantial. To maximize funding availability for counties still wishing to apply, the workgroup reached consensus to reset each county's cap on the diversion and community-based alternatives to detention grants (formula-based), so that prior awards no longer count against a county's limit. Behavioral health grants, which are competitive, are unaffected. Applications for FY2027 open November 30, 2026, with review beginning in March 2027, ICJI board awarding funds by the end of June 2027, and the award period beginning July 1, 2027. Members raised concern about whether counties are aware of the reset and were encouraged to share this information through the Wednesday newsletter and the mandatory Annual Judicial Conference in September 2026. The workgroup is also developing a public-facing dashboard showing distributed funding, a one-page summary document to be ready for the 2026 Youth Justice Conference, technical assistance programming for grantees, and a survey to identify gaps and hardships in the application process.

Behavioral Health Workgroup, No representative:

No representative was present to give a verbal update. An update was provided for the record.

Data Workgroup, Dr. Aalsma and Chris Biehn:

Dr. Aalsma presented the Phase 2 Recommendations. Interviews and surveys were conducted with 24 counties. A deeper discussion occurred with six of these counties, with a mix of information systems and sizes. The goal of Phase 2 is to develop a common data model for diversion. This common data model is a standardized, logical framework used to define and organize data consistently across systems and applications. This allows for focus upon the variables that need to be shared across the state and to understand what is specifically happening with youth in Indiana. IOCS has developed a mechanism within OMS/SRS for linking referrals with diversion. The recommendations within Phase 2 are as follows:

- Recommendation #1 – Revise “Referral Recommendation”
- Recommendation #2 – Operationalize Referral Outcome

- Recommendation #3 – Develop common data model
- Recommendation #4 – Improve training and provide ongoing training/onboarding.

Outstanding issues identified are the movement of youth causing data issues, such as double counting, being able to capture decision changes and process variation over time, the intended purpose of diversion and data entry burden upon probation staff.

Chris Biehn provided an update on the original 2023 YJOC data report and progress on its seven deliverables. Deliverable one (data collection) was completed upon the group's acceptance of that report. Deliverable two (shared definitions) is partially complete. Deliverable three (standard protocols and procedures for data collection and quality assurance) is in progress, having been assessed in 24 counties in Phase 1 and piloted in 6 counties in Phase 2, though scoped only to referral and diversion rather than the full juvenile justice continuum. Deliverables four (performance and data measures) and five (data reporting standards) are not yet accomplished. Deliverable six (a research agenda to evaluate intervention effectiveness) is largely unaccomplished. Deliverable seven (cost of data collection and reporting) was initially estimated at \$800,000, though the report indicates approximately \$2 million per biennium will be needed going forward. Phase three will focus on determining priorities and next steps.

A request for motion to accept report and its contents. Further clarifying questions were raised before a motion for approval was issued by Magistrate Foley and seconded by Catheryne Pully. There was no further discussion, and the report was approved unanimously.

Lived Experience Update:

Mark Fairchild gave the update on behalf of Audrianna DeWitt-Lingren. Audrianna reported she is currently in talks/discussion with individuals who possess potentially meaningful life experiences. The aim is for these individuals with lived experience to participate in committees and work groups, allowing new perspectives to be included and considered. Outreach is focused on specific groups and populations, with the goal of not overwhelming these individuals by exposing them to topics outside their own lived experience. This may cause some hesitation or be too daunting for those involved. YJOC and CISC are now able to compensate these individuals for their time, and to provide a point of contact (Audrianna). Judge Kenworthy clarified that the goal is to have an individual with lived experience in each work group (BH, Data, Grants, Diversion, etc.).

CISC Update:

Mark Fairchild reported that CISC is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Nothing currently in code is directly related to YJOC, though some adjustments have been made in recent legislative cycles. The Children's Commission, set to expire in January 2029, is expected to have that expiration date extended by another eight to ten years, consistent with past practice. The Voices Committee under CISC, comprised of lived experience individuals, recommended removing the term "vulnerable youth" from the charge, as it is not favorable to those it identifies. CISC is also looking to expand a piece of the code regarding social media and online safety issues and crimes against children to also address children's developmental and mental health needs. CISC plans to bring back a bill from last session guaranteeing two one-hour visits per week for youth in secure detention with parents or other familial adults, requiring documented reasons if a visit does not occur; the bill had no opposition last session but did not fit into the legislative calendar in time. Several interim study committees are also relevant: the Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Human Services Study Committee will meet August 25th at 11:30 a.m.; the Corrections and

Criminal Code Study Committee will meet August 26th at 10:00 a.m.; a fiscal policy committee, not yet scheduled, will address leveling out and possibly expanding CASA funding across the state; and a Child Services study committee covering child fatality reviews has also not yet been scheduled. Separately, YJOC's legislative code requires an annual update on deliverable progress by September 1st, which has historically taken the form of a compiled summary of workgroup report-outs.

Priority Setting Discussion:

Judge Kenworthy reminded the committee of the priority list created last meeting. Members were to look at the priorities and assess whether there is work on these topics occurring in their counties, specifically to prevent duplicative efforts of those listed. The next step would be to address, prioritize and delegate to workgroups if needed. Judge Kenworthy also asked for the members to speak on what their priorities are.

Judge Graham said that the Indiana Judges Association and Indiana Council of Juvenile Family Court Judges often monitor legislative bills, needs, etc. There is a workgroup established focused on legislation of expungement of juvenile records.

Kia Wright from the Voices Inc. noted that there are many local workgroups, specifically in Marion County, addressing gun violence. The Re-entry Coalition and Youth Violence Coalition headed by the Indiana Department of Health are two specific groups named. It would be ideal for the YJOC to request this data from these groups to share with the committee. It would be beneficial for those groups to maximize a better understanding of their efforts.

Voices Inc. is currently working on a project titled Youth Violence Reduction Initiative.

Tippecanoe County has grant funding for a new Handgun Intervention Program.

Allen County Juvenile Probation has a program called Safer Streets.

Catheryne Pully noted that GAL/CASA has a fiscal interim study committee in the works focused on how funding could be used for these types of programs.

Nancy Wever mentioned that the Multisystem Youth Task Force has a subcommittee that focuses on incorporating the science of adolescent brain development into system responses. Marion County and Vigo County have local workgroups dealing with emergency shelter care programs.

Judge Kenworthy asked the workgroup chairs to weigh in on the priorities listed under their groups and whether they are feasible. At the last behavioral health workgroup meeting, the group took the priority list and wrote them on whiteboards. There was discussion on which three priorities were the best fit the Behavioral Health workgroup. These are as follows: THC/Cannabis use among youth, family/parent engagement, and system coordination. Several other topics were discussed as also important.

The Data Workgroup priorities were decided as follows: Case Information and Early Assessment Tools, Data Quality and System Alignment, and Expungement and Data Access.

The Grants Workgroup priorities were decided as follows: Sustainability of Programs and Funding and Resources and Technical Assistance for Grantees. Other priorities listed under the Grants Workgroup are to be discussed at their next meeting.

Behavioral Health Workgroup had an addition of the Mental Health Provider Pipeline – A shortage of mental health providers willing and able to work with the youth has been identified. An overall barrier is the need for these individuals to be in-person, not virtually. Due to policy, these providers are not compensated for mileage when driving to see clients. This has led to an abundance of cancelations and lack of in-person care. The Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy is a workforce institute with the Indiana School of Medicine. They recently convened a national group of paraprofessionals and community health workers and is conducting training.

Legislative Workgroup – A need has been identified for a Legislative workgroup for the committee. When asked, none of the committee objected to this proposition. Dr. Aalsma voiced a concern on where work may become duplicative and that this should be kept in mind.

Wrap-Up Discussion:

Judge Kenworthy reviewed the action steps for the committee members.

- Magistrate Foley: Help with the grants report, specifically regarding the reset of CAP limits for diversion and community-based alternatives to detention grants.
- Ellen Sheets and Nancy Wever: Assist Magistrate Foley with the grants report, as they were asked to add anything to the report.
- All YJOC members: Share information about the reset of CAP limits for grants with counties and courts, using avenues such as the Wednesday newsletters and the annual judicial conference.
- Dr. Aalsma: Provide more information and clarification on the data warehouse concept and timeline.
- Mark Fairchild: Share the draft bill regarding visitation for youth in secure detention with Senior Judge Dolehanty after the meeting.
- Kia Wright: Compile and provide a list of local gun violence intervention work groups, their chairs, and scope of work to the YJOC by the next meeting.
- Dr. Aalsma: Help gather information on local work groups dealing with emergency shelter care and bed shortages for youth.
- Chris Biehn: Reach out to the chairs of the Behavioral Health work group (Sarah Sailors and Magistrate Gouty) to coordinate with other groups working on overlapping issues.
- Dr. Aalsma: Assist in clarifying the overlap between the Behavioral Health work group's tasks and the Rural Health Transformation IDOH work.
- Chris Biehn: Reach out to Judge Broadwell for a better definition of her item regarding pre-trial and post-trial options for waived and direct-filed youth.
- All Workgroup Chairs: Take the list of potential priority items for their respective work groups back to their next meetings for discussion and bring recommendations for next steps to the full YJOC.

- Chris Biehn: Chat with Judge King about the potential legislative committee and its scope.
- All YJOC members: Think about and suggest potential members for the legislative committee, focusing on people with specific expertise.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

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

2027 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 11, 2027, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

Thursday, April 8, 2027, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

Thursday, June 10, 2027, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

Thursday, August 12, 2027, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

Thursday, October 14, 2027, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

Thursday, December 9, 2027, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A