

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on November 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Capital Center in Indianapolis. Judge Mark Spitzer chaired the meeting.

1. Members present. The following members of the Council were present:

- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Christine Blessinger, designee for the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
- Mary Kay Hudson, designee for chief administrative officer of Office of Judicial Administration
- Steve Luce, proxy for president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Judge Mark Spitzer, designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Troy Hatfield, president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- Shelby Thomas, proxy for Governor
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- Andrew Cullen, proxy for chair of Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Carolyn Travis, proxy for chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana

2. Members absent. The following members did not attend the meeting:

- Jay Chaudhary, executive director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

- Ashley Stevens, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Denise Symdon and Richard Stroker from the Center for Effective Public Policy; Angie Estes and Liz Darlage from the Indiana Department of Correction; Jamie Bergacs and David Sexton from the Indiana Office of Court Services; Hillary Hartoin from Cass County; Laura van der Lugt and Vibha Venkatesha from the Council of State Governments Justice Center; Vanessa Reyes, legislative assistant to Rep. McNamara (video).
 4. **Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, and Michelle Goodman attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
 5. **Approval of minutes.** The Advisory Council approved the minutes from the September 22, 2023, meeting on motion and second by Bernice Corley and Shelby Thomas.
 6. **Justice Counts presentation.** Dr. Laura van der Lugt and Vibha Venkatesha from the Council of State Governments presented information on CSG's "Justice Counts" data initiative. Justice Counts is a consensus-building initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance led by CSG's Justice Center and an unprecedented coalition of 21 partner organizations representing wide-ranging expertise across the criminal justice field. The Justice Counts metrics relay aggregate-level information from criminal justice agencies that show trends and dynamics at key points in the system. These data provide policymakers with vital context for making policy and budget decisions and can help increase awareness of overall criminal justice trends and impacts. Dr. van der Lugt reported that CSG is working in six Indiana counties, including Cass County. Cass County Director of Court and Pretrial Services Hillary Hartoin provided a demonstration of the Cass County dashboard created as part of Justice Counts and stated that the dashboard is customizable. Dr. van der Lugt highlighted that the initiative is fully funded by the Department of Justice and is available at no cost to county and state agencies. The Council members discussed the initiative and requested more information from CSG.
 7. **Workgroup Reports.**
 - a) **Annual Reports Workgroup.** Michelle Goodman reported that the workgroup met on November 8. The workgroup discussed proposed changes from DOC as to the population report required by statutes for JRAC and DOC

is still reviewing information as it relates to the data required for the JRAC annual report with ICJI. ICJI is also looking at text in their statues that needs to be addressed which impacts their ability to report data. Once this review is completed, the workgroup will reconvene to finalize a proposal to bring to JRAC. Sen. Freeman has agreed to work with JRAC on the legislation and will at least have a preliminary draft filed to ensure there is a bill for the next session.

b) Racial Equity Workgroup. Steve Luce reported that the workgroup has not met since the September meeting, but the work continues with Dr. Lowder on the research project. Dr. Lowder's team is about halfway through with data collection for the Relative Disadvantage Tool in each of the three jails: Porter, Marion, and Vigo. The research team is still in the process of collecting administrative records for measuring racial equity metrics in Porter County and is starting to work through the process of linking records and identifying potential limitations/gaps in what we can report. The workgroup hopes to have more updates on this process at the January meeting after receiving the outstanding administrative datasets.

c) Local JRAC Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported that the workgroup is working on the annual report summary and structure for the 2024 report. She also reported the subcommittee is reviewing county materials to select examples to publish. Ms. Goodman further reported that all technical assistance sites are engaged with the TA providers from the Center for Effective Public Policy. Mary Kay Hudson reported that IOCS is discussing a contract revision with CEPP for 2024 activities.

d) JRAC Reports Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported that the SEA reports are still progressing. The Q1 and Q2 will be presented at the next meeting for approval. She also reported that the Q3 reports are due from counties in late November. JRAC will publish the annual report in early 2024.

8. HEA 1006 Procedures. Zoe Frantz reported that the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers will present an informational webinar on HEA 1006 procedures for stakeholders and service providers on December 13. The webinar will focus on best practices and Justice Goff will moderate. Ms. Frantz thanked IOCS for partnering on the webinar.

9. Member reports. Mary Kay Hudson reported that the Office of Judicial Administration is preparing a report on juvenile detention and diversion as

required by HEA 1359. IOCS surveyed counties and asked if the Local JRAC works on juvenile matters. Several counties reported that the Local JRAC works on juvenile issues and some have a separate group as part of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.

10. EBDM Discussion—Indiana JRAC through the EBDM lens. Richard Stroker and Denise Symdon led the Council members through a review and discussion of Indiana’s participation in the evidence-based decision-making initiative. The members reviewed the EBDM charter on vision, mission, and goal; the EBDM sustainability plan; and the EBDM framework. The Council members engaged in a team charter exercise and suggested edits to update the charter to align with the statutory purpose of JRAC. Staff from IOCS and CEPP will meet before the December meeting to incorporate the suggested edits into the charter document.

11. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services