

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on November 28, 2023, at 1:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff 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
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for Governor
- David Bottorff, executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director
- Derrick Mason, designee 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
- Jay Chaudhary, executive director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Devon McDonald, executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Scott Hohl, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

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

- 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
3. **Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Denise Symdon and Richard Stroker from the Center for Effective Public Policy; Liz Darlage and Dalton Haney from the Indiana Department of Correction; Bobbi Carter from the Indiana Office of Court Services; Howard Simms from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction; Vanessa Reyes, legislative assistant to Rep. McNamara (video), Ashley Stevens from Rush County Community Corrections.
 4. **Staff.** Jenny Bauer, April Dubree, Michelle Goodman, Chris Biehn, and David Sexton attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
 5. **Approval of minutes.** The Advisory Council approved the minutes from the November 16, 2023, meeting by roll call vote on motion and second by Doug Huntsinger and Zoe Frantz.
 6. **Workgroup Reports.**
 - a) **Annual Reports Workgroup.** Devon McDonald reported that the workgroup drafted proposed amendments to DOC and ICJI reporting statutes. The Advisory Council discussed the DOC proposals to amend IC 33-38-9.5-2(m) and IC 11-12-2-1(e) on population information reported to JRAC. Christine Blessinger reported that the DOC populations reports are 80 pages long, with the first few summary pages being the most useful. She also reported that specific data on a facility can still be requested in the statute changes. The Advisory Council also discussed the ICJI proposals to amend IC 5-2-6-24 and IC 35-33-8-12 on offense data. Mr. McDonald reported that ICJI has issues with data and would like to make the reports more user friendly. He also reported that the filing deadline for the 2024 legislative session is December 12 and asked for feedback in the next week. Mr. McDonald will send the updated draft to Sen. Freeman's legislative assistant. Judge Spitzer moved to pursue legislative changes in line with the discussion as a placeholder and bring back to the December 8 meeting. Doug Huntsinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
 - b) **Racial Equity Workgroup.** Steve Luce reported that Dr. Lowder and her team continue to work with the pilot counties. They are experiencing a few roadblocks, including connecting with the chief of the Portage Police Department to obtain records. In addition, Dr. Lowder plans to work with Dr. Martin Slawski who is a statistician and professor with the George Mason University Statistics Department. Dr. Slawski specializes in record linkage and

probabilistic matching. He has agreed to work with her team to provide conclusions that will be helpful with replicating these analyses in other counties and informing broader conversations about data quality at the state and local levels.

c) Local JRAC Workgroup. Chris Biehn distributed a draft of the 2022 Local JRC Annual Report Summary. He thanked Michelle Goodman for her work on the report. He highlighted that 93% of Local JRACs meet quarterly and half meet more often; 46% use the community corrections advisory board; 34% created a new policy team; and 20% use an existing local policy team. He stated that in summary, the report shows local JRACs made strides in coordinating evidence-based criminal justice strategies tailored to their communities in 2022 and have ambitious plans to build on this progress in 2023. Mr. Biehn requested that the Advisory Council review the report and vote at the December meeting.

d) JRAC Reports Workgroup. Michelle Goodman distributed the SEA 9 Q1 report for approval by the Advisory Council. She thanked Bobbi Carter for her hard work in pulling the data for the report. Troy Hatfield moved to approve the report and Jay Chaudhary seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote, with abstentions by Carolyn Travis and Daniel Glass. Ms. Goodman also distributed the updated instructions for the next quarterly report and requested Council approval. Judge Spitzer moved to approve the updated instructions and Devon McDonald seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote. In addition, Ms. Goodman reported that all except one pending county has submitted Q2 reports and 75% of counties have submitted the Q3 reports.

7. Justice Counts presentation. Justice Goff led a discussion on the Council of State Governments' request for a resolution in support of the Justice Counts data initiative. April Dubree reported that CSG has not yet sent the draft resolution for review. The Advisory Council tabled further discussion to allow CSG to submit the draft resolution. OJA will reach out to CSG for an update on the document.

8. ICJI Criminal Code Reform Annual Evaluation. Devon McDonald distributed the draft report of the annual ICJI/JRAC report and asked for suggested edits as soon as possible. He thanked the agencies for submitted data and thanked his staff for their work on the report. Jenny Bauer reported that she submitted information and data on behalf of JRAC and the Office of Court Services and helped ICJI with editing the report. Mr. McDonald also reported that ICJI will submit the report to the legislature, Chief Justice, and Governor by December 1.

Devon McDonald moved to approve the draft report and Doug Huntsinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

9. Member reports.

- a) Association of Indiana Counties.** Dave Bottorff reported that AIC is preparing for the 2024 legislative session. He also reported that he attended Clark County's training on the Sequential Intercept Model and thought it was great.
- b) Office of Judicial Administration.** Mary Kay Hudson reported that over 400 people have registered for the 1006 webinar on December 13.
- c) Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council.** Chris Naylor reported that the IPAC winter conference is scheduled for December 3-6 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis. He plans to highlight Local JRACs in his remarks to the attendees.
- d) Mental Health America of Indiana.** Steve McCaffrey reported that MHA is hosting its annual Mental Health and Addiction Symposium on December 8. The theme for the symposium is "Expanding Frontiers in Indiana's Mental Health Landscape."
- e) Division of Mental Health and Addiction.** Jay Chaudhary reported that the Behavioral Health Commission met on November 20. The Commission plans to take a targeted approach to the meetings.
- f) Indiana Sheriffs' Association.** Steve Luce reported that ISA has discovered that jail numbers regarding inmates do not match data from the abstracts of judgment in INcite. Justice Goff and Judge Spitzer pledged to work with ISA on this issue.
- g) Department of Correction.** Chris Blessinger reported that DOC is part of a team attending a criminal justice summit in Atlanta in early December. The team includes Ms. Blessinger, Commissioner Reagle, Michael Moore from the Public Defender Council, Chris Daniles from IPAC, and Judge Mark Spitzer from Grant County.
- h) Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties.** Scott Hohl reported that IACCAC has record attendance at their fall training institute on November 14-17. He is the new IACCAC president and JRAC representative. Mr. Hohl thanked outgoing president Ashley Stevens for her leadership to IACCAC.

10. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m-3:00 p.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Office of Court Services