

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2024

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council met on July 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Capital Center in Indianapolis. Justice Christopher Goff chaired the meeting.

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

- Chris Blessinger, designee for the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction
- Chris Biehn, designee for chief administrative officer of Office of Judicial Administration
- Steve Luce, proxy for president of Indiana Sheriffs' Association
- Lindsey Villalpando, vice president of Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana
- Judge Stephanie Campbell, proxy for designee for president of Indiana Judges Association
- Zoe Frantz, president and CEO of Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Jade Palin, proxy for executive director of Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Doug Huntsinger, designee for Governor
- Howard Simms, designee for executive director of Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Steve McCaffrey, president and CEO of Mental Health America of Indiana
- Scott Hohl, president of Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
- Bernice Corley, executive director of Indiana Public Defender Council
- Camden Murrell, proxy for executive director of Association of Indiana Counties
- Rep. Wendy McNamara, chair of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee
- Carolyn Travis, proxy for chair of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Derrick Mason, designee for chair of Indiana Public Defender Commission
- Daniel Glass, designee for State Budget Director

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

- Chris Naylor, executive director of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

- Sen. Rodney Pol, ranking minority member of Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee
- Rep. Mitch Gore, ranking minority member of House Courts and Criminal Code Committee

- 3. Guests.** The following attended the meeting as guests: Brittany Kelly, Indiana Supreme Court Office of Behavioral Health; Mary DePrez, Executive Director of Indiana Office of Court Technology; Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology; Megan Morgan, Indiana Office of Court Technology; Liz Darlage, Indiana Department of Correction; Ashley Stevens, Indiana Association of Community Correction Act Counties; Natasha Phillis, Indiana Office of Court Services; Bruce Henry, Indiana Department of Correction; Kelly Elliott, Indiana Office of Court Services; Stacy Townsley, Indiana Commission for Higher Education; Davyd Hall, Indiana Commission for Higher Education; Vanessa Reyes, Rep. McNamara's Office; Emma Yarber, Rep. McNamara's Office; and Rachel McCarty, Indiana Senate Fiscal Analyst.
- 4. Staff.** April Dubree, Michelle Goodman, and David Sexton attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.
- 5. Approval of minutes.** The Advisory Council unanimously approved the May 3, 2024, meeting minutes on motion by Steve Luce and seconded by Jade Palin.
- 6. Workgroup Reports.**
 - a) Racial Equity Workgroup.** Bernice Corley reported on the continued work with Dr. Lowder on the Relative Disadvantage Tool administered in Marion, Porter, and Vigo counties to match the data from the tool to the population to track outcomes. Ms. Corley reviewed a handout to look at key metrics across the system to highlight areas to improve equity throughout the system. This work has identified recommendations for improving data via standardized reporting, improving the use of Odyssey events fields, improving collection of demographic information, improving key data definitions, and enhancing communication between local and state data systems. The workgroup will continue to work with George Mason University and report back to JRAC when preliminary reports and models are available. Mr. Luce highlighted this work is challenging but we are on a path to standardization among the various criminal justice data systems within our state and this work will continue to help with these efforts.

b) Local JRAC Workgroup. Chris Biehn reported the Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) is continuing its work with twelve Local JRACs on various levels of technical assistance (intensive, workspace with limited assistance, and ad hoc assistance), with some counties reaching the end of their first year of assistance and some new Local JRACs will begin this work soon. He noted the number one request from Local JRACs for help is focused on technical assistance. Next, he reported on the annual reports submitted by Local JRACs for 2023 activities, with 86 of the 90 submissions received. He will present a summary report to JRAC at the September meeting. Justice Goff also mentioned the American Probation and Parole Association conference panel he, Chris, and CEPP participated in focused on the work of JRAC in Indiana.

c) JRAC Report Workgroup. Michelle Goodman reported the Report Workgroup recently met to begin work on the required reporting on the Judicial Local Income Tax and on the indigency determination study and report required by S.E.A. 179-2024. The Workgroup established a sub-committee to draft the survey content for the indigency determination study that will be distributed to all judicial officers in the trial courts. The Workgroup also received an update on the Electronic Monitoring quarterly report and noted there are three counties missing from the current draft. Justice Goff asked for discussion on whether the Council wanted to allow more time for these counties to submit reporting data, especially since one of them is Marion County. After discussion, JRAC approved staff reopening the first quarter report to allow the remaining counties to submit their data.

7. Supreme Court Office of Behavioral Health. Justice Goff introduced Brittany Kelly who is the State Court Behavioral Health Administrator, Office of Behavioral Health with the Indiana Supreme Court. She outlined the goal of this new position, which was created in response to the National Judicial Task Force recommendations. Her role is to be a resource to justice system professionals and help build and enhance cross system collaborations. She is also leading a new Behavioral Health Committee along with Judge Stephanie Campbell who will chair the Committee. She would like to continue to partner and build connections with all justice system partners.

8. Demonstration of INjail – Indiana Jail Management System. Lisa Thompson and Megan Morgan with Indiana Office of Court Technology provided an overview of the INjail project, information on the connections between the system and other key systems (e.g., Odyssey, CHRIS repository, etc.), information on the work within the four pilots (Martin, Grant, Elkhart, and Warren Counties),

and some current benefits being realized (e.g., notifications of jail admissions to probation offices). The INjail application was demonstrated so the members could see how the information was captured and how the application incorporated the needs of end users.

9. DOC Grants Update. Chris Blessinger and Liz Darlage presented the award recommendations for the Community Correction Justice Reinvestment grants for calendar year 2025. The Administrative Code contains the funding formula that must be considered in making awards and the requests made in the grant applications exceeded the available funding this year. The grant requests were reviewed with IOCS, DMHA, and IPAC to get input as it relates to the programs and services in their areas of expertise. There was a clarification that if a county didn't request funds from the Department of Correction in a particular category (e.g., pretrial), they may have requested funding from another source (e.g., IOCS grants, etc.). Steve Luce requested more information on the jail treatment portion to help in sharing information among the sheriffs. Bernice Corley moved to approve the recommended grant awards as presented and Lindsey Villalpando seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

10. Indiana EBDM Discussion. Chris Biehn reported the decision point narrative is being updated after receiving revisions from Zoe Frantz, Sheriff Mawhorr, Department of Correction staff, Scott Hohl, and Troy Hatfield on various sections (e.g., updating processes and system details, references in gender neutral terms, etc.). These documents will be reviewed annually to keep them current, and members can email updates at any time. Once the narrative portions are updated, then the system map will be updated to correspond to the information provided.

11. Member reports.

a) Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers. Zoe Frantz reported that Indiana was awarded one of the federal Certified Community Behavioral Health Center demonstration grants and she thanked everyone who supported this effort and for SEA 1 to provide Indiana this opportunity.

b) Indiana Sheriffs' Association. Steve Luce reported that they are conducting a study of nine jails to evaluate cost of reimbursement, and they are also studying the cost related to officer turnover for those with less than three years' experience.

c) Office of Judicial Administration. Chris Biehn reported that the Problem-Solving Court grants are under review and there were approximately \$16

million in requests with \$9.5 million to allocate. Once the review is complete, the awards will be approved by the Chief Justice.

12. Next Meeting Date. The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the South Tower of the Capital Center. Also, the November 22, 2024, meeting will include approval of reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Goodman
Office of Court Services