



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes from March 15, 2024 Screening and Assessment Work Group Meeting

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on March 15, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services – Fuse Conference Center. Shannon Chambers chaired the meeting.

1. **Members present.**

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation, Chair
- Judge Kimberly Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court 2, Co-Chair
- Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
- Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Shelby Price, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation

2. **Members present electronically.** The following members of the workgroup were present electronically:

- Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office
- Don Travis, Department of Child Services

3. **Members absent. The following members of the workgroup did not attend the meeting:**

- Alison Cox, Porter County Detention Center
- Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
- Senator Jean Breaux, Senate District 34

4. **Staff.** Michelle Goodman attended as staff from the Office of Judicial Administration.

5. **Guests.** Mark Fairchild, Commission on the Status of Children, and Chad Long from Indiana Office of Court Services.

6. **Welcome.** Shannon Chambers called the meeting to order and welcomed the workgroup members.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

The workgroup reviewed the minutes from the May 12, 2023, and February 16, 2024, meetings. Lindsey Grossnickle moved to approve both sets of minutes and Judge Dowling seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

8. Review of workgroup membership.

The workgroup welcomed Shelby Price as the new JDAI representative from the Indiana Office of Court Services.

9. Discussion on workgroup recommendations and implementation activities. The workgroup reviewed the draft action plan developed based on the prior meeting discussion. Regarding training, the public defender commission is working on training for new public defenders and would like to include information on IYAS as well. This training is also open to any public defender. A suggestion was made to require this type of training in order to receive reimbursement, which would increase participation.

The workgroup reviewed each of the current priorities on the action plan and concurred that this was an accurate listing. Concerning Recommendation 5 on the technology update needed for the preliminary inquiry, the workgroup discussed establishing a subgroup to develop the requirements needed for IOCT to implement the changes and maintain the required interface with Quest. Miriah Anderson and Nichole Phillips volunteered to participate.

On Recommendation 6 concerning education to judges and probation on the Probation Standards and standard reports, the workgroup discussed the need to also partner with key stakeholders. IOCS staff are already providing training at relevant conferences on the reports. The workgroup discussed looking at webinar format and requesting this information be included in the new juvenile judges' orientation.

Regarding Recommendation 7, the subgroup presented a draft cover sheet for discussion. The workgroup made numerous amendments to the included content and updated the language used during the meeting. The workgroup reaffirmed the purpose is to provide these early screening and assessment tools to decision-makers prior to detention and diversion decisions when a preliminary inquiry is not yet available. After completing the updates, Judge Dowling moved to approve the sample cover sheet so it can be included in the reminders to judges and probation. Miriah Anderson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

The workgroup also discussed the continued work by IOCS Education Division regarding booster sessions. IOCS has begun conversations with the University of Cincinnati regarding updated curriculum and materials. These types of sessions can be made available on demand, via webinar, or via conferences. The Department of Youth Services at Department of Correction believes that boosters would continue to keep their case managers and supervisors informed without special stakeholder training. There was a request for more information regarding the proper use of override by assessment users.

Finally, the workgroup reviewed the list of topics for judges and probation officers to be reminded of regarding enhancing compliance with HEA 1359-2022. The workgroup confirmed the list of topics and discussed the various methods of communicating this information. The workgroup requested this material be provided in multiple fashions (Weekly Message, the Chief Probation Officers distribution list, the JDAI distribution list and included within relevant conference materials at the Justice Services Conference and the Juvenile Judges Conference). Lindsey Grossnickle motioned to approve the list of topics and that the YJOC Chair and Co-Chairs of this workgroup approved the final content of the communication. Nichole Phillips seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

10. Discussion on workgroup electronic meeting policy.

The workgroup reviewed the current electronic meeting policy. Judge Dowling moved to amend the policy to provide no more than 6 members may participate remotely and Lindsey Grossnickle seconded the motion. The workgroup unanimously approved the motion by a roll call vote.

11. Future workgroup meetings. The workgroup scheduled the following meeting dates for 2024:

- Friday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, July 26 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 8 at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.