



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Behavioral Health Workgroup

Minutes from April 30, 2024 Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Behavioral Health Workgroup met on April 30, 2024, from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South Conference Room 1.

1. Members present

The following members of the Workgroup were present in person:

- Blackmon, Sirrilla – Division of Mental Health & Addiction (FSSA) (Co-Chair)
- Dolehanty, Hon. Darrin – Senior Judge (Co-Chair)
- Baumer, Keena – Indiana Medicaid (FSSA)
- Becker, Amber – Division of Mental Health & Addiction (FSSA)
- Dwenger, Dr. Deanna – Indiana Department of Correction
- George, Kory – Wayne County Probation
- James, Waylon – Indiana Department of Child Services
- Maqsood, Sadia – Indiana Office of Court Services
- Wieneke, Joel – Indiana Public Defender Council

2. Members who attended the meeting virtually

- Frantz, Zoe – Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Gouty, Anah – Juvenile Referee, Lawrence Circuit Court

3. Members absent

- Fisher, Rachael – Riley Children's Hospital
- Frazer, Rebekah – Indiana Department of Education
- Harlan-York, Jessica – Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services (FSSA)

4. Staff present

- Pickett, Mindy – Indiana Office of Court Services

5. Guests present

- Dunn, Leslie – Indiana Office of Court Services
- Kenworthy, Hon. Dana – Indiana Court of Appeals
- Saylor, Colleen – Indiana Office of Court Services
- Fairchild, Mark – Commission on Improving the Status of Children

6. Welcome and Introductions

Judge Dolehanty and Serrilla Blackmon welcomed the members. Workgroup members gave brief introductions.

7. Approval of Minutes

Joel Wieneke made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Deanna Dwenger seconded the motion. The workgroup voted unanimously to approve the March 11, 2024, minutes.

8. Glossary of Terms

Serrilla Blackmon provided the group with a glossary of terms on justice involved youth so that workgroup members can better understand the terminology being utilized.

9. Review of Sample Diagnostic Assessments

a. Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) Pre-Dispositional Diagnostic Evaluation

A redacted sample diagnostic evaluation was provided to the group. Dr. Dwenger explained the various sections of the evaluation. The first sections are completed by a unit team manager who gathers information from records, speaking with individuals, including parents and caretakers, etc. The psychologist reviews what the case manager has provided and then does additional diagnostic testing through clinical interviews. Dr. Dwenger clarified that this is often done via telehealth through one virtual meeting. Sometimes the psychologist is in another state. Dr. Dwenger also clarified that the psychologist does not see the child's behaviors throughout the time the child is housed at DOC. The case manager may be able to document some behaviors, but there may not be a lot of observation. The final page of the evaluation is the testing results, summary and recommendations by the psychologist. The recommendations may be

generic because they are careful to not make recommendations that the community may not have access to. There was a question regarding whether there are any guidelines for the telehealth process. Keena Baumer explained that there are billing parameters required by Medicaid for example, there must be audio and video.

b. Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Diagnostic and Evaluation Service Standards

A copy of the DCS service standards was provided to the workgroup. Waylon James explained that DCS maintains a “service hub” that tracks what services are available across the state. Probation Officers do not have access to it, but the DCS probation service consultants know what is available and can assist. It was suggested that if DOC does not know what is available when the psychologist is making final recommendations that they reach out to the probation officer who can get more localized information from the probation consultant so that services can be coordinated appropriately. If an evaluation is being paid for by DCS those are typically completed within 14 days. Some providers are hesitant to contract with DCS based on the rate and all the requirements.

c. Workgroup discussion

The workgroup expressed concerns about how information is shared between probation officers, DOC, evaluators, etc. DCS maintains a database with reports from providers for all services paid for by DCS. On the delinquency side, there may be reports in the probation officer case management system that DCS does not have access to. The group suggested creating a coversheet that can be attached to the court order for the evaluation with the base level expectations for what they are hoping to get out of a diagnostic evaluation, and what information is already available across the various systems. Concerns were also expressed regarding workforce shortages and the number of individuals who are available to provide diagnostic evaluations. The workgroup plans to further discuss standards regarding who can administer an evaluation or assessment.

10. Diagnostic Assessment Benchcard

Judge Dolehanty introduced the concept of a benchcard for judicial officers on diagnostic evaluations and shared an example. A benchcard will be helpful for a

judge to quickly see what to expect and not expect from an evaluation and what they should consider prior to ordering an evaluation. He suggested that the group “frame up” the benchcard first with the different categories of topics it should discuss, i.e. what should be considered before even referring for an assessment? Amber Becker suggested that we utilize the June 2023 workgroup report as a starting point. Judges should consider whether other evaluations have recently been completed. Judge Dolehanty suggested that the Juvenile Benchbook Committee could come up with a standardized order that becomes a part of the “packet” that is sent to the referred provider. The workgroup came up with the following categories:

- Information I have (i.e. records, reports, pleadings)
- Location (where can child safely be maintained? inpatient vs. outpatient, etc.)
- What do I want to know that I don’t know? (i.e. service availability)

Kory George, Amber Becker, and Ref. Gouty all volunteered to brainstorm additional ideas for the framework of the benchcard. Ideas will be circulated to the workgroup via email prior to the next meeting so that workgroup members can be prepared to discuss.

11. Medicaid Update

Keena Baumer provided an update regarding the 2023 Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act. Beginning January 1, 2025 Medicaid and CHIP are required to provide physical and behavioral health screenings to eligible juveniles who are within 30 days of release from an institutional setting. For 30 days pre and post release, targeted case management services must also be provided. The optional provision of the Act did not pass through the Indiana legislature, which was that Medicaid and CHIP may receive federal match funds for services rendered to eligible children who are inmates of a public institution pending disposition of charges. This would have included funds for screening, diagnostic, referral and case management services pre-disposition. Workgroup members questioned whether there was a timeframe required for the juvenile to be in the facility to receive the release services. Also, there was a question about whether the optional provision was denied because it wasn’t a budget year and whether it may be requested again during a budget year. Keena will get more information and provide it at the next meeting.

12. Wrap-Up/Closing

Sirrilla Blackmon reported that at a future meeting we will discuss high needs/acuity youth and invite speakers from DCS and other state agencies. At our next meeting we will continue to work on the benchcard and map the diagnostic evaluation process. Zoe Frantz indicated she would try to get a sample redacted diagnostic evaluation from a CMHC.

Next steps include: addressing standardization of the diagnostic assessment referrals to providers and DOC, drafting a cover letter that gets provided to the evaluator, and looking at standards for who can administer the assessments.

13. Future Meetings

The workgroup agreed to meet on May 29, July 16, August 21, and September 24 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Indiana Government Center conference room to be determined.