



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2024

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on June 6, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room B. Judge Dana Kenworthy chaired the meeting.

Members Present:

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- Dana Kenworthy, Chair
- Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine
- Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education
- Serrilla Blackmon, Division of Mental Health, FSSA
- Judge Marshall Broadwell, Marion Superior Court 7
- Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Senior Judge
- Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- Emily Krauser, Indiana Housing and Economic Development Authority
- Devon McDonald, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Jade Palin, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Magistrate Amy Richison, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts
- Sarah Sailors, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- Joel Wieneke, Indiana Public Defender Council
- Kia Wright, Voices, Inc.

Members Attended Via Zoom:

None

Members Absent:

Shannon Chambers, Tracy Fitz, Judge Faith Graham, Emily Krauser, Devon McDonald, Magistrate Amy Richison, Sarah Sailors and Kia Wright

Staff:

Leslie Dunn, Nick Parker, April Dubree, Payton Lester, Colleen Saylor, Lisa Thompson, Megan Horton, Chris Bien, Tyler Mason, Mindy Pickett, Nick Ackerman and Sadia Maqsood from the Office of Judicial Administration attended. Mark Fairchild and Blane Cook from the Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) attended. Renee White from Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) also attended.

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes from the April 4, 2024 Meeting:

Magistrate Carolyn Foley made a motion to approve the April 4, 2024 minutes as written; Stephen Balko seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Grants Update:

The first round of grants was awarded, and most grant agreements have been executed fully; ICJI is waiting on a few signatures and budget modifications. Round two of the grants is closed and scored and the grant review committee made their recommendations, which will be presented to the ICJI Board on June 14. Approximately \$2.2 million was requested during the second round compared to \$2 million requested in the first round. There were two grant applications from statewide programs: one from IOCS and one from NAMI. The Grants Workgroup discussed whether statewide groups qualify and how this impacts the formula funding and planning grants. The Grants Workgroup submitted a memo to the YJOC seeking guidance on how to fund statewide grant requests.

Round three of the grants will open for four weeks starting on June 17. ICJI hopes to present those recommendations to the ICJI Board at their September meeting for approval. ICJI is developing separate planning grant applications for diversion and community alternatives with specific questions related to planning efforts.

Judge Kenworthy reviewed the statutes about the YJOC grants and believes there is flexibility to allow for statewide funding and that the YJOC is empowered to develop a plan. Indiana Code sections 31-40-5 and 31-40-6 govern the grants. IC 31-40-5-4 provides that grant funds can be used to support and coordinate data collection, which is the focus of the IOCS grant application. Data collection is required and OJA is required to report data to the legislature. The diversion and community alternatives grants allow for administrative support for data collection. The behavioral health grants also allow flexibility under IC 31-40-6-3(c), which states that ICJI can consider funding activities other than those outlined in the behavioral health plan to provide statewide funding.

IOCS requested \$800,000 for statewide data collection and NAMI requested \$18,123 for system mapping. It is important to decide how to address these statewide applications and how to handle any other statewide applications submitted in the future. Very few counties have applied for the formula funding under the diversion and community alternatives categories. It is not likely that all counties will apply for the formula grants, so funds are available to be shifted to other needs.

Jade Palin reported that ICJI analyzed the funding and if every county requested a planning grant for the maximum grant amount available to them, there would still be \$280,000-\$300,000 available. We could use this money for the statewide grants or take funds from each pot since data collection is needed in all areas. Judge King noted that the IOCS request is an administrative need and aligns directly with the data requirements in HEA 1359 and he recommended that the funds come from all three buckets since all categories will benefit from these statewide initiatives. Joel Wieneke asks what the plan was for funding the data collection in the final report. Dr. Aalsma said that the Data Workgroup recommended the funding be available to implement the recommendations, but the funding stream was not identified. OJA will need funding up front, but also ongoing funding to support the process. Joel Wieneke noted that the very first ask in the legislation is data collection, and this supports all the other recommendations, so it is key. Judge Kenworthy noted that there have been recommendations and a need to develop a data collection process going back to the mid 2000's; data is important, and we need to figure out how to support it with funding.

Sirrilla Blackmon asked about having a project manager map out the timeline and expenses. Senior Judge Dolehanty noted that our legislative partners are not present, but he is not sure if the intent of the grants was to provide for the administrative costs for data collection, so he is concerned as to whether it is appropriate. In light of the concerns expressed, Judge Kenworthy indicated the Grants Workgroup will meet with legislators to determine the best path forward. In the meantime, the statewide data grant request will be put on hold.

Joel Wieneke made a motion that the statewide grant applications (including the NAMI: application) identify the specific counties they intend to work with so the money can be allocated towards those counties. Judge Dolehanty seconded the motion, which passed without objection. Judge King noted that we need to make sure that there is judicial buy-in on applications from third parties for any project funded that impacts the courts. He moved to make sure the judges are included in the collaboration piece by requiring the applicant to indicate that there is partnership with juvenile justice stakeholders, including the courts. Judge Dolehanty seconded the motion, which passed with Jade Palin abstaining.

Leslie Dunn provided the background on previous discussions with Representative McNamara about OJA receiving funding since Odyssey and INCite, which are operated by OJA, are relied on for data and information. There was discussion about funding the start-up costs in the short term to get the data collection process started, but then we may need to go back to the legislature to get ongoing data funding for OJA for juvenile data collection. There are two reports currently required of OJA outlined in HEA 1359, but we must modify these systems to be able to collect the data. There was also early discussion of ICJI providing funds to OJA, through an MOU to fund the data collection. Judge Kenworthy noted that ICJI has been working on technical assistance for applicants. Also, ICJI will be present at the Family and Juvenile Judges Conference next week to answer questions.

Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) Update:

Mark Fairchild, Executive Director of the CISC, provided an update on the work of the CISC. They have a new subcommittee that aims to promote and improve mental health services for children three and under. There is new legislation for Safe Baby Courts and the new committee will investigate how to cooperate with the problem-solving courts overseen by IOCS. They have a new committee on bullying, suicide prevention and online safety that will be chaired by DMHA. CISC, in

conjunction with DOE and DMHA, was recently awarded a 3-year national technical assistance grant called the BEST Youth Initiative to help build states' capacity to support people with lived experience. They will be focusing on chronic absenteeism and truancy. CISC also has a status offense subcommittee under the Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth workgroup. Judge Kenworthy noted truancy is an issue courts across the state are struggling with. At a recent youth leadership meeting, youth also identified truancy as a huge issue; they shared some of the reasons for truancy are safety (fear of going to school), boredom, the need to work to support their families, and getting the same outcome whether you do the work or not. The youth expressed the need for people to listen and noted the need to support teachers. Mark Fairchild said they are looking at how to work with youth to elevate their voice and make sure they are heard and respected.

Workgroup Updates:

Screening and Assessment Workgroup:

Nichole Phillips provided the workgroup report. They created a letter with key reminders that was distributed to judicial officers and chief probation officers via OJA's Wednesday Weekly message. The reminders will also be distributed at upcoming conferences. The letter was included with the Screening and Assessment Workgroup report distributed prior to today's meeting. They have one sub-workgroup focused on their recommendation #5 to update the standard Preliminary Inquiry Report. This will include building technology requirements to enhance the INCite application and updating related instructional manuals. They are meeting with the Probation Officers Advisory Board to get input. Once the updates are drafted, they will be presented to the Judicial Conference Board of Directors for final approval.

Behavioral Health Workgroup:

Sirrilla Blackmon and Senior Judge Dolehanty provided the workgroup report. They have held two meetings. They are collecting diagnostic assessments to review and compare with DCS standards. They met with Waylon James and Zoe Frantz to go over the DCS standards. They are creating a bench card for judges and analyzing what information should be included. They will seek feedback on the draft from judges, probation officers and others. They are looking at the gaps in communication as to which youth have already had testing and evaluations done and when testing should not be repeated. They want to invite David Reed and Dr. Finnell to their meeting to discuss high-acuity youth. They plan to form subgroups soon.

There are over twenty-seven different assessments; which ones are relevant to judges and stakeholders? Judge Dolehanty noted that they are considering whether there is really a need to send the youth to IDOC-DYS or if there could be a different, less traumatic path that is not a big strain on DYS resources. They are looking at what other options are available and what can be done by telehealth. There are workforce issues and concerns about whether providers can be paid enough to do the assessments and meet the DCS standards. Dr. Aalsma noted there are best practices, not just on the DCS side, but on the research side as well. Judge Dolehanty noted there is a wealth of information on these youth already. The courts get their information from the probation officer but there are other reports from DCS and others that the courts do not have access to. The bench card will provide guidance to courts as to who, what, when, where and why to order additional evaluations or assessments and what tools are available.

Diversions Workgroup:

Megan Horton reported that the workgroup prepared the Diversion Resource Guide for counties looking to start a diversion program. The Guide has been approved and is available on the [YJOC website](#). They created a new email address to obtain more information on diversion programs or request technical assistance. They are also working on compiling information about diversion programs around the state as a resource on what is already being done. They have information on what some counties are doing from a survey they did previously. They will use this information to create a draft, hopefully by the next YJOC meeting. They need to do some outreach to counties to make sure they have updated information. This will be a short-term solution; they are also considering a web-based directory that can be searched so counties can access information easily.

They would like to figure out how to partner with and support the Grants Workgroup to answer questions and to facilitate a forum for counties to have peer-to-peer discussion on programming. They have two new judicial members in the workgroup, Judge Evans from Harrison County and Judge Lee from Knox County. They are still working on obtaining members from law enforcement and education.

Transitional Services Workgroup:

Terrie Decker reported that Magistrate Foley did several focus groups on Zoom to talk to judges about when judges commit youth to IDOC and their thoughts on resuming jurisdiction and providing transitional services. They created subgroups on best practices, service standards and state agency collaboration. Terrie and Magistrate Foley are presenting at the upcoming Family and Juvenile Judges Conference.

Data Workgroup:

Dr. Aalsma stated the Data Workgroup has not met but they do have a new co-chair, Chris Biehn, the Deputy Director of Justice Services at IOCS.

Wrap-Up /Closing:

Nancy Wever noted that her team at IOCS is fielding requests from counties for technical assistance. They are working with a six-county group in southern Indiana to provide support around HEA 1359 issues. Joel Wieneke is looking forward to training opportunities for stakeholders connected to our work. He is planning training on dual status for stakeholders. Jade Palin reiterated that they deferred the NAMI grant application and wanted to clarify whether it would remain deferred until they meet with legislators and get clarification from them. Judge Kenworthy noted that YJOC passed a motion today that once NAMI submits an amended application identifying the counties and local stakeholders they are collaborating with, their grant can be considered, and the funding would be allocated from that county's designated grant amount.

Next Meetings:

Thursday, August 1, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Thursday, October 3, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Thursday, December 5, 2024, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C, 10:00 am-12:00 pm