



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes from July 26, 2024 Screening and Assessment Work Group Meeting

The Screening and Assessment Workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) met on July 26, 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
- Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- Miriah Anderson, Tippecanoe County Probation
- Shelby Price, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Don Travis, Department of Child Services

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

- Judge Kimberly Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court 2, Co-Chair
- Marc Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction
- Jordan Morris, St. Joseph County Probation

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

- Rob McComb, Allen County Probation
- Lindsey Grossnickle, Whitley County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Jennifer Sturges, Decatur County Public Defender's Office

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

5. **Guests.** Lesile Dunn, Indiana Office of Court Services, Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology, and Mark Fairchild, Commission on the Status of Children.

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 February 2024 due to a needed correction and the March 2024 meeting. The workgroup members did not recommend any additional changes. The approval of the minutes will be held until the next meeting due to a lack of an in-person quorum.

- 8. Report from YJOC meeting.** Nichole Phillips provided an update from the last YJOC meeting focusing on the status of the various grant applications. The first round of grants was awarded, and the second round of applications were reviewed by the ICJI Board on June 14. The third round of grants was open for three weeks beginning on June 17 and those will be reviewed by the ICJI Board in September. The Commission on Improving the Status of Children reported on new committees focusing on Safe Baby Courts and truancy/absenteeism and they received a 3-year grant with DOE and DMHA to support people with lived experience. In addition, she reported on the work of YJOC workgroups. The Behavioral Health workgroup is reviewing DCS standards and various diagnostic assessments to develop a benchcard. The Diversion workgroup published a Diversion Resource Guide, which will be updated in the future. The Transitional Services workgroup is gathering information from counties who resume jurisdiction after a youth is at DYS to help review practice, service standards, and state-level collaboration. There will also be a training sponsored by the Public Defender Council on Dual Status. The workgroup was encouraged to review the YJOC website to stay informed.

- 9. Discussion on workgroup recommendations and implementation activities.** The workgroup received an update on the work of the subgroup on technology enhancements for the Preliminary Inquiry Report, Pre-dispositional Report, and the Modification Report. The project goal is to update the standard reports to better incorporate the IYAS Detention Tool, the JDAI DST, if applicable, and IYAS Diversion Tool into the Preliminary Inquiry Report to align with the statutory requirements from HEA 1359-2022. In addition, the group is reviewing other requested changes to these reports and will look to add the optional cover sheet into this application as well. The sub-group has continued to develop and outline these requirements so the IOCT team can begin to prepare for enhancing the technology. In addition, the workgroup was provided with a written overview of the process, the other committees that must evaluate these recommendations, and the estimated timeline for approval and implementation.

Next, the workgroup received an update on the distribution of the key reminder memo and attachments. The memo was sent via OJA's weekly message, emailed to Chief Probation Officers, and included in the materials for several sessions at the May Justice Services Conference. In addition, an announcement was made in the Justice Services Conference application to alert attendees where to get this information. The workgroup discussed the work on policy development, and some have started making updates while others need more intensive technical assistance to start developing policies on these topics. In addition, Leslie reminded the workgroup that OJA will be working on updating the survey sent to probation officers last year on secure detention policies. This

information is needed for the OJA report required by statute. The survey results will provide updates on counties' progress and identify any needs for assistance.

The workgroup also received an update on the work of the IOCS Education Division on IYAS trainings, Probation Standards training, Report Writing Training, and Continuous Quality Improvement trainings in 2024. These topics will also be provided in 2025 and planning has already begun. The workgroup emphasized the need for DCS to have common language around assessments, especially with dual status youth, and encouraged a webinar format to make the training easily accessible. The team is also beginning to work on the stakeholder training materials so they can be discussed in September.

10. Other business. Leslie Dunn also reported that OJA and DCS are working with the Children's Bureau on the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for Indiana. It is important for local stakeholders to collaborate with the state on this work especially as it relates to permanency planning when reunification can't be achieved. This work also requires Indiana to update the interagency agreements between courts and probation to ensure we continue to meet key federal requirements. There was also a suggestion for a training or webinar on the PIP, so more stakeholders understand its importance to keep key federal dollars coming to our state.

Lisa Thompson reported that 21 counties expressed interest in participating in the Data Workgroup's pilot program to assess the quality and quantity of their juvenile data. This information will provide a baseline assessment of what data is collected. Subsequently, the Data Workgroup will select five pilot counties to work with to implement additional data collection and develop best practices to improve data across the state in the future.

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

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