



**THE ALLEN SUPERIOR COURT  
FAMILY RELATIONS DIVISION  
CHARLES F. PRATT, JUDGE**

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December 6, 2016

Chief Justice Loretta Rush  
Indiana Supreme Court  
200 W. Washington St. #324  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2732

Dear Chief Justice Rush,

As I indicated in my letter of November 23, 2016 the Cross Systems Youth Task Force completed a study regarding the development of local juvenile community corrections boards as referenced in I.C. 2-5-36-9(b). Since then I have learned that my first letter did not accurately reflect the consensus of all those attending the November Cross Systems Task Force meeting with regard to recommendation (a).

I respectfully request that my letter, at paragraph (a), be amended to provide that we recommend legislative authorization to increase representation on community corrections boards to support juvenile justice interests, *or* to create a separate juvenile community corrections board at the discretion of the local government units. In all other respects our recommendations remain unaltered.

*Amended Recommendation*

In October, 2016 a draft of proposed legislation re: a juvenile community corrections board was presented to the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee on behalf of the Task Force leadership and was given consensus support. That proposal provided for the creation of separate juvenile community corrections boards on a county level. Thereafter, at our November 2, 2016 Cross Systems Youth Task Force Meeting the primary principles of the original legislative draft were reviewed. The Task Force accepted by consensus the following recommendations. Representatives of Executive Branch agencies on the Task Force abstained from the vote on this issue.

The Cross Systems Youth Task Force recognizes that there is insufficient state funding to support innovative evidence based programs for children within the juvenile justice system. With the notable exception of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), most courts exercising juvenile justice jurisdiction must rely on local resources to implement programs designed to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), trauma, positive youth development initiatives, truancy reforms, and other juvenile justice issues. We recognize that several counties have had success in receiving a portion of Community Corrections grant funds through the Department of Corrections. However, far more counties receive no proportional share owing, in part, to a limited voice for juvenile initiatives on the local board and/or the significant demand for the funding of adult criminal justice services. Therefore, the Cross Systems Youth Task Force recommends that the Commission consider supporting legislation that would provide for the following:

- a. *Increase representation on local community corrections boards to support juvenile justice interests, or grant counties the authority and discretion to establish separate*

*juvenile community corrections boards.* If the latter is authorized, we recommend that boards be authorized on a county level rather than on a regional basis.

Membership for juvenile justice interest could include those individuals who serve on the JDAI advisory board if the county has JDAI. Other membership could include local leaders from sectors within the county who have a significant understanding and appreciation for the developmental stages of children and juvenile justice principles. Ideally the membership would include the Department of Child Services and leaders in the fields of mental health, medical care, and education.

- b. *Increase funding/authorize new funding for Juvenile Justice grants from the DOC beyond the current grant funding level.* We recommend that the sum should be based on a percentage of the total reserved for funding adult services. However we do not recommend that such an allocation should reduce or impair the funding for adult community corrections. Nor do we recommend that the funding be tied to or result in any adverse impact on the resources required for JDAI.
- c. *The juvenile justice allocation should be new funding for innovative and evidence based practices.* We recommend that the state provide significant fiscal resources to the local juvenile courts and counties to develop and sustain innovative, evidence based juvenile justice programs including Dual Status cases.

Respectfully submitted:



Charles Pratt, Judge Allen Superior Court  
Co-Chair, Cross Systems Youth Task Force

CC:

Honorable Mary Willis, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Judicial Administration  
The Honorable Steven Galvin, Chair, Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Mr. Donald Travis, Co-chair Cross Systems Youth Task Force  
Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Judicial Center