

Probation Committee Judicial Conference of Indiana

February 27, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met by Zoom on February 27, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Judge Mark Smith chaired the meeting.

1. Members present. The following members were present: Andrew Antrim, Andrew Borland, Celia Pauli, Travis Shields, Mark Smith, Terrance Tharpe, and William Walz.

Members absent. The following members were absent: Sally McLaughlin, Matthew Raper, and Jason Thompson.

Guest present. Shannon Chambers attended the meeting on behalf of the Probation Officers Advisory Board as its Chair.

Staff present. Jenny Bauer, Chris Biehn, Stephanie Rothenberg, and Nancy Wever attended the meeting as staff.

2. Approval of minutes. The meeting minutes from October 24, 2025, were approved unanimously on motion and second by Andrew Antrim and Andrew Borland.

3. PO Certification Revocation Request. Jenny Bauer reported that Shelby County submitted a probation officer misconduct form on a former probation officer. According to the form, the probation officer resigned while on a performance improvement plan for failing to meet contact standards and not accurately documenting contacts with supervisees in the SRS system. The committee discussed whether decertification was appropriate for performance-related issues and decided to notify the former probation officer about the request to review certification and offer the opportunity to appear before the committee. Judge Smith requested that staff prepare a notice letter for his signature.

4. Sample Order for Receiving County Judge on Intrastate Transfer of Adult Probation Supervision. Jenny Bauer reported that legislation from the 2025 session of the Indiana General Assembly requires the receiving county judge to issue an order accepting or denying the transfer of a sex offender. Several judges have reached out to IOCS asking for a sample order to be used in these transfer situations. Ms. Bauer will send out a sample order for review by the Committee members.

5. Legislative Update. Ms. Bauer reported that the 2026 session of the Indiana General Assembly ended on February 27. This was a “short session” made even shorter by the

legislature meeting in December at the direction of the governor. Ms. Bauer highlighted the following bills of interest to community supervision:

SB 2—bail procedures (effective 1/1/2027)

- Provides that offenses other than murder are not bailable if the state proves: (1) by a preponderance of the evidence that the proof is evident or the presumption strong; and (2) by clear and convincing evidence that the arrestee is dangerous and that no conditions of release will reasonably protect the safety of other persons or the community. Establishes procedures for a bail hearing. Removes duplicative provisions concerning repeat violent arrestees. Permits a court to retain cash bail for the payment of certain costs without an indigency hearing if the defendant has executed an agreement permitting the court to retain the cash bail for these purposes.

SB 3—constitutional amendment ballot language (bail—language will appear on the general election ballot in November 2026)

- Prescribes the ballot language for the proposed constitutional amendment concerning bail.
- Article 1, Section 17 of Indiana Constitution

SB 4—various fiscal matters (Section 28 effective upon passage)

- Urges the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on courts and the judiciary the task of undertaking a comprehensive study of all court fees and fines.

SB 92—community corrections trust fund (effective 7/1/2026)

- Authorizes a county that operates a community corrections program to establish a county community corrections trust fund (fund). Specifies the funding sources and permissible uses of the fund. Specifies reporting and auditing requirements relating to the administration of the fund.

HB 1033—various judicial matters (Section 23 and 24 effective upon passage)

- Requires a voting member of the justice reinvestment advisory council to cast a vote in person. Requires that, in a county having a consolidated city, the chief judge or a judge appointed by the chief judge be the chair of the local justice reinvestment advisory council. Provides that a local or regional advisory council may only take action upon the affirmative vote of the members and a member must cast a vote in person.

HB 1161—local government matters

- Provides that each county executive, excluding a county containing a consolidated city and certain employees, shall adopt and maintain a written personnel policy, employee handbook, or equivalent document establishing minimum standards for county employee conduct, performance, and workplace expectations. (the bill does not apply to Marion County, probation department employees, court employees, prosecutor office employees, public defender employees, and community corrections employees.

Ms. Bauer explained that HB 1161 does not authorize counties to not pay benefits for the employees of probation, courts, prosecutor, public defender, or community corrections.

6. Office of Court Services Updates.

- Chris Biehn reported that JRAC discussed competency restoration of the February meeting. The next JRAC meeting is scheduled for April 17.
- Nancy Wever reported that the Youth Justice Oversight Committee is partnering with the IU School of Medicine to study data quality in 6 pilot counties: Marion, Johnson, Madison, Bartholomew, Huntington, and Ripley. Ms. Wever also reported that CJI received 46 applications for youth justice grants requesting a total of \$12.8 million. In addition, she reported that the Youth Justice Conference is scheduled for October 28-29, there are now 37 JDAI counties (with Jennings as the newest), and IOCS grants are open for applications.
- Jenny Bauer reported that she and Chris Biehn are presenting educational sessions at POPAI's Management Institute in early March and the Justice Services Conference is scheduled for April 29-30.

7. Probation Officers Advisory Board report. Shannon Chambers reported that POAB recently received nominations for the Order of Augustus and district elections are open until March 6th. The Advisory Board will meet again on March 10th and April 24th via Zoom, with July 24th tentatively planned as an in-person meeting.

8. Other business. Judge Smith inquired about Court Technology implementing a flag system in Odyssey to highlight individuals on community supervision. Ms. Bauer will follow with Court Technology. Judge Antrim raised concerns about difficulties in tracking no-contact orders when individuals are released from the Department of Correction. Ms. Bauer will check with the IOCS Children and Family Division about potential solutions.

9. 2026 meeting dates. The Committee's next meeting date is April 24 at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Indiana Office of Court Services

Probation Committee Judicial Conference of Indiana

April 24, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met by Zoom on April 24, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Judge Mark Smith chaired the meeting.

1. Members present. The following members were present: Andrew Antrim, Andrew Borland, Sally McLaughlin, Celia Pauli, Matthew Raper, Travis Shields, Mark Smith, Terrance Tharpe, Jason Thompson, and William Walz.

Staff present. Jenny Bauer, Chris Biehn, and Stephanie Rothenberg attended the meeting as staff from the Office of Court Services. OJA General Counsel Heather Falks also attended the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes. The meeting minutes from February 27, 2026, were approved unanimously on motion and second by Matthew Raper and Andrew Antrim.

3. PO Certification Review. The Committee met with a former probation officer to discuss the certification review requested by the former employer. The former probation officer explained that one incident involved another officer meeting with a client while the former officer was unavailable in a court hearing, and the second incident was a case note mistake due to a high caseload and personal and mental health struggles. The former probation officer confirmed being placed on a performance improvement plan to improve documentation of contacts with clients. The Committee discussed the information and plans for follow-up.

4. Revised Intrastate Probation Supervision Guidelines. Jenny Bauer reported that the Judicial Conference Board of Directors approved the proposed revisions to the Intrastate Probation Supervision Transfer Guidelines at the April 14th meeting. Staff will notify chief probation officers in an upcoming message.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer

Staff Attorney