

**JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF INDIANA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Minutes  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
April 9, 2024**

**1. Attendees:**

- a. Members:** Robert Altice, David Avery, Brian Bade, Jon Brown, Stephanie Campbell (member and as proxy for Heather Welch and Kelsey Hanlon), Sam Cappas, Vicki Carmichael, Michael Christofeno, Joseph Claypool, Dean Colvin, Aleksandra Dimitrijevic, Danielle Gaughan, Clayton Graham, Frances Gull, Jennifer Harrison, Elizabeth Hurley, Kristina Kantar, Steve Kitts, Robert Krieg, Stephenie LeMay-Luken, Jeryl Leach, Sally McLaughlin, Jason McVicker, Bradley Mohler, James Muehlhausen, Jenny Newton, Jaime Oss, Lakshmi Reddy, Hunter Reece, Matthew Rentschler, Loretta Rush, Lori Schein, Leslie Shively, Gregory Smith, Adam Squiller, Richard Stalbrink, Stephanie Steele, Mark Stoner, AmyMarie Travis,
- b. Not in attendance:** Marla Clark, MaryEllen Diekhoff, Kelsey Hanlon (Stephanie Campbelle appointed proxy), Charnette Garner, Clay Kellerman, Kristen McVey, Heather Welch (Stephanie Campbell appointed proxy).
- c. Guests:** Kim Dowling, Christopher Goff, Mark Massa, Derek Molter, Elizabeth Tavitias
- d. Staff:** Jennifer Bauer, Vicki Davis, Mary DePrez, Kathryn Dolan, Leslie Dunn, Michelle Goodman, Ava Hassel, Bob Rath, Jeff Wiese, Amanda Wishin, Josh Woodward.

- 2. Welcome and opening remarks.** Chief Justice Loretta Rush welcomed the Board and encouraged them to attend the upcoming district meetings and to reach out to new judges. The Chief Justice thanked Judge Vicki Carmichael for leading the weighted case load study and achieving 98% participation of the judges. She noted that the Supreme Court will begin building the next budget this summer and that an order was issued for a new commission on the future of the legal field.
- 3. Minutes.** A motion was made by Judge AmyMarie Travis and seconded by Judge Clayton Graham to approve the minutes from the meeting held November 30, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Court of Appeals Report.** Judge Bob Altice reported that the Court of Appeals has two upcoming openings in the northern district and has been providing CLEs on demystifying the judicial nominating process. Judge Altice invited the Board to the Court of Appeals open house on Wednesday, April 10 at 4:45 pm.

- 5. Indiana Judges Association (IJA) and Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (ICJFCJ) report.** Judge Stephanie Campbell provided the updates for both IJA and ICJFCJ. She encouraged the Board to continue the forward momentum of the current healthy relationship between legislators and the judges by welcoming newly elected legislators. If a county is interested in adding a new judicial officer, the IJA has created a subcommittee to help, and counties should reach out to her or Judge Mark Spitzer.
- 6. Guardian ad Litem Guidelines.** Judge Elizabeth Tavitias, chair of Family Law Taskforce, provided a copy of the guardian ad litem guidelines that had been revised after receiving public comments. She encouraged the Board to contact her or Leslie Dunn with comments; the Board will vote on the guidelines at the September meeting.
- 7. Jury Orientation Video.** Judge Kim Dowling, on behalf of the Jury Committee, noted that Jury Rule 11 requires courts to use a standard juror orientation video. The Jury Committee has spent significant time reviewing the current script and provided a draft update with the substantive addition of information on keeping an open mind/biases. A motion was made to approve the updated script by Judge Vicki Carmichael, seconded by Judge Stephanie Campbell, and was carried unanimously.
- 8. Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council Electronic Monitoring Report.** Michelle Goodman reported that a statute requires electronic monitoring reports be compiled and submitted to the Legislative Council and the Board. Ms. Goodman noted that the report was reviewed by the Youth Justice Oversight Committee. The key takeaways are that the adult population is primarily post-disposition, and the juvenile population is mostly pre-adjudication.
- 9. Office of Judicial Administration (OJA).** Justin Forkner, Chief Administrative Officer, also mentioned new judge requests. He is happy to chat with counties about making a request and noted that the information about the process is located on the website. He also noted that OJA is hiring for two management positions – State Court Behavioral Health administrator and Executive Director of IOCS. Mr. Forkner announced that Vicki Davis is the Interim Executive Director.
- 10. Indiana Office of Court Service (IOCS) report.** Vicki Davis, Interim Executive Director, highlighted the grants available through IOCS - problem-solving, pretrial, and youth justice oversight. Ms. Davis noted that the Education Division is requesting a needs assessment, and that the final Legislative Update has been published. IOCS has some vacancies - Jeff Bercovitz retired and there are two openings in Justices Services. Ms. Davis also gave a heads up that the Judicial Conference committee selection letter will be arriving in email boxes soon.
- 11. Court Technology.** Mary DePrez, Executive Director, announced that all trial courts are now using Odyssey except for the nine courts using QUEST. She noted that a new INCite application for law enforcement officers, Limited Weapons Disqualification Data, was

released in February, as required by legislation passed in 2023. This new INcite application searches Odyssey, Protection Order Registry, and the NICS Reporting application. Court Tech has also been working with Division of Mental Health staff to better coordinate courts who find a defendant to be incompetent to stand trial and need to be transferred to a state facility. Finally, the INjail application has been deployed to Martin, Grant and Elkhart Counties and Warren County will be deploying INjail in the coming months.

## **12. Other business**

- Judge Bradley Mohler expressed concern about public defender reimbursement and caseloads.
- Judge Sam Capps stated that Lake County does not put people on electronic monitoring because of the liability involved with contacting victims. Further research will be done on this issue.
- Judge Rich Stalbrink provided a quick Strategic Plan update. The Committee is still executing portions of the 2020 plan, working with the Court Security Committee on security issues, and building a good relationship with the Clerks Association.

## **13. Future meetings:** The 2024 meetings are scheduled for:

- September 18, 10:30 am – Indianapolis
- December 12, 3:30 pm - Carmel