

Problem-Solving Courts Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 13, 2026

Time: 12:30 p.m. (EDT)

Location: Zoom

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Judge Chris Buckley called the meeting to order at 12:38PM

Persons in attendance were as follows:

Committee Members: Judge Chris Buckley, Brad Barnes, Judge Elizabeth Bellin, Judge Natalie Bokota, Magistrate John Christ, Judge Lisa Glickfield, Magistrate Sherry Hartzler, Judge Crystal Kocher, Tammy O'Neill, Judge Dan Petrie, Judge Leslie Shively, Judge Angela Sims, Judge Adam Squiller, and Jennifer York.

Supreme Court Liaison: Justice Christopher Goff

Staff: Chris Biehn, Jamie Bergacs, Diane Mains, Shelby Bear, Zach Johnson, Reilly Sommers, Jessica Morris, Senior Judge Tom Felts, David Sexton, Nicole Wesling, Kevin Riley, Catheryne Pully, and Rose Walker.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 12, 2025, meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Rule 2.2. Presence of Prosecutor

The committee engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the proposed amendment to Rule 2.2. Justice Goff outlined statewide challenges related to prosecutor staffing shortages and emphasized the importance of maintaining access to problem-solving courts. It was suggested to provide flexibility in the rule to allow courts to operate despite limited prosecutorial participation. Committee members expressed concern about deviating from best practices, potential erosion of team-based decision-making, and impacts on program integrity, and outcomes. Additional concerns included the risk of reduced participation by both prosecutors and defense counsel if flexibility were introduced. Following discussion, the committee reached consensus on a compromise approach: allowing limited exceptions to full team participation only when justified by demonstrated need, while maintaining that full team participation remains the best practice. The committee supported language placing discretion with the problem-

solving court judicial officer and requiring consideration of due process obligations. A motion to adopt this proposed framework was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Judge Buckley agreed to circulate the drafted language to staff for submission.

4. PSC Rule Revisions

Diane Mains and Jamie Bergacs presented a comprehensive overview of proposed amendments to the problem-solving court rules, describing the effort as one of the most significant revisions in recent years. The revisions incorporate best practice standards and statutory additions such as safe baby courts. It was noted that proposed amendments were developed over the course of approximately one year by multiple workgroups. Key highlights included updates to definitions, new expectations for judicial education, expanded qualification pathways for coordinators and case managers, revisions to the certification framework, including a simplified appeals process and team membership.

The committee discussed the rule revisions and operational considerations, including team composition and participation. Members discussed limiting treatment team membership to individuals directly involved in supervision or service delivery in order to protect participant confidentiality and improve efficiency. Additional discussion focused on the role of peer recovery specialists, including concerns about balancing confidentiality with the value of lived experience. It was noted that individuals not directly involved in participant supervision could still contribute through advisory or policy roles. The committee generally supported efforts to align practices with best practice standards while remaining mindful of local program needs. A motion to request permission from the Judicial Conference of Indiana Board of Directors to post the proposed amendments for public comment was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

5. Performance Measures Workgroup Update

Kevin Riley provided an update on performance measures efforts, including ongoing coordination with data initiatives and related projects such as the development of data dashboards and broader statewide data mapping efforts. The workgroup continues to evaluate available data sources and identify opportunities to align performance measures with emerging standards and reporting capabilities. Discussions emphasized the importance of improving data availability and consistency to support program evaluation and decision-making.

6. Education Report

Jessica Morris provided an overview of education and training initiatives, including continuing education opportunities for judges and staff. The committee discussed the proposed requirement for judges to complete six hours of annual continuing education in relevant topics such as evidence-based practices and crisis management. Concerns were raised regarding scheduling and accessibility, particularly for courts with limited resources; however, staff noted that training would be available through conferences, webinars, and other virtual formats to ensure flexibility. Overall, the committee expressed support for strengthening education requirements while maintaining practical accessibility.

7. Certification Report

Reilly Sommers reported since the last meeting, the certification team has conducted nine certification reviews and has granted ten certificates. Nine of these were three-year certifications or recertifications, with one provisional certification issued.

8. Adjourn

With no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

2026 Meeting Dates:

All meetings are conducted via Zoom beginning at 12:30 p.m. EDT

- June 12, 2026
- September 18, 2026
- December 4, 2026