

**Indiana Public Defender Council  
Executive Director's Report  
Retreat September 10, 2022  
Board meeting**

**Liaison update:**

**Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC)( I.C. sec. 33-38-9.5)**

Currently chaired by Justice Goff. There are several workgroups under JRAC. Below are summaries related to the workgroups.

**Public Defender Resource Meeting with J. Goff Justice Goff and other members of the judicial conference.**

**June 2022 Report:** Staff from IPDC, PDCOM, and State PD met with this group to discuss systemic resource needs. J. Goff shared the vision that he would like to compile a list of JRAC Criminal Legal System needs and to share the list with legislative leadership. Because public defense needs will be collapsed into a larger list, it is our (Amy, Bernice, & Derrick) thought to share high level, long sought effort of misdemeanor funding.

**September 2022 Report:** No meetings have occurred since the June report.

**Local JRAC:**

IPDC is reaching out to PDs who serve on LRAC's to organize and initial meeting. We have identified counties where no PD has been assigned: Benton, Clay, Union, LaPorte, Hoosier Hills Pact (Orange, Crawford), Hamilton, and Blackford who do not show a PD as part of the county group. IPDC will be following up to ensure a PD is assigned.

**Racial Equity Work Group:**

This workgroup received a presentation on fines, fees and costs from Marion Cty Probation Director, Christine Kerl, who also serves on Probation Officers Professional Association (POPAP). This group will begin preparing its section of the report to the Commission on Equity and Access.

**Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC) (I.C. sec. 2-5-36)**

The Juvenile Justice Task Force created under HEA 1359 is underway. Chair by J. David, Joel Wieneke is IPDC's representative. The Task Force has working committees as follows: Behavioral Health (Alicia Pratt – Tippecanoe), Data, Diversion (Shannon O'Toole – Marion Cty), Grants Process, Juvenile Probation Standards\*, Screening and Assessment (Jennifer Sturges), Transitional Services (Jill Johnson - - Marion Cty)

**Interstate Compact State Council (I.C. sec. 11-13-4.5-2(b))**

No update

**Public Defender Commission (PDCOM) (I.C. sec. 33-40-5)**

No update

**Governor's Commission to Combat Drug Abuse (I.C. sec. 4-3-25)**

No Update

**Pretrial Release Committee (ad hoc committee – hosted by IOCS (Indiana Office of Court Services)  
Chaired by J. Mark Spitzer)**

- Constitutional Amendment – Preventative Detention  
Sen. R. Michael Young made public that he sought a change to the constitution to permit preventative detention. Sen. Young would not work with this group to develop his legislation. J. Smith reported that Rep. Greg Steuerwald is willing to work with this group and would work collaboratively with it to file legislation. The next meeting of this group is October. Rep. Steuerwald may be present.
- Pretrial Education Subcommittee  
Pretrial Staff Orientation is scheduled for October 3 (virtual platform). Currently, there are 37 people from 12 counties registered to attend. Education topics are continually discussed and considered for annual conference, for on-demand sessions, and to review material in the orientation. Meetings for the Ed-Subcommittee will increase its meetings to quarterly.

**Innovation (ad hoc committee – hosted by Supreme Court)**

This group met on August 10<sup>th</sup>. J. David led the meeting. He asked key questions whether the group should continue and if so, who should be engaged. It was agreed there is much this group could do and that it's important to rotate members to get fresh ideas. There was some discussion of beginning a pilot to have remote traffic court for CDL holders. The idea is to ensure judges with expertise are hearing these matters, federal law is conformed with and ease of access for the accused. Further discussion will be had on this idea.

**Commission on Equity and Access in the Court System (Established by Order of Supreme Court)**

The order and more information can be found at <https://www.in.gov/courts/admin/diversity/equity-access/>. It was decided at the last meeting of this time did not permit surveys/townhalls. It was instead determined that small groups would work on wrapping up their drafts to be submitted to be comprised of the final draft.

**Judicial Conference – Jury Committee**

No update

**Interim Study – Corrections and Criminal Code**

I serve on this committee. The first meeting was 8/30<sup>th</sup>. The agenda items included HIV modernization (M. Moore presented on relevant statutes). The agenda also included logistics for ensuring release-ready patients and offenders from IN psychiatric hospitals and DOC are connected with appropriate care upon release. I presented on holistic public defense pilot in Marion Cty which could be able to close any existing gaps from DOC.

**Chief Public Defender Association**

IPDC staff together with Commission staff have been helping to create a public defender retirement benefit equal to prosecutor retirement. Current advocacy centers around attempting to get the matter studied by Pension Management Oversight Commission (PMOC). If the topic is added, it will be to the October 17<sup>th</sup> mtg.

