



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes from June 11, 2026

Members Present:

The following members of the Committee were present in person:

- ☒ Dana Kenworthy, Chair
- ☒ Dr. Matthew Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine
- ☐ Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education
- ☒ Judge Marshelle Broadwell, Marion Superior Court 7
- ☐ Shannon Chambers, Johnson County Probation
- ☐ Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction
- ☒ Judge Darrin Dolehanty, Senior Judge
- ☒ Mark Fairchild, IOCS, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
- ☒ Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- ☐ Magistrate Carolyn Foley, Allen Superior Court
- ☒ Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court 3
- ☒ Elizabeth Houdek, Indiana Public Defender Council
- ☒ Doug Huntsinger, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- ☒ Waylon James, Indiana Department of Child Services
- ☒ Judge Ryan King, Ripley Circuit Court
- ☒ Nichole Phillips, Bartholomew County Probation
- ☒ Catheryne Pully, Indiana Office of Court Services
- ☒ Magistrate Amy Richison, Huntington Circuit and Superior Courts
- ☒ Sarah Sailors, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- ☒ Nancy Wever, IOCS, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- ☐ Kia Wright, Voices, Inc.

Members Attended Via Zoom:

Kia Wright

Members Absent:

Stephen Balko, Shannon Chambers, Terrie Decker, Mag. Carolyn Foley

Staff:

Chris Biehn, Rose Walker, Nick Ackerman, Blane Cook, Alayna Leonard, and Payton Lester from the Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS).

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Kenworthy welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2026, and April 9, 2026, Meeting:

Nancy Wever moved to approve the February 12, 2026, minutes as written; Magistrate Richison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

The April 9, 2026, minutes had one amendment (JDI counties percentage corrected from **27%** → **74%**). Doug Huntsinger moved to approve the April 9, 2026, minutes as amended; Judge Faith Graham seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Workgroup Updates:

Grants Workgroup, Doug Huntsinger:

The Work Group welcomed Magistrate Foley as the new co-chair. ICJI Board of Trustees approved funding recommendations provided by the ICJI grants review committee. The ICJI grants subcommittee funding cohort was also approved by the board. The subcommittee has been discussing what technical assistance can be provided to unfunded applicants, incomplete applicants, and new communities. The intent is for them to apply again. This initiative is a shared partnership with other groups represented in the Work Group. The Grants Work Group will propose a new funding formula to the YJOC at the August 2026 meeting. ICJI estimates the next round of applications will be released November 30, due mid-January, and reviewed for approval at the April ICJI board meeting.

Data Workgroup, Dr. Matt Aalsma and Chris Biehn:

Phase 2 has begun for intervention and data quality, specifically referral data entry practices, training gaps, and data entry requirements. The goal is to align all data entry. The Work Group has been working with the Youth Justice Strategists to form sustainability around data quality and data entry practices. Current focus is diversion programming reporting and ongoing diversion data collection efforts, as well as developing curriculum and training materials. An audit tool for assessing data quality, standardizing data entry instructions, and training with the intent of refreshing definitions is ongoing. The Work Group will meet again in July.

Behavioral Health Workgroup, Sarah Sailors:

The Behavioral Health Work Group last met in May. The Work Group discussed whether its initiatives should remain independent or move to the CISC Mental Health and Substance Abuse Taskforce to prevent duplication of efforts. The Work Group decided to remain independent, but collaborate with other groups. A Medicaid project is currently underway involving youth in the justice system. It will offer targeted case management 30 days before discharge and 30 days after discharge from detention. Medicaid is working with the DOC in the first pilot phase. The telehealth one-page document, previously reviewed by a subcommittee of the Work Group, has been sent to CISC for their approval. Once it is returned, it will be brought before the committee for final approval.

Commission on Improving the Status of Children and Legislative Update, Mark Fairchild:

Mark Fairchild reported that the CISC continues to monitor the implementation of Senate Bill 171 and SB 1257 (information sharing and child fatality review). The creation of a task force to monitor proposed fixes is anticipated.

Juvenile expungements sub-group plans to clean up the bill, staffed by Mindy Pickett from IOCS. Those interested in participating are encouraged to reach out.

GAL/CASA was assigned to an interim study committee on fiscal policy. This is to provide budgeting recommendations to ensure programs are properly funded without losing partners or volunteers. The study committee will likely meet in September or October. Study committee meeting updates will be provided to the CISC.

The Kids First trust fund board will move under the CISC in June/July 2027 and will target funding opportunities for child abuse/neglect prevention.

The safe baby court model was established by legislation a couple of years ago, and courts are still getting underway. They were passed legislatively a couple of years ago. The new focus will be to move away from the traditional certified problem-solving court model and toward a more overlay-of-best-practices approach. This approach can be incorporated into an existing problem-solving or family recovery court, or implemented as a standalone court. Several counties have expressed interest in piloting these courts. Mark will provide ongoing updates to the YJOC.

Blane Cook's last day with CISC and IOCS is June 19, 2026. Alayna Leonard will be the new CISC coordinator.

Fiscal Updates:

GAL/CASA VOCA grants were cut by about 40%. Lily Corporation has made \$150 million available for the improvement of residential facilities in Indiana.

Juvenile Electronic Monitoring Report:

Chris Biehn gave a presentation regarding juvenile electronic monitoring data compiled by Michelle Goodman. The committee was able to view data collected from the 2025 electronic monitoring of juveniles in the state of Indiana.

Setting Priorities:

Each member identified their top three priority areas for youth justice.

Top priority themes identified are:

- Gun violence and weapon access
- THC/cannabis
- Behavioral health services
- Secure detention bed shortage
- Funding sustainability
- Legislative engagement
- Expungement/data access
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)
- Waived/direct-filed juveniles

- Younger youth in the system

Gun violence and THC/cannabis access emerged as the most consistently cited concerns across all representatives. The group agreed to consolidate input, seek youth/family voice before the next meeting, and have workgroups identify which priorities fall within their existing scope.

Wrap-Up Discussion:

Priority topics will be synthesized by Judge Kenworthy and the Youth Justice Strategists into a digestible format. These topics will be distributed with the minutes from today's meeting, before the August meeting.

All members shall review the consolidated priority list and come prepared to claim items that fit their existing workgroup scope or to begin discussions of new workgroup creation.

Judge Kenworthy will work with Mark Fairchild and Alayna Leonard to identify a method of collecting youth/family voice before the next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Thursday, August 13, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

2026 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A

Thursday, December 10, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Conference Room A