



Youth Justice Oversight Committee

Data Work Group

Minutes from October 13, 2026 Data Work Group Meeting

The Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC) Data Work Group met on October 13, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

1. Attendance

Members Present:

- Dr. Matt Aalsma, Indiana University School of Medicine, Co-Chair
- Chris Biehn, Indiana Office of Court Services, Co-Chair
- Kristi Bruther, Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center
- Morgan Leuner, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Melanie Pitstick, Marion County Juvenile Probation
- Beca Stockman, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services
- Traci Lane, Madison County Juvenile Probation
- Corajean Medina, Department of Child Services
- Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI
- Hon. Sarah Mullican, Vigo Circuit/Superior Court 3
- Hon. Paul Felix, Indiana Court of Appeals
- Kaitlyn Christian, Management Performance Hub

Members Absent:

- Bri Youn, Indiana Youth Institute

OJA Staff Present:

- Lisa Thompson, Indiana Office of Court Technology
- Nick Ackerman, Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI

Other Guests:

- Hon. Dana Kenworthy, Indiana Court of Appeals

2. Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2026 Meeting

Committee members were provided with a copy of the September 8, 2026 meeting minutes prior to today's meeting. Melanie Pitstick made a motion to approve the minutes; Kristi Bruther seconded the motion. The work group members unanimously approved the September 8, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. Update on Probation Quarterly Report Changes

Lisa Thompson provided an update on the proposed Juvenile Probation Quarterly Report changes following a September 28th meeting between the Indiana Office of Court Technology (IOCT) and the Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS). The discussion focused on revisions specifically to Referral Recommendations. Proposed changes include renaming "Refer to Other Agency" to "Refer to Another Jurisdiction," renaming "Dismissal" to "Dismiss or Take No Further Action," and removing the "Waiver" and "Other" options.

The primary concern raised during the discussion was the removal of "Other". IOCS staff questioned how to account for rare situations, such as when youth passes away before a recommendation can be made or when a referral does not fit into any of the available categories. Although retaining "Other" could accommodate these circumstances, concerns were raised about the continued misuse of this option. Improved instructions and guidance may help address these concerns; however, the current plan is to remove the "Other" option entirely. Additional consideration will be needed to ensure users have clear guidance on how to handle referrals that do not fit within the remaining categories.

The approved changes will take effect for the 2027 reporting year, beginning with the first quarterly report due in April 2027.

4. Operationalization - System Mapping, Training and Technical Support

Dr. Matt Aalsma presented the final two recommendations from the IUSM Data Evaluation Project: developing a common data model and improving training and technical support. Proposed approaches included creating a statewide system map aligned with key juvenile justice decision points and implementing a train-the-trainer model supported by local needs assessments and data-entry manuals tailored to local practices.

Nancy Wever described JDAI's experience with system mapping in both JDAI and non-JDAI counties, noting that mapping case-flow first and then overlaying the data collected at each point has been most effective. Traci Lane shared examples from Madison County that have helped system participants better understand processes and identify key decision points. Members discussed the importance of establishing a consistent methodology while allowing for local variations. To encourage county participation, Colleen Saylor suggested connecting the effort to improvements in quarterly reporting and data quality. Chris Biehn also suggested adding a question to the upcoming Detention Policy Survey asking counties whether they have completed system mapping and whether they would share their maps.

Members discussed recurring data-quality issues with Probation Quarterly Reports, including errors caused by missing or illogical data and changes to previously reported information. Lisa Thompson noted that SRS provides error reports to help agencies identify and correct issues before submitting quarterly reports. The discussion reinforced the need to make data quality a core component of the common data model.

The group discussed establishing a core statewide data model that builds on existing models, including JDAI, while allowing counties to incorporate local practices. Members also considered whether system mapping should become part of probation standards. A motion by Melanie Pitstick, seconded by Kristi Bruther, to move forward with developing a common data model was unanimously approved. The group agreed that a smaller working group should further explore the mapping process, incorporate JDAI and non-JDAI perspectives, and identify ways to encourage county participation and buy-in.

The group also discussed the proposed train-the-trainer approach. Advantages include cost efficiency and the ability to tailor training to local practices, while challenges include maintaining consistency, addressing staff turnover, and ensuring that all parties involved in data entry (including law enforcement, prosecutors, detention personnel, and court staff) are included. Members emphasized the importance of having an available trainer in each county and maintaining data-entry manuals as living documents.

5. IOCS Memo Discussion

As an additional agenda item, the group discussed a message sent from IOCS to courts and probation departments a few weeks earlier regarding the appropriate use of JM case numbers for informal adjustment cases. This prompted discussion about the relationship between a single referral and the potential for multiple court cases. Kristi Bruther indicated that she is working on adjustments in Quest to accommodate this new requirement. Members noted that advance notice and an opportunity for the YJOC Data Work Group to provide input on these types of decisions would have been beneficial. The group emphasized the importance of timely communication, collaboration, and coordination among all parties involved. Chris Biehn volunteered to draft an email on behalf of the YJOC Data Work Group to the Legal Services Division of IOCS outlining the concerns and explaining the issues surrounding the requested changes. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

6. Other Business

Kaitlyn Christian announced that she has taken a new role at MPH and would like Kelsey Chance to take her place on this committee. She will send follow-up communication to the work group chairs to formalize this request.

7. Next Meeting

The next YJOC Data Work Group meeting will be on **November 10, 2026 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm** via Zoom.

The next Youth Justice Oversight Committee Meeting is **December 10, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A, 402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN. There will be a live webcast of this meeting available on the Youth Justice Oversight Committee website: www.in.gov/youthjustice.