

Dubois County Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC) Meeting Agenda

Tuesday January 9th, 2024

Dubois County Community Corrections Conference/Training Room

I. Past Action Commitments

Name	Action(s)	By When	Progress
Tim/Chad	Formally welcome Jeremy Kirby to the JRAC and connect him with Community Solutions to support his integration into the JRAC.	Feb. 1	In-process
Community Solutions	Support the implementation of awarded grants.	On-going	In-process
Community Solutions	Review with FSSA the impact of changing grant award for tele-mental health.	Mar. 1	In-process
Community Solutions	Provide options for translation services. (Please see highlights in this document)	Jan. 22	Complete
Community Solutions	Share 2023 Successes and Strategic Plan update document with full JRAC. (Please see the end of this notes document for successes and recap)	Jan.22	Complete

II. Attendance

Name	Statutory Position	Attended
Timothy Demotte (Pres.)	Public Defender	Yes
Brett Hurm	Community Mental Health	Yes
Jennifer Lampert	Chief Probation Officer	Yes
Chad Blessinger	County Executive President	Yes
Nathan Verkamp	Judge w/ Criminal Jurisdiction	Yes
Christina Wagner	Pretrial Services Coordinator	Yes
Wyatt Madden (V.P.)	Community Corrections Director	Yes
Mitch Lampert	Not a statutory position – CQI Specialist	Yes
Eric Beers (Facilitator)	Facilitator – Community Solutions	Yes
Melissa Niehaus	Juvenile Probation Officer	Yes
Beth Sermersheim	County Prosecutor	No
John Merder	Past Participant (Replaced for future meetings)	No
Tom Kleinhelter	Sheriff	No
Alex Hohl	County Council President	No
Anthony Quinn	Judge w/ Criminal Jurisdiction	No

III. Review of Strategic Action Items

- a. Review of action items and next steps required.
 - i. Community Solutions – Update on county match and translation/interpretation funding in state opioid grant
 1. *JRAC Agreed to recommend that the county support the Mental Health Deputy with the county match required from the State Opioid grant (~\$26,000 per year for two years). This funding would cover benefits not covered in the JMH grant budget.*
 - ii. Melissa - Update on work supporting prevention education
 1. *Through Dubois County Cares implemented a Middle and High School anti-vaping campaign for 2024. Continuing to reach out to schools in the SE school district. No support requested from JRAC members.*
 - iii. Mitch - Update on data request to the State of Indiana to support recidivism calculations

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1. *Waiting on the state to support the data request. Mitch has checked-in but the state would not share a timeline. No support requested from JRAC members.*
- iv. Wyatt – Update on IDOC and the HIRE program
 1. *Reached out to the new program leads and IDOC. Still waiting on a response. No support requested from JRAC members.*
- v. Mitch - Coordinating transition of MRT classes between Jail and DCCC
 1. *Mitch shared his experience meeting with the Jail staff working on MRT and other mental health support. It was Mitch's opinion that the team in the jail is providing MRT classes with fidelity. The concern noticed was about how clients were enrolled. It's not clear what criteria staff are using to allow or exclude from classes. Other clients might also benefit from MRT who jail staff are not allowing to access the classes. The team also discussed that the Jail staff and clients would benefit from expanded case management services.*
- vi. Judge Quinn – Update on if/how JRAC can further support drug court as an option for appropriate clients
 1. *Discussion of this was postponed until the March meeting.*
- vii. JRAC - Discussion of Long-Term Goal 2 – Assess the need for Juvenile Services
 1. Proposed actions for this goal – 1. Identify and implement an assessment tool or process to understand needs. 2. Develop reports and recommendations for the county to consider.
 - a. *Discussion of this was postponed until the March meeting.*
- viii. JRAC - Discussion of Long-Term Goal 4 – Develop/Establish transportation options.
 1. Proposed actions for this goal – 1. Develop of bike share or other local option for transportation assistance for DCCC clients. 2. Look for a model in a similar-sized community.
 - a. *Discussion of this was postponed until the March meeting.*

IV. Update on Grant Awards

- a. Community Solutions – State Opioid Grant
 - i. Dove House – Currently utilizing funding and we've completed the first round of invoicing and reporting for FSSA.
 1. *No additional discussion*
 - ii. MHHCC – Staffing challenges have placed the program on hold. The state is permitting the team to use the money to help offset recruiting/incentive costs and for the time spent developing the program.
 1. *JRAC recommended that Community Solutions work with FSSA to understand the impact of switching providers. They agreed to return to this at the March meeting.*
 - iii. Next Steps – Community Solutions is still working with the board and the Behind the Wire team to set up a process for referrals and reporting.
 1. *No additional discussion*
 - iv. Translation – JRAC members agreed via email to leave this budget line as funding for the new translator to use and/or to ask her how it could be used.
 1. *The JRAC discussed this budget line and voted that the JRAC would use this money to support the professional translation of important documents that JRAC member organizations use in their interactions with non-English speakers and ESL individuals.*
 2. **Recommendations for Organizations in Indiana that provide translation services include:**

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- a. *Establish a best practice for using accredited translations firms or individuals for all translation services. Our firm has learned the hard way that translation from someone who is not a professional and only a native speaker can lead to situations where things are not correctly translated. It is often more expensive but given the high stakes of your work, you want it done right.*
 - i. *The Indiana Supreme court staff uses firms and individuals certified by the American Translators Association. They have a searchable database <https://www.atanet.org/directory/>*
 - ii. *Local to Indiana –*
 1. *Luna Language Services- <https://luna360.com/services/translation/document-s/translation-services-indianapolis-indiana/>*
 - iii. *Other*
 1. *Language Line- <https://www.languageline.com/translation-services/document-translation>*
- b. Community Solutions – JMH Grant (Federal)
 - i. JMH Grant Funding is \$550,000 over 3 years
 - ii. Awaiting full budget approval from the feds. First project meeting is Feb 7th with the technical assistance team.
 - iii. The next step is working with all partners to create the required “Planning and Implementation Guide document.” In this period (up to 1 year) funds (\$100K) are only available to do planning until the P&I guide is approved by the feds.
 - iv. Given this step, we assume that implementation will not begin until mid-year 2024.
 1. *No additional update or discussion.*

V. New Items

- a. All – Discussion of adding new JRAC Member –
 - i. Add Jeremy Kibby, the newest DCCC Advisory Board member, to take the “past participant” place on the JRAC board (Formally held by Johnny Merder).
 1. *The JRAC voted unanimously to replace Johnny Merder with Jeremy Kibby on the JRAC to serve as the legislatively mandated “Past Participant.”*
 2. *Tim and Chad are requested to connect Jeremy with Community Solutions to help him get up to speed about efforts.*
- b. Jenny - Grant manager position discussion
 - i. Roles and responsibilities, pay range, and laptop purchasing.
 1. *The JRAC discussed the job description and had no major revisions. It was discussed to carefully consider any conflicts of interest that could arise with potential hires. The JRAC agreed to review any hire with the county attorney and to ensure the job is posted publicly for access by all persons. Judge Verkamp recommended that the JRAC review the state’s ethics ruling clearinghouse for further guidance on potential conflicts of interest.*
- c. Community Solutions – Review of JRAC’s 2023 achievements. Updates to the Strategic Plan.
 - i. Review of Successes and Progress
 1. *This review can be found attached to these notes. Key successes include securing ~\$990,000 in state and federal funding to support mental health activities in the county and the creation and implementation6 of a 2-year strategic plan.*
 - ii. Updating of completed/retired goals
 1. *This review can be found attached to these notes.*

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VI. Check-Out and Adjourn

- a. 2024 Meeting Calendar (DCCC/JRAC)

Next Dubois County JRAC Meeting: March 12th, 2024 @ ~5:00 pm (immediately following the Dubois County Community Corrections [DCCC] Advisory Board meeting)

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2023 JRAC-Specific Successes

- \$435,220 – Secured FSSA’s competitive State Opioid Matching Grant to support community resources responding to mental health and substance needs of folks who are criminal justice involved in Dubois County. This is a 2-year grant.
- \$549,333 – Secured the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Justice and Mental Grant to support mental health staff support within the sheriff’s office and DCCC, as well as treatment support for criminal justice involved persons who otherwise cannot afford treatment.
- Creation and implementation of a 2-year strategic plan outlining strategies across the 6 Sequential Intercepts.
- Data request was made to the state to streamline data collection and analysis to support the measurement of county-wide recidivism.

Strategic Plan 2023 Update:

Intercept 0 - Community Services

Strategy 1: Sustain/expand community-based recovery/treatment services.

- 2023 Progress Update: Funding secured in both grants to support community-based recovery and mental health treatment. Funding secured to support tele-emergency support for mental/behavioral health services. Scan of existing community resources and needs complete.

Strategy 2: Sustain/expand school-based prevention education.

- 2023 Progress Update: Anti-vaping work implemented through Dubois Cares. The needs and potential curriculum explored with local middle schools.

Intercept 1 - Law Enforcement

Strategy 1: Provide Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT) and other behavioral health training for law enforcement and dispatch officers.

- 2023 Progress Update: CIT Training book and online course access received in July. Funding for this project came through IOCS.

Strategy 2: Develop a co-responder system that is available to law enforcement.

- 2023 Progress Update: This work is being planned in the JMH grant (federal) to support a deputy/social worker within the Sheriff’s Office.

Strategy 3: Provide training for dispatchers in the detection of mental health/substance use issues.

- 2023 Progress Update – Dispatch was approached by the JRAC to support training but current staffing shortages within the dispatch team have prevented training being implemented. We will revisit in 2024.

Intercept 2 - Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings

Strategy 1: Sustain/expand the Pretrial Program.

- 2023 Progress Update - Impact and reach of pre-trial program is measured and monitored by Christina and Mitch and regularly reported on during DCCC meetings. Pre-trial became accredited and received an additional \$100k.

Strategy 2: Ensure there is a public defender present at initial hearings.

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- 2023 Progress Update – At the end of 2023 both Circuit and Superior Court requests public defenders to be present at initial hearings.

~~**Strategy 3:** Explore diversion pathways for individuals who would be better off in a treatment system rather than a criminal justice system.~~

- 2023 Progress Update: this strategy was removed in September 2023 due to lack of legislative and state support to effectively pursue new options/courts within the time frame of this strategic plan.

Intercept 3 - Jail and Courts

Strategy 1: Conduct mental health/substance use screenings at intake using validated screening tools with an emphasis on screening for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and appropriate treatment.

- 2023 Progress Update: This work will be explored and potentially incorporated into program efforts within the federal JMH grant program in 2024.

Strategy 2: Provide mental health/substance use treatment services in the jail with an emphasis on Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

- 2023 Progress Update: This work will be explored and potentially incorporated into program efforts within the federal JMH grant program in 2024.

Strategy 3: Provide Peer Support services that begin when the individual enters the jail and continues as they move through the system.

- 2023 Progress Update: This work is funded in the federal JMH grant and is slated to begin in 2024. It will be housed in DCCC.

Strategy 4: Support Drug Court as an option for appropriate clients.

- 2023 Progress Update: Drug Court is ongoing.

Intercept 4 - Reentry

Strategy 1: Screen for health insurance and enroll clients as needed.

- 2023 Progress Update: This strategy is considered complete. The JRAC investigated current processes and overall needs and found that this is ongoing.

Strategy 2: Provide Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) – or other cognitive behavior programming - for males and females with fidelity and connect to Probation's and DCCC's MRT upon release.

- 2023 Progress Update: JRAC members have begun working with Jail MRT delivery to understand needs.

Intercept 5 - Community Corrections

Strategy 1: Continue to provide cognitive behavior programs (such as MRT) with fidelity.

- 2023 Progress Update: MRT is ongoing and continuously monitored within DCCC and within the DCCC Advisory Board.

Strategy 2: Sustain the services provided through the Therapeutic Community (COSSAP).

- 2023 Progress Update: COSSAP grant remains active.

Strategy 3: Ensure that caseload levels allow for appropriate supervision and evidence-based practices.

- 2023 Progress Update: Caseload levels are currently appropriate and monitored by the DCCC Advisory Board.

Strategy 4: Expand work release partnerships with local employers.

- 2023 Progress Update: Work on this strategy scheduled to begin in July 2024

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Strategy 5: Partner with the IDOC HIRE program to support employment post-release.

- 2023 Progress Update: The IDOC HIRE program has been contacted and DCCC is awaiting engagement.

Long-term Strategies

~~Long-term Strategy 1: Establish a Public Defender's Office.~~

- 2023 Progress Update: After consideration by the JRAC this strategy was removed from the 2-year plan.

Long-term Strategy 2: Assess the need for juvenile services.

- 2023 Progress Update: Work on this strategy is scheduled to begin in 2024.

Long-term Strategy 3: Recruit/retain additional mental health providers in Dubois County.

- 2023 Progress Update: Work on this strategy is scheduled to begin in 2024.

Long-term Strategy 4: Develop/Establish transportation options.

- 2023 Progress Update: Work on this strategy is scheduled to begin in 2024.