

## SECTION 6:

# CASS COUNTY LOCAL JRAC

*“Coming together to create a collaborative system of care that promotes evidence-based practices and utilizes data analysis to improve criminal justice outcomes in our local community.”*

In response to HEA 1068, Cass County established our local Justice Advisory Council (JRAC) in the fall of 2021. 2023 Cass County Local JRAC Meetings held:

- January 17, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- May 29, 2024
- July 10, 2024
- August 20, 2024
- November 18, 2024

One of the goals of the Cass County Local JRAC is to overcome silo approaches. Instead of each entity focusing solely on its piece of the process, the Cass County Local JRAC aims to foster a holistic view of the criminal justice system. This integrated approach considers the consequences of actions on the efficiency of the entire process, the impact on other entities, and potential effects on community safety.

Additionally, we work to combat compartmentalization within the criminal justice system. The Cass County Local JRAC strives to identify and address conflicting or duplicate processes that can arise when different parts of the system operate in isolation. By promoting collaboration and communication, these councils help to streamline processes, reduce inefficiencies, and optimize the use of limited local resources.

### SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT GOALS

This past year, as part of our preparation for our first annual report submission, we collaboratively set the following goals after completing a system mapping:

- Develop data collection and reporting procedures to begin the practice of regularly reviewing data in efforts to improve outcomes.
- Increase collaboration and continuity of care in regards to client services, including expanded substance abuse and mental health programming for those on community supervision and in the Cass County Jail.
- Develop an agreed upon definition of recidivism and plan to begin collecting and measure the necessary data needed to generate a recidivism rate.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In addition to the above described goals, the Council set performance measures for each community supervision agency to begin reporting. Defined metrics include: *Safety Rate, Violation Rate, Completion Rate, Drug Screen Positivity Rate and Program Participation Rate*. To date, Pretrial Services, Community Corrections and Juvenile Probation are all reporting metrics and other statistical data.

### 2024 PROJECTS

Opioid Settlement: The Cass County Commissioners have appointed the Local JRAC Council to discuss, review and make recommendations regarding submitted proposals on how to best use our county's allocated funding from the Opioid Settlement, with JRAC Chair, Hillary Hartoin, serving as the Financial Controller of the funds. This year, the Council awarded the following microgrants to various organizations with our community:

- Multiple Dual Purpose K9s for the Cass County Sheriff's Department and Cass County Police Department
- Continued Restoration of the Recovery Center at the Women at the Well Recovery Home

- Coaching Model for Change Training Event with Justice System Partners for Community Supervision Staff, including Cass County Community Corrections, Pretrial Services, and Probation
- Part-Time Therapist for Pretrial Services

Unified Definition of Recidivism: The following agreed upon definition of recidivism was established. Work continues on defining enhanced data points to track and developing a plan to begin collecting this data.

**RECIDIVISM RATE** The percentage of defendants who complete community supervision and who are not charged with a new criminal offense one (1), three (3) and five (5) years after completion of supervision.

**COMMENTARY:** The recidivism rate measures defendants who have not been arrested and charged OR summoned and charged with a new criminal offense (misdemeanor or felony). Thus, those who have been summoned to court for a new offense should also be included along with information learned about charges in other jurisdictions. Failed Diversions resulting in conviction and future violations of community supervision should also be included.

**TYPE OF MEASURE:** Case-related; measured at the end of community supervision period. While unified definition, each community supervision agency would calculate their own recidivism rate.

**ENHANCED DATA POINTS:** Data will be collected in a manner to filter and report by disposition, guilty, plea by agreement, dismissal pursuant to a plea, etc.

Research Studies: Ms. Hartoin collaborated with George Mason University and Dr. Evan Lowder on a research study proposal titled “Studying Intentional Pretrial Supervision in Indiana,” which was funded by IOCS. This study aims to validate the intentional and supportive model of pretrial supervision that has been established in Indiana.

One of the primary objectives of our Local JRAC is to foster and expand research opportunities.

Supplemental Grants: The Council assists in overseeing the criminal justice grants to ensure the maximum utilization of resources. The Local JRAC manages both the JPAR SIM Grant and the Court Innovation and Reform Grants. The Council continues to review and explore potential funding opportunities to expand resources across all areas of the criminal justice system.

Coaching Model for Change Trainings: All local community supervision staff, including community corrections, probation, and pretrial services, as well as stakeholders, attended Parts 1 and 2 of the Coaching

Model for Change Collaborative Professional Development Events. This training was led by Brian Lovins of Justice System Partners and sponsored by the local JRAC. In July 2024, Ms. Hartoin signed a contract using JPAR SIM Grant funding to provide continued professional development with JSP and Dr. Lovins. This further supports the implementation of the Coaching Model.

Additionally, this technical assistance agreement allows staff to earn their Coaching Certifications from



**Adopting a Coaching Mindset**

- Coach or Referee: How Do We Help People
- Change Creating a Coaching Connection
- Coaching Toward Success

**Creating Plans for Success**

- Evaluating Talent, Potential, and Barriers
- Building a Success Plan
- Learning from Practice

**Managing Important Moments**

- Managing Accountability and Discipline
- Celebrating Progress and Milestones
- Recruiting Community Coaches and Cheerleaders
- Preparing for the Next League

JSP through the Journey.DO software. Training with Justice System Partners will continue into 2025 to help support the prioritized shift from compliance-based supervision to a client-centric, coaching model.

2024 Winter IPAC Training: Hillary Hartoin, Cass County JRAC Chair, and Noah Schafer, Cass County Elected Prosecutor, delivered a presentation at the 2024 Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Winter Conference on Local JRACs. The session provided an overview of high-functioning Local JRACs and the advantages they offer to prosecutors. These advantages include input and collaboration on community-based programs such as Community Corrections, Probation, and Pretrial Services. Participants also learned how data reporting through Local JRACs can enhance transparency and foster a more collaborative environment between court programs and prosecutors.