
Indiana's Journey toward JDAI Statewide Expansion

August 12, 2011, marked the official beginning of Indiana's designation as a JDAI Statewide Expansion Site by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Kick off of Statewide Expansion of JDAI in Indiana was attended by 65 representatives from five of the first Indiana counties to participate in the JDAI Systems Assessment and become JDAI sites, as well as members from Indiana's JDAI State Steering Committee, leaders from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the W. Haywood Burns Institute.

Opening Remarks were conducted by representatives from the three agencies taking leading roles in the Initiative in Indiana. Indiana Supreme Court Justice, Steven David; the Honorable Mary Harper, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; and Michael Dempsey, the Director of the Division of Youth Services from the Indiana Department of Correction welcomed key stakeholders from state agencies as well as from Johnson, Lake, Porter, and Tippecanoe counties, the first four counties to join their sister site, Marion county, as JDAI expansion communities.

Marion County (Indianapolis) Indiana originally became a JDAI local expansion site in 2006 with funding support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and local community funds. Since that time, the county has enacted a number of system-reform efforts which have reduced the detention population by nearly 50% while also maintaining public safety. In October 2009, Indiana began to explore statewide expansion of the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) model program. <http://indianacourts.us/times/2009/10/juvenile-detention-alternatives-initiative-in-indiana/>. Johnson, Lake, Porter, and Tippecanoe counties were identified as the first round of potential JDAI expansion sites.

The first state agency to begin to embrace the JDAI was the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) which is the Designated State Agency that administers federal criminal and juvenile justice funding for the state. The Youth and Drug and Crime Control Divisions of ICJI identified Juvenile Justice System Improvement as a priority purpose area in the 2010 criminal and juvenile justice three-year plans and committed funding toward the initiative. The Youth Law T.E.A.M. of Indiana was chosen to act as the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Statewide Coordinator and a Statewide JDAI Expansion Exploratory Team, consisting of 11 members representing state agencies and organizations, participated in a model site visit coordinated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to the state of New Jersey during May, 2010. This intensive 2-day visit laid the foundation for the State Team to begin to frame what a statewide expansion of JDAI would entail and assisted in bringing more clarity to the activities that would be required to be undertaken.

Subsequent to this visit, in June, 2010, the visiting delegation determined that additional state agency leaders should be included to spearhead this important initiative. The Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana Supreme Court agreed to become members of a lead-agency team along with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

The Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services, identified their Community Correction programs to act as partners within local JDAI counties to provide human and financial resources for juvenile programming.

During September, 2010, thirty-five members from Marion, Lake, Tippecanoe, and Porter county stakeholder groups, as well as representatives from the State Lead agencies, gathered for an initial information-sharing luncheon and learned about Marion County's journey with instituting the JDAI.

Monthly conference calls among local community coordinators and judiciary were instituted by the State JDAI coordinator as one means to bridge the information-sharing gap.

The Indiana Supreme Court, along with members of the Indiana State Legislature, identified the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative as a model program which should be supported and replicated on a statewide basis during the Indiana State Bar Association's Annual meeting in October, 2010.

In November, 2010, the three lead agencies began forming a statewide steering committee to collaborate on the integration and financial support of this major juvenile justice system reform initiative. This collaborative includes multidisciplinary involvement, with local judicial jurisdictions as critical partners, and DMC reduction activities as an integral focus of all efforts. The state leadership team led by the Indiana Supreme Court, ICJI, and IDOC includes participation of legislators, other state agencies (Department of Child Services, Department of Education, Department of Mental Health and Addiction, Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Public Defender Council), professional associations (Indiana Sheriff's Association, Indiana Chiefs of Police, Indiana State Bar Association, Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana, Indiana Juvenile Detention Association), mental health, medical and University representatives, and juvenile justice and child serving community organizations.

Meanwhile, the four original proposed expansion sites began forming their local collaborative, becoming educated about the JDAI, and received modest funding by the ICJI to begin the scale up for the JDAI.

In late fall of 2010, three additional counties, Elkhart, Howard, and Clark were invited by the Indiana Department of Correction to join the statewide expansion as a second cohort.

In January, 2011, the Statewide Steering Committee, including local community stakeholders, met with members of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Burn's Institute to discuss statewide expansion of JDAI and the integration of DMC strategies throughout Indiana's continuous juvenile justice system improvement efforts.

In February, 2011, representatives of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Burn's Institute returned to Indiana and provided a more comprehensive day-long training about the Strategies, Principles and Activities of successful implementation of the JDAI model. The State team also arranged for the Local JDAI/DMC Coordinators and Judiciary to meet again to share information and discuss cross-cutting issues.

During 2011, a state-level Steering Committee has been convened to plan Indiana's multi-year, multi-site initiative and implement initial steps. This Steering Committee includes representatives from multiple state-level child serving and juvenile justice entities as well as the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Initiative Management Team, and representatives from each of the county replication sites. The agenda of the JDAI Steering Committee in Indiana will change over the course of the initiative from an initial focus on convening stakeholders, getting organized, getting educated, and getting immersed, to greater focus on substantive issues, such as sustainable funding and policy change. The Statewide Steering Committee is also working with state and local experts to discuss enhancements to our ability to gather comprehensive data and develop a centralized clearinghouse for use in informing our ongoing efforts for continuous system improvement.

The first cohort of JDAI expansion sites have now participated in a systems assessment performed by the AECF's JDAI representatives as well as the Kick Off Meeting and Systems Assessment Review. Additional required trainings; Fundamentals, DRAI Design, and Data Utilization trainings will be conducted by the end of the first quarter of 2012 and Model Site Visits are planned for the first quarter of 2012.

The second cohort continues to build their local collaborative and gain information. Site visits to their sister county, Marion County, were performed during May and June 2011 to gain greater insight about Marion County's experience. They will follow a similar pattern of organization, education, and immersion beginning in the third quarter of 2011.

The three lead agencies—the Indiana Supreme Court, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and the Indiana Department of Correction have a long history of supporting system improvement. One example dates back to 1988 when the state was out of compliance with the JJDP Act having--over 7500 jail removal violations. Even then the same three agencies, the Indiana Supreme Court, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, and the Indiana Department of Correction partnered in developing a plan that included alternatives to detention and providing legal representation to kids held in violation of the Act. This was an unprecedented approach to bringing a state into compliance. Within three years, the state had less than 100 jail removal violations and regained compliance.

These lead agencies along with approximately 35 members from other State and Local governmental and advocacy agencies are also actively supportive of other statewide juvenile justice system improvement initiatives including the Mental Health Screening and Assessment project in Juvenile Detention and Corrections. This results in the screening of juveniles for mental health and substance abuse issues, with an ultimate goal of having all of Indiana's juvenile detention centers conducting a Mental Health Screening. In calendar year 2010, 6699 youth were screened. The Court, the Legislature and the Indiana State Bar Association have also

been supportive of the recommendations that were a result of the Racial Disparities in Juvenile Justice Summit held in 2009. The resulting report, including 10 recommendations was presented at the Indiana State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in the fall of 2010. One of the recommendations of the report included expansion of JDAI replication statewide so eventually all juvenile court jurisdictions are engaging in best practice juvenile detention reform.

Since Marion County became a JDAI local expansion site in 2006, the state of Indiana has been a supporter of this important endeavor.

The Indiana Supreme Court recognizes the leadership role the judiciary must take in any comprehensive systems improvement initiative. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, as the state's juvenile and criminal justice system policy and planning agency, realizes the importance of prioritizing continuous juvenile justice system improvement in all of its plans, and the Indiana Department of Correction is actively engaging their local community corrections partners to address the needs of youth and families as they return to their communities to become productive citizens. The State of Indiana's adoption of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative philosophy of systems improvement exhibits its commitment to continuing its long history of system reform and improvement.