

Idaho Association of Counties Juvenile Justice Administrators

Meeting Minutes—April 10th 2025

Location-Evergreen Hotel McCall, Idaho

9:00 MST

Open Meeting & Welcome by President: Brian Beck

Introduction: Brian Beck

Attendance by Zoom- Seth Scott, Aletia Straub Workman, Doug Hall, Tammy Adkins, Leahann Romero, Ashley Stallings, Mario Umana, Bryan Alexander, Shannon Carter, Shawn Anderson, Matt Heuring, Paul Shepherd, Elda Catalano, Jeff Miller, Matt Olsen, Kyle Gould, Alisa Walker, Kevin Sandau

In Person- DeeDee Phillips, Nadine McDonald, Heather Chapman, Lael Hansen, Cody Ward, Andrea Gonzalez, Mark Gough, Shawn Hill, Mary Reyes, Ron Shultz, Don Caagbay, Chad Jacobs, J.D. Storm, Darin Burrell, Jolene Brooks, Amanda Leader, Dahlia Stender, Devin Simmons, Kelly Elkington, Ashley Dowell, Alicia Baptiste, Shawn Winston, Dixie Tate, Brian Beck, Chris Potter, Teresa Espedal, Carol Johnson

Action Items:

- **Review/Motion for Approval of January Minutes- *First*_Ron Shultz_ *Second*_Dahlia Stender_**
- **Approval of Meeting expenses Split with Misdemeanor Probation-
*First*_Dixie Tate_ *Second*_Chris Potter_**
Meeting Expenses \$1134.95 for Conference rooms (\$800) and Food (\$334.95)
- **Motion to Approve Subcommittee to look into the combination of Juvenile Probation and Misdemeanor Probation-
*First*_Shawn Winston_ *Second*_Dixie Tate_**

Non-Action Items/ Presentation:

Darin Burrell/Ashley Stallings- Non PREA work group

In collaboration with the Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and local justice system partners to support youth in state custody who disclose abuse experienced before their placement. This initiative began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when it became evident that youth were beginning to report past abuse while in juvenile facilities—often because they finally felt safe enough to do so. These disclosures highlighted a gap in how such reports were handled and prompted the formation of a multi-agency workgroup to create a consistent and trauma-informed response.

The group, which included the sheriff's office, the county prosecutor, and CAC representatives, spent several years—delayed in part by the pandemic—developing a detailed response protocol. This resulted in a comprehensive flowchart now in use for over a year. The protocol guides facility staff, many of whom are not trained in handling disclosures of abuse, in responding appropriately and ensures that youth are treated as victims rather than solely as offenders. A key realization from this effort was that past trauma and victimization often play a significant role in a youth's trajectory into the juvenile justice system.

Beyond responding to disclosures, the initiative aims to improve outcomes for youth by increasing the likelihood of successful prosecution against perpetrators through properly conducted forensic interviews. While prosecuting child sexual abuse cases remains inherently challenging, the hope is that a more coordinated and informed approach will lead to better justice outcomes. The collaboration also emphasizes the importance of recognizing these youth as complex victims, potentially affected by repeated abuse from multiple perpetrators, and seeks to provide both immediate support and long-term advocacy. This project is only for disclosed past abuse that occurred "prior to" them being in any type of facility. The presentation concluded with plans to expand the initiative and continue refining practices through interagency cooperation.

Lael Hansen- Update on Human Trafficking Screening

The human trafficking screening process, emphasizing the importance of sharing screening results when youth cases are transferred. There was general agreement on the need for consistent data collection, though input on specific data points remained limited. A proposal was made to collect basic yet meaningful data from both parts of the screener: for **Part A**, the staff response (indicating whether risk was present or not), and for **Part B**, whether high risk was determined and, if trafficking was confirmed, which of the four specific trafficking categories applied.

These categories include:

1. Youth reported engaging in sexual acts in exchange for basic needs or items of value.
2. Youth reported engaging in sexual acts for someone else's financial gain.
3. Youth reported providing labor/services under force or coercion.
4. Law enforcement confirmation of trafficking.

A simple Excel sheet with a built-in pivot table has been created to help streamline the process and make data collection easier for agencies. While one larger county will collect detailed data on every survey question, the broader goal is to gather enough standardized data across all agencies to support future funding or grant opportunities, especially given limited resources in the area of human trafficking. An email with finalized data collection instructions and tools will be sent out following the meeting.

(Click on the Documents to Open)



Data highlights
Part A and B.pdf



Human Trafficking
Screening Tracking

Amanda Leader- Journey.do (Matthew Davis)

What is [Journey.do](#)

[Journey.do](#) is a behavioral change program that combines a flexible app, come-alongside coaching, and integrated AI to foster meaningful growth. With our metered billing model, you only pay for what you use: Program Cost + Coaching Cost = Total Program Cost Per Person, Per Year. Here's a quick summary of how it works:

- **Intake Session:** Using motivational interviewing, we align motives for participation. AI transforms interview data into personalized growth plans, which can be shared with officers, supervisors, and families.
- **Platform Growth:** Participants complete modules tailored to their growth areas, share life-integration stories based on the lessons they've completed, and receive strength-based feedback from trained coaches as they work toward earning a certificate in their focus area.
- **Officer Integration:** Officers have access to a coaching dashboard with full data transparency and actionable AI-generated insights, enabling improved relationships and collaborative growth with the youth they support.

• **Outtake Session:** AI generates a transition plan synthesizing stories and notes into a cohesive document, which is reviewed with the youth and can be shared with parents, leadership, judges, and other stakeholders.

We currently serve customers in Arizona, California, Texas, South Dakota, Florida, and Wisconsin, and we would be thrilled to have the opportunity to support Community Justice in Boise Idaho.

Supporting Resources:

Here are links to resources we discussed:

- [Journeydo.com](https://www.journeydo.com) - program overviews, resources etc.
- [Journey.Do Overview Video](#)
- [Journey.do program resources](#)
 - Program Overview
 - Maricopa County Use Case
 - Growth Journey Certification Library Brochure
 - Sole Source Document
- [Weekly/Monthly Reports Examples](#)
- [Growth and Transition Plan Examples](#)

Pricing Overview:

- **Full-Service Account (We Run):** Includes platform, virtual coaching, account services, staff training, and full access to features – \$425 per youth/year.
- **Discounted Account (You Run/We Support):** Your team manages intake and growth plans, while we provide story reviews and support – \$325 per youth/year.

Additional details:

- Each account is valid for one year. Youth who reoffend within the same year can re-participate at no extra cost.
- Staff have full program access at no extra charge.
- Weekly, monthly, and AI insights reports are included.

Bulk pricing options are available for larger implementations.

Idaho Behavioral Health Council (sub-committees updates)- Leahann Romero, IDJC COPS Administrator

Leahann provided an overview of the IBHC Committee's *Prevention Group*, which she is actively involved in. This group is chaired by Marianne King from the Office of Drug Policy and Dr. Eric Studebaker. It consists of passionate members from various sectors such as administration, health and welfare, child protection, and education. The group has formed several subcommittees to focus on specific areas within prevention. These include evidence-based primary prevention strategies, life skills and positive youth development, community cohesiveness and connectedness, and crime prevention education. Leahann is leading the subcommittee on crime prevention education alongside Officer Stu Hobson. Their work will initially concentrate on school resource officers and law enforcement. The group is currently in the early stages, and Leahann encouraged others interested in prevention efforts to reach out to her or Jason Stone for more information.

Ashley added that the conversation around funding for assessment centers has progressed significantly. Initially, the Prevention Subcommittee was exploring funding options, but the assessment centers have since secured \$3.7 million from the Millennium Income Funds. This funding, effective through July 1, 2026, is pending the governor's signature and will support the centers' sustainability efforts. This development has shifted some of the subcommittee's priorities.

In addition to the Prevention Subcommittee, there are other working groups under the IBHC umbrella. The Diversion Subcommittee is examining the minimum age of detainment, working to clarify inconsistencies in statutes, particularly between sections 25-520 and 25-516. They are also exploring alternatives to youth commitments, such as creating decision trees for law enforcement, providing bench sheets for judges, and developing action review teams. Their focus is on diverting youth with significant mental health and developmental disabilities from the justice system by providing earlier interventions.

The Treatment Subcommittee is focused on enhancing the continuum of care for youth in the juvenile justice system. Their objectives include identifying funding options for youth reentry, improving multi-agency screening partnerships, finding alternatives for probation violations, and assessing the feasibility of establishing day reporting centers for pre- and post-commitment youth.

Lastly, the Help the Helpers Committee is dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellness of first responders and justice system personnel. This initiative aims to enhance well-being resources across the state for those working in both adult and juvenile justice systems.

Juvenile Detention/Juvenile Corrections Combined Academy updates- Leahann Romero, IDJC COPS

Leahann provided an update on the proposed certification process that would combine training for juvenile detention and juvenile corrections officers into one academy. She emphasized that this is not a dual certification, but rather a single, unified academy where both types of officers would attend the same courses and take the same exam. The workgroup responsible for this proposal invested significant time and research into its development. Members of the group included representatives from the Juvenile Training Council, IDJC training coordinators, and detention managers. Their focus was on ensuring the proposal benefits not only the facilities and staff but also the youth and families they serve.

The group reviewed both the juvenile detention and juvenile corrections curricula in-depth, including course content, objectives, and relevant research. They concluded that the detention

curriculum already aligns well with the needs of both disciplines, as both share similar philosophies—such as restorative justice and balanced approaches—and serve the same population. The primary difference noted was the length: juvenile corrections training lasts two weeks, whereas detention training spans three weeks and two days. The group ultimately recommended no changes to the detention curriculum unless a full curriculum rewrite is pursued through the standard POST process.

Additional benefits of combining the academies include a broader pool of POST instructors and improved scheduling. The proposal would consolidate training into four academies annually—one for probation officers and three combined academies for detention and corrections. This change would address issues related to under-enrolled academies and help make better use of training resources. Financially, while the change is not expected to produce major savings, it is also not projected to result in significant additional costs. Instead, it aims to enhance the quality and consistency of officer training.

A legal review was also conducted with POST Academy staff and IDJC’s legal team. They found that existing statutes and administrative rules (IDAPA) do not prohibit combining the two training disciplines. Some language updates will be needed for consistency, but these can be addressed through the POST Standards Committee.

Sustainability was a key consideration, and the group consulted with IDJC leadership and the financial team. The consensus was that the combined model is financially and operationally feasible. While corrections staff will require more time away from their facilities, the change will lead to stronger, more standardized training overall.

Leahann concluded by opening the floor to questions and input from the group, noting that the next steps include presenting the proposal to the Juvenile Training Council and the POST subcommittee. If approved, the new training model is projected to take effect in July or August 2026.

Agenda Item: Proposal: The administrators strongly agree with the “Proposal to Combine the Juvenile Detention and Juvenile Corrections Certification Process” (dated 4/02/2025) and agree to move the proposal forward to the Juvenile Training Council Meeting (scheduled 4/23/2025) and the POST Standards Committee (scheduled 5/08/2025).

This Proposal will be on the Agenda for the June 2nd meeting.

Job Task Analysis

Leahann provided an update on the Job Task Analysis (JTA), noting that it closely ties into the proposal for the combined Juvenile Detention and Corrections Academy. During the development of the proposal, the team realized that the JTAs for all three disciplines—probation, detention, and corrections—were around 20 years old. This sparked the initiative to pursue updated JTAs to ensure that training aligns with the current responsibilities and needs of each position. Leahann explained that JTAs are primarily used to guide training, providing a comprehensive understanding of what officers do on a day-to-day and month-to-month basis. While they can inform job descriptions, their main purpose is to ensure that academy and in-service training meet operational needs.

The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) partnered with the National Partnership of Juvenile Justice to fund the updated JTAs. The organization assigned Steve Jett as the contractor responsible for this work. Leahann, along with Jolene Brooks, will serve as the project leads for IDJC to

support and coordinate efforts with Steve. The contract is set to be completed by June 30th, and the updated JTAs will be made available to administrators once finalized. These updates are critical for POST to ensure academy curriculum is in alignment, but administrators may also use the data as needed.

The project will be completed in phases. A small working group was formed, including Sean Brown (Canyon County), David Birch (IDJC), Kevin Sandoval (Twin Falls), Darin Burrell (Fremont), and Neil Nakamura (Twin Falls). In the first phase, the group reviewed the original set of over 300 questions from the previous JTA. Recognizing that this was too extensive, they are working to revise and streamline the questions, ensuring clarity and conciseness while still collecting the necessary information. A second meeting is scheduled to continue this review.

In the next phase, Leahann and Jolene will reach out directly to administrators, rather than sending a broad email, to request targeted participation. They will ask each administrator to select a few staff members ideally four or five to complete the updated survey. The goal is to ensure a high response rate and quality data. While any certified staff member can participate, the preference is for those who have been in their roles for over a year to ensure respondents have a thorough understanding of their duties.

Kevin Sandoval added that the questionnaire, though it may contain many items, is largely checkbox-based and straightforward. It asks participants to indicate whether specific tasks are performed, not performed, or performed by others in the office. The quality of the feedback is vital, as it directly informs the accuracy and relevance of future training.

Detention Clinician Program update- Don Caagbay, IDJC Behavioral Health Program Specialist

The Detention Clinician Program, established in 2009 following a pilot phase in Eastern Idaho, places mental health clinicians in 12 juvenile detention centers across the state. Funded jointly by the Idaho Department of Juvenile Correction (IDJC) and the Department of Health and Welfare, the program ensures that youth entering detention are screened for mental health issues, trauma, and substance use. Clinicians use three primary tools: the MAYSI (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument), the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences), and the Alaska Screening Tool. In addition to conducting screenings, clinicians provide crisis intervention, brief individual counseling when possible, and consult with detention staff, parents, and probation officers regarding youth needs and behavior.

The program is supported by a \$714,300 annual budget. By the end of Quarter 2, 37% of the budget had been used, and projections for Quarter 3 suggest 65% utilization—indicating the program is on track to fully use its allocated funds. A portion of the budget is managed by IDJC to cover recurring expenses such as licensing for the online version of the MAYSI tool (provided by Orbis), clinician training, and support materials. Clinicians have a target screener rate of 90%, which they consistently exceeded. In Quarter 2, clinicians had a screening rate of 98.5% which is well above the 90% target. This high performance reflects their dedication, attention to detail, and quick responses to ensure all youth are screened and supported appropriately.

Clinicians are also actively engaged in ongoing professional development. The program supports their participation in events such as the Idaho Forensic Clinical Conference, the ICADD Conference in May, and the IJJA Conference in September. These events offer continuing education units (CEUs) necessary for license renewal. Some clinicians attend in person with financial support from the program, while others join virtually. To foster communication and share best practices, the program has also

initiated quarterly newsletters and meetings, providing a platform for clinicians to highlight successful initiatives, raise concerns, and learn from one another.

Looking ahead, annual surveys will be used to collect feedback from clinicians to tailor training and resources to their specific needs. There's an increased focus on short-term, impactful interventions due to the limited duration most youth spend in detention. Topics such as trauma, mental health, substance use, and human trafficking (including PREA-related concerns) are at the forefront. Overall, the program continues on a positive trajectory, with strong appreciation from clinicians for the opportunity to serve in these vital roles.

(Click on the document to open the Slides)



Lael Hansen-Help the Helpers

The "Helping the Helpers" initiative is a key part of the Idaho Behavioral Health Council's strategic plan, specifically under its engagement pillar. This effort focuses on providing meaningful support to individuals working in high-stress environments—particularly those in the justice system, crisis response roles, and first responder positions—who are often exposed to secondary trauma through their work. Importantly, the initiative also seeks to extend support to the families of these professionals, recognizing the ripple effect that occupational trauma can have on loved ones.

A recent full-day session brought together a dedicated work group to define the scope of the initiative, identify gaps in current services, and brainstorm innovative solutions. Judge Petty from Canyon County is leading the group and inspired participants to “dream big” and think boldly about the potential for real, transformative change. The team acknowledged that while current wellness and mental health support systems are lacking, this creates a valuable opportunity to build something impactful from the ground up.

The session resulted in a broad collection of ideas that were skillfully refined into nine key focus areas. These will soon be shared with the wider group for feedback, with the aim of prioritizing and voting on the most urgent and actionable directions. Key themes that emerged include the need for updated legislation to better support wellness initiatives, the implementation of direct mental health services for first responders and their families, and ensuring that solutions are inclusive of both large and small counties.

The group also emphasized the importance of listening to diverse voices, especially from rural and misdemeanor-level professionals, who often face unique challenges and may be underrepresented in statewide initiatives. As the process moves forward, smaller, more specialized work groups will be formed to tackle each priority area.

Ultimately, “Helping the Helpers” is about building a compassionate, collaborative framework that not only supports those doing emotionally demanding work but also ensures their well-being is seen

as essential to the health of the entire system. More information and opportunities for input will be shared soon.

Juvenile Detention Advanced Certification Discussion

Advance Juvenile Detention Certification and Probation Advance Certification will be brought up as an action Item at the next meeting on June 2nd 2025

(Click on the document to Open)



Juvenile Detention
Advanced Certificati



Recommend
change to Advanc

Health and Welfare Child Protection- Monte Prow

The presentation focuses on the growing collaboration between juvenile justice and child welfare, While the systems use different approaches, they largely serve the same youth. A major concern highlighted is school attendance—only 12% of youth in one case are currently enrolled, mirroring the broader trend of 20–25% across cases. Staff are working actively to improve these numbers. Monte introduced Jean Fisher as the Division Administrator for Child Welfare. Monte emphasized their readiness to resolve issues like conflicting case manager schedules or unmet needs. The department recently restructured to focus more sharply on child welfare.

A handout titled *Our Journey* was referenced, providing data on the 24,365 child welfare referrals received annually. While 60% are informational, 40% result in staff being dispatched based on urgency—Priority 1 cases involve law enforcement and immediate danger, while Priority 2 and 3 require action within 24 to 72 hours. In about 90% of the 15,000 in-person assessments conducted each year, children are deemed safe enough to remain at home, demonstrating that the current screening system is working effectively. For the 10% requiring intervention, kinship care is prioritized, and reunification efforts typically succeed within six months.

Legislative support has allowed for the addition of 63 prevention-focused staff, a strategy modeled after successful juvenile justice practices. Recruitment and retention of foster homes is also a focus: the state has increased from 75 to 95 homes, aiming for 150 to ensure placement flexibility and reduce caregiver burnout. Northern Idaho has already exceeded this goal. In partnership with Eastern Washington University, \$1.5 million annually is being invested to find families for older youth with complex needs. Families interested in fostering are encouraged to call 2-1-1 for a streamlined process.

The presentation addressed concerns about communication gaps between probation and child welfare, especially around placement changes and child protection cases. These issues are being addressed through direct follow-ups and systemic adjustments. District 6's progress through the Georgetown initiative was praised, and others were encouraged to re-engage or expand this work. Collaboration with POST is also underway to improve law enforcement's training around child welfare. The speaker closed by inviting ongoing feedback and thanking juvenile justice staff for their pioneering work, expressing a commitment to catching up and working together for better outcomes.



Our Journey
Handout.pdf

Important Dates:

Upcoming Meetings

- June 2, 2025- IACJJA/IACMPAA Annual Summer Conference (Best Western/ Cour' Delane)
- September 9th IJJA conference Moscow Idaho 12pm to 1pm
- December 4th Ada County Juvenile Probation. Boise ID 9am to 12pm

Upcoming Academy Dates

- March 27th, 2025 -Juvenile Detention Academy #49
- April 28th, 2025 - Juvenile Corrections Academy #3
- July 31st, 2025- Juvenile Detention Academy #50
- September 29th, 2025- Juvenile Corrections Academy #4