



Hon. Christopher M. Goff

Associate Justice

Indiana Supreme Court

Member

National Judicial Task Force to Examine
State Courts' Response to Mental Illness

Chair

Indiana Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Implementing the Recommendations of the National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Court Response to Mental Illness

Indiana's Plan

Providing Hoosier Communities with the **Right Tools** for a **Tough Job**

National Center for State Courts Resources

Behavioral Health and State Courts ncsc.org/behavioralhealth



WHY are we here?

WHY this way?

WHY me?



Why are we here?

More than half a century ago,
the U.S. set out to
deinstitutionalize people living
with serious mental illness

**And we did so with the best
of intentions**



But deinstitutionalization created its own set of problems

- Deinstitutionalization makes supervision, care, and payment more complicated.
- Responsibility for care and, if necessary, supervision is shifted from a state institution to whatever a community has to offer in its place.
- To ensure public safety, it is necessary for local justice stakeholders to understand how their local justice system works as a whole, how its component parts depend on each other, and recognize gaps that require outside assistance.





Deinstitutionalization means that
some communities have access to this



But most communities only have access to this

In many communities, law enforcement is the ONLY available response when someone is in a mental health crisis.

- This puts law enforcement in a position that they were never intended to be in and takes away from their core mission to preserve public safety.
- This has contributed to an overrepresentation of persons living with serious mental illness in our justice system.
- And something is being done about it.

Why this way?



National Suicide Prevention Hotline



SOMEONE TO **call**

SOMEONE TO **respond**

SOMEWHERE TO **go**

These three pillars will provide a sustainable alternative to law enforcement when someone presents in crisis.

JRAC

Indiana's Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

- is designed to assist communities in the use of evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism and increase community well-being.
- was created as part of Indiana's comprehensive criminal justice reforms in 2015.
- membership includes the head of all three branches of government and the executive directors of every professional organization in our criminal justice system.

IC § 33-38-9.5-4

JRAC partnership and collaboration



Cave drawing



High-speed internet




Local JRACs

were created in 2021 and are designed to provide every Indiana county with a statutory infrastructure to facilitate communication among and between state and local justice stakeholders.



WHY ME?



Indiana's state and local partnership allows local need to drive state action

Today, we are formally kicking off Indiana's state and local JRAC partnership.

Indiana is building the capacity to equip every Hoosier community with the tools to complete this tough job.

But everything Indiana is doing depends on you and your willingness to engage.

**Well-informed
local justice
partners
working to
solve shared
problems**



SIM mapping



Local JRAC annual reports



Technical assistance reports



Local JRAC website



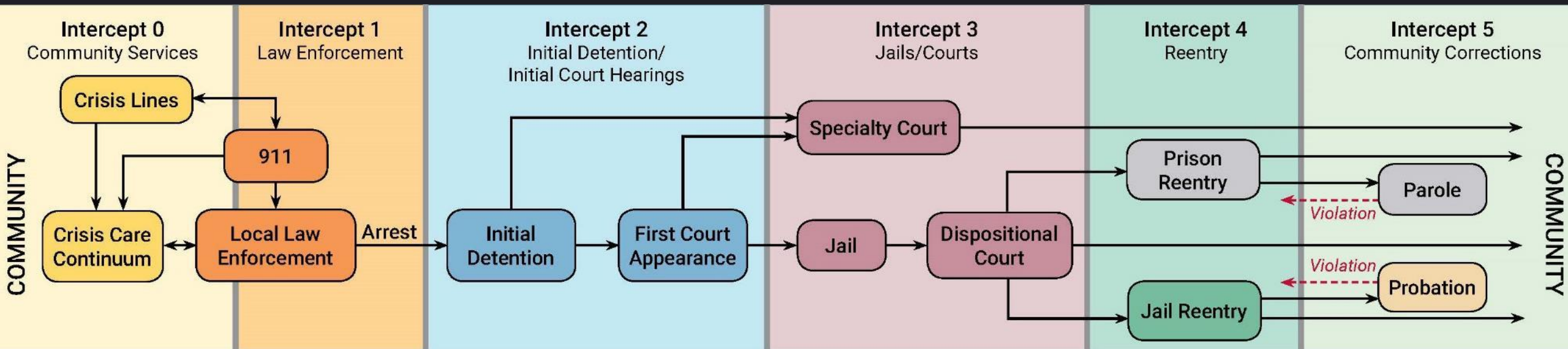
Increased cross-training



Legislative initiatives better
informed by a more unified justice
system

SPECIAL EMPHASIS!!!

Sequential Intercept Model



A local justice reinvestment advisory council includes the following members, and they're all connected to each other within their community.

- Public Defender
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Director of Mental Health Center
- County Sheriff
- Director of Community Corrections
- Chief Probation Officer
- President of the County Executive
- President of the County Fiscal Body
- Circuit or Superior Court Judge



And each of these belongs to a statewide professional organization that stands ready to help them carry out their toughest duties.

For Example

Sometimes you're all you've got



But not if you are a justice professional in the state of Indiana



Final Reports

National Judicial Task Force

ncsc.org/behavioralhealth

or

[available by clicking here](#)

Indiana Behavioral Health Commission

in.gov/fssa/dmha/Indiana-behavioral-health-commission/

or

[available by clicking here](#)



YOU are up to the job.

YOU have what your
community needs in this
moment.

Indiana needs what only
YOU can contribute.