



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** Emergency Shelter Care Subcommittee

**Date of Submission:** 4/14/2021

**Type of Action Requested:**

Legislation     Administrative Rule or Policy     Resolution of Support or Endorsement     Professional/skills development

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):**

Child Health and Safety     Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse     Educational Outcomes

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Provide training to shelter care facilities to enhance their ability to serve higher acuity youth.

**Background of Recommendation:**

***What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?***

Through the surveys that were submitted by the DCS contracted shelter care facilities, there was a wide variance in terms of the behavioral criteria and needs of the youth amongst the agencies. Many agencies seemed to identify needs that could be more appropriate for foster care, and not meeting the current emergency needs of kids in a crisis.

***What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?***

The group was expanded multiple times to ensure that we were collecting the right information to understand the current functioning of the system. Additionally, the surveys that were submitted by the DCS contracted shelter care facilities illustrated that there was a wide variance in terms of the behavioral criteria and needs of the youth considered for admission criteria amongst the agencies.

***What disproportionality did the data reveal?***

The data revealed that while the shelter care census is consistently hovering around forty percent, there was still unmet needs as older youth were unable to be served in a shelter care or the foster care system.

***What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?***

Family Case Managers and Probation Officers must continue identifying alternatives when shelter care facilities are unable to accept youth that need placement. Those alternatives vary across the state but do include the utilization of detention.

***What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?***

The recommendation is to create a standard admission criteria expectation and training opportunities for all emergency shelter care facilities to aid in enhancing the state's ability to have additional capacity to serve higher need youth in a shelter care setting.

***How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?***

By increasing the knowledge and expertise of the shelter care facilities to serve higher acuity youth in the shelter care system, youth that need that level of care should not need alternatives such as the utilization of detention.

**Implementation:**

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendation?

Department of Child Services

Has the recommendation been discussed with the implementer?

Yes       No

What is the recommended timeframe for the Commission to review implementation?

6 months     12 months     18 months     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/a

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A

**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**