

Proposed Minutes
Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Members Present:

- Dr. Jerome Adams, Indiana State Health Commissioner, Indiana State Department of Health
- Christine Blessinger, Director, Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services
- Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Senator Jean Breaux
- Representative David Frizzell
- Curtis T. Hill, Indiana Attorney General
- Senator Erin Houchin
- Larry Landis, Executive Director, Public Defender Council
- Susan Lightfoot, Chief Probation Officer, Henry County Probation Department
- Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education
- Kevin Moore, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- David Powell, Executive Director, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Justice Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana
- Representative Vanessa Summers
- Dr. Jennifer Walthall, M.D., Secretary, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Mary Willis, Chief Administrative Officer, Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
- Jason Dudich, Director, State Budget Agency
- John Hammond IV, Office of the Governor

1. Welcome and Introductions

The public portion of the meeting convened at 10:09 A.M., when the Chair, Senator Houchin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves and indicate which agency they represented. Senator Houchin congratulated Dr. Adams on his recent confirmation as United States Surgeon General. Dr. Adams thanked the Chief Justice and other Commission members for the opportunity to have served, commended them on their outstanding work thus far, and expressed hope that the Commission would meet the challenges ahead, including the opioid crisis and childhood obesity.

2. Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2017 Meeting

Chief Justice Rush moved, and Director Bonaventura seconded, that the Commission approve the minutes from the May 10, 2017 meeting. The Commission approved the minutes unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Appointment of Executive Director

The Chair thanked Judge Willis and her team for carefully reviewing more than 100 resumes and conducting three rounds of candidate interviews. The candidates for the Executive Director position were impressive and well-qualified. The Chair moved, and Director Bonaventura seconded, that the Commission

approve the appointment of Julie Whitman as Executive Director of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

4. CISC Study Assignments –Legislative Council Resolution 17-01

The Legislative Council assigned two study topics to the Commission. The first, concerning infant mortality and children born with an addiction, was assigned to the Indiana State Department of Health, in concert with the Commission, at Dr. Adams' request. The second topic, whether licensing requirements pose a barrier which contributes to a shortage of child care providers, was assigned to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force, in cooperation with the Child Safety and Services Task Force. Because a report is due on both topics by November 1, 2017, the Commission asked that a report be submitted to the Executive Committee before that date. The Executive Committee will then share the report with all Commission members.

5. Committee and Task Force Reports

- a) Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force—Senator Head, the co-chair, presented this report after first recognizing his co-chair, Sirrilla Blackmon. Chief Justice Rush asked Senator Head to outline his task force's work to date. Senator Head pointed to such notable achievements as sponsoring legislation to create the position of suicide prevention coordinator and adding social work interns to the Department of Correction workforce, and then discussed the work of his task force on the Commission's objectives as outlined in its operational plan. The task force has three subcommittees: service access and availability, service creation, and system gaps. The group working on service access and availability has three short-term and two long-term goals, including examining barriers to licensing child-serving professionals. The service creation workgroup is following up with Indiana University regarding its "IN-Be-HAPPY" program, which will address silos, including the integration and coordination of services. Members of the system gaps subcommittee would like to produce a guidebook listing services and evidence-based programs. This task force is also examining health professional shortage areas in connection with the Bowen Center. Commission members then discussed the dearth of psychiatric resident slots at the Indiana University School of Medicine and possible solutions, including adjusting Medicare funding, hospitals funding more slots, and training primary care providers to perform basic, low-level screening and referral services. Next steps for the task force include studying the creation of mobile crisis response units as an alternative to arrests; the Chief Justice observed that there was funding for this. She recommended working with the Governor's task force. The task force is also considering social impact bonds and studying the relationship between workers compensation and drug formularies. Senator Head noted that task force members determined their priorities. Chief Justice Rush asked Senator Head about the maps created by MPH (Measurement Performance Hub) showing the locations of inpatient and outpatient treatment providers for mental health and substance abuse problems. The maps indicate that some areas in the state lack access to inpatient treatment providers. Commission members also remarked that people in need of treatment sometimes face a months-long wait for these services. The Chief Justice asked that the maps be placed on the Commission's web site. Kevin Moore stated that these maps will directly affect his agency's priorities and grants.
- b) Communications Committee—Kathryn Dolan, the chair, introduced and recognized the committee's members and explained that this is a new committee. The Chief Justice shared that this committee was created to allow the Commission to speak with one voice, to pool member agency's public information officers, and to eliminate ad hoc news releases. It is expected that this committee will be permanent. Dolan outlined the committee's goals and remarked that members were working with Clarus on a comprehensive communications plan, which will be presented to the Commission at a later date. The

committee will facilitate both internal information sharing and external communications, promote the work of the Commission to the legislature, and work with the media and the public to raise awareness. The committee has compiled a dedicated media list of 50 reporters around the state. Dolan observed that there was a good response to the news release the committee put out that featured the information sharing guide and app, and played a two-minute segment on the app from WRTV in Indianapolis. Dr. Adams underscored the vital importance of promoting the Commission to the legislature in order to ensure that body would select the most appropriate entity to review legislative issues. If legislators turned to the Commission more often, it would increase the chances for interagency cooperation and expertise on study questions.

- c) Child Services Oversight Committee—Representative Wendy McNamara, the chair, joined the meeting via Skype to give her report. She first informed the Commission that the committee has added two members, Representative Lawson and Senator Messmer. Representative McNamara reported that the Department of Child Services (DCS) Hotline received more than 225,000 reports in 2016, and in May, 2017 alone, the hotline fielded 18,000 calls. Despite this extreme volume, the wait times experienced by law enforcement officers contacting the hotline averaged just 19 seconds; for civilians, the wait averaged 36 seconds. Representative McNamara then spoke of recent, important legislation, including SEA 366, which streamlined the process for foster children to obtain drivers licenses; SEA 497, which extended Medicaid eligibility for youth who had been in foster care; and, SEA 355, which required schools to provide instruction on both reporting and preventing child abuse and sex abuse. Representative McNamara noted that 2017 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Title IV-D program, and shared that Indiana is currently ranked sixth in the nation for support rates. Indiana’s IV-D program (which is operated by DCS) distributes \$575 million annually, which, as the Chief Justice noted, amounts to half a billion dollars for the state’s children. The Chief Justice directed the Communications committee to publicize this story and the team effort it has taken to raise Indiana’s ranking in child support collections. The Chief Justice remarked that in many states, the legislative branch sets the child support amounts; however, in Indiana, that is a judicial branch function and the calculations were recently updated and refreshed. With respect to the dual status youth screening law, Representative McNamara reported that 88 of the state’s 92 counties had signed MOUs and she believes the protocol is having a positive impact. Challenges remain in the area of foster care: it is difficult to place children with immediate relatives because often other family members are addicted. The drug crisis continues to affect DCS, which is experiencing growing caseloads and issues with staff retention. The Department opened a new office in Marion County and recently trained more than 400 new staff. The legislature increased DCS funding levels by \$75 million in FY 2018 and by \$125 million for FY 2019. Commission members then returned to a discussion of foster care. In response to a question from Representative Frizzell concerning the numbers of children in foster care, the Chief Justice answered that the rate was 30 percent; Representative McNamara stated that in May, 2017, 8,500 children were placed in a relative’s home; 7,200 were placed with non-relatives; 1,000 were in residential care; and, 299 were in other placements. Dr. Adams remarked that the all of the children in the system, by definition, have suffered at least one adverse childhood experience, or ACE, which increases their likelihood for early pregnancy, substance abuse, incarceration, etc. for decades into the future. The Commission needs to address how to assist these children after they are placed. The Chief Justice noted that these numbers are only for children who are CHINS—they do not take into account the children who have been adjudicated delinquent. What worked for parents and others 15 years ago does not necessarily work today. Dr. Adams called for the Commission to focus an upcoming meeting on what comes after learning about ACEs.
- d) Data Sharing and Mapping Committee: Julie Whitman, the chair, gave this report and explained that this committee exists to support the other task forces’ work. Whitman outlined the efforts of committee

members and staff to conduct training and outreach for the Information Sharing Guide and app, and thanked the Communications Committee for helping publicize the app. Whitman then reviewed the analytics for the app and related a real-world example of a DCS employee using the app to determine whether information had been shared correctly. Next steps for this project include updating the legal content of the Guide and, eventually, the app, as well as adding icons for new requestors and holders of information. Whitman reviewed the timeline for these updates and enhancements, and noted that these achievements will, in large part, depend on the cooperation of Commission member agency attorneys. She encouraged Commission members to remind their attorneys on staff to please respond to the email they received in late July from Michael Commons. Eventually, the committee will develop MOUs with Commission member agencies and other partners so that it is clear that the Commission owns the tool, and so that the project is sustainable. Additionally, the committee plans to post model interagency information-sharing MOUs in a section on the mobile application. The Chief Justice noted that no taxpayer funds were spent for the technical production of the app, and that its success depends on the goodwill of Commission members and their agencies. Ms. Whitman then summarized the system-level data sharing request the committee has recently received from the Educational Outcomes Task Force and explained that, at her recent meeting with Darshan Shah of the Management Performance Hub (MPH), she learned there is a form for such requests which instructs the requestor to outline the use case for such data. Whitman remarked that in order for MPH to fulfill this request, DCS, the courts, and the Department of Education will need to provide support (and data). Commission members then discussed the potential scope of this data request and the breadth of the term “vulnerable youth” as both a statutory term of art (the term is defined in the Commission’s enabling statute) and as a practical matter. Melaina Gant of DCS, co-chair of the Educational Outcomes Task Force, stated that her task force was using the statutory definition found at Indiana Code 2-36 (the Commission’s enabling statute). According to the Chief Justice, this could encompass some 700,000 children. After studying the large data sample, perhaps the task force could narrow its focus to one that is oriented more toward prevention. Finally, Ms. Whitman showed Commission members a map (accessible here: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/katie.kincaid#!/vizhome/IndianaChildrensCommissionMembersbyCounty/Dashboard1>) indicating the provenance of all of the Commission’s task force and committee members and whether their organization has a statewide reach. Senator Houchin noted that that gaps on this map largely matched the gaps in the maps of service providers Senator Head presented earlier. The Chief Justice encouraged task force chairs to actively pull new members from those underrepresented areas.

- e) Child Safety and Services Task Force: Sam Criss and Dr. Leslie Hulvershorn, the co-chairs, addressed Commission members. Mr. Criss first remarked that this is a brand new task force, so much time has been spent initially on building a geographically diverse and representative membership, as well as developing meaningful objectives. Initially, task force members want to focus on prevention and resources: what is available to families before they enter the system? Early priorities include studying and evaluating barriers to receiving Medicaid and intensifying efforts to support older foster youth. And, in the short term, the task force will be completing the tasks assigned to it by the Commission with respect to the Legislative Council study topics on TANF eligibility and licensing requirements. Senator Houchin and the Chief Justice will speak with Director Bonaventura to clarify the question regarding TANF eligibility. Dr. Hulvershorn reviewed handout #5.d. with Commission members, which outlines task force priorities identified in the strategic plan. Dr. Hulvershorn mentioned in particular the importance of assisting the child caring work force with evidence-based, trauma-informed care to enable early intervention and treatment. She also highlighted a longer-term goal of adopting the evidence-based Zero Suicide initiative developed at Columbia University and championed by SAMHSA. This will entail a culture shift for treatment and other service providers. With respect to objective 1.6, Senator Houchin asked whether MPH could assist with surveying the rate of trauma-informed practice in settings where

children are cared for (schools, treatment programs, etc.). Dr. Hulvershorn indicated that her task force would check into that possibility.

- f) Educational Outcomes Task Force: Melaina Gant, co-chair, first reviewed task force members' affiliations and roles. Members represent a broad range of stakeholders. Gant then reviewed the task force's goals and priorities as outlined in the strategic plan. With respect to the goal of obtaining graduation rates for vulnerable youth, Gant and her co-chair, Cathy Danyluk, have been working with MPH and have identified barriers: the DOE does not track the information the way they had originally believed. The co-chairs are thus still working on completing the use case for the data, and probably will not have the graduation data by December, 2017. As for the educational passport objective, the task force is studying other states' practices. In response to a question from Senator Houchin about whether legislation would facilitate the creation of educational passports for Indiana students, Ms. Gant observed that existing laws seem to already allow for it. FERPA allows child welfare and juvenile justice professionals to exchange information (but does not require them to share it). If the task force determines that legislation would be helpful, Ms. Gant will indeed contact the senator. Gant then discussed the objective concerning wrap-around services co-located in schools. Task force members are currently working on a report; some service providers are already in schools in various locations around the state. Task force members wish to include preschools in this initiative, as well as postsecondary institutions if possible. Senator Houchin asked Ms. Gant to please look at the family resource center model in use in some elementary schools, and described one such program with which she was familiar in Austin, Indiana. Finally, Ms. Gant addressed the objective concerning school discipline and climate. Work on this objective began earlier this year. The task force wishes to focus on truancy support programs, such as Project Attend. In response to a question from Ms. Gant concerning whether to research the role that home schooling may play as an alternative to expulsion, Senator Houchin asked the task force chairs to please direct this question to the executive committee.
- g) Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth Task Force: Judge Charles Pratt and Don Travis presented this task force's report to Commission members. Mr. Travis first directed the Commission's attention to the task force's reconstituted membership, and observed that the task force will probably add someone from DOE and someone to represent prosecutors. Travis explained that, while the task force has seven objectives, members will initially focus on four which they have identified as the highest priority. With respect to supporting the enhancement of both in-home and residential services, Mr. Travis indicated that the task force believes that the work of MPH in creating the maps used by Senator Head will be enormously helpful. As for the objective concerning status offenses, Travis noted that the task force is studying other states' practices along with whether adjusting the juvenile code to reduce the number of status offenses would result in a fiscal impact. Mr. Travis reminded the Commission that Judge Dowling gave a report in May on the status of the steering committee's work on CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children) and briefly recapped that report: quick indicator cards for law enforcement and health care professionals have been printed and distributed in the five pilot counties (Allen, Clark, Delaware, Marion, and Tippecanoe); training on the QI tools is proceeding. The initial counties have begun testing the screening tool for probation and detention, as well. Judge Pratt then discussed legislative developments concerning membership of juvenile stakeholders on local community corrections boards and observed that HEA 1218-17 allows for grants. Judge Pratt updated the Commission on the dual status youth project; work in the "TEACH" counties (Tippecanoe, Elkhart, Allen, Clark, and Henry) is well underway, and leaders recently completed three regional trainings across the state. Nearly all (81 out of 92) of Indiana's counties have signaled an interest in participating in the dual status youth project. Judge Pratt then focused his remarks on some positive developments associated with the dual status initiative: first, in Allen County, regular communication between probation and DCS has dramatically increased, as has collaboration. Judge Pratt believes that all parties

would attest that the dual status legislation (HEA 1196-15) has positively affected children in care. Also, the information sharing app has made a big difference. Finally, stakeholders are recognizing the importance of accounting for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) when working with dual status youth. In response to a question, Judge Pratt remarked that juvenile probation officers and DCS family case managers have reported encountering difficulty gaining entry into schools to see individual clients (students).

6. CISC Operational Plan Updates

The Hon. Mary Willis directed Commission members' attention to the revised operational plan and noted progress on several items. The Executive Director is expected to start on September 11, 2017. The items on the plan marked "pending ED" are thus deferred until Julie Whitman begins her tenure. Senator Breaux asked whether the Executive Director would be overseeing all of the task forces and committees; Judge Willis answered affirmatively. The Executive Director will also serve as a liaison between the task forces and the Executive Committee. Her office will be located in the Office of Judicial Administration, next to the GAL/CASA and JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) state administrative offices. Senator Houchin recognized the hard work of all of the task force and committee members and noted that this work was all voluntary.

7. Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:13 P.M. upon a motion by David Powell.

8. Next Meeting

The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana will meet on November 8, 2017, from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at the Indiana Government Center – South.