



Commission on
Improving the
Status of Children

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FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. **Action:** Approve Minutes from the December 2023 meeting



Commission on
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2024 Indiana General Assembly Legislative Action Update - 2/5/24

MARK FAIRCHILD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Update on Actions

[Senate Bill 230](#) & [House Bill 1150](#)

Human Trafficking Language - Endorsed

Summary: Both pieces of legislation remove language requiring a child to admit or deny to the allegation of being a victim of human trafficking and would instead rely on a preponderance of evidence. Additionally, the court would appoint an attorney for the child either at or before the initial hearing.

Status & Actions: Neither piece of legislation was able to receive a hearing. The Children's Commission provided letters of support and had dialogue with legislators on the importance of the language and granting a hearing.

Update on Actions

[House Bill 1194](#)

Youth Justice Oversight Committee Language - Endorsed

Summary: This Indiana Criminal Justice Institute bill contains language allowing advances of juvenile diversion, community alternative and behavioral health grant funds that were created based on YJOC recommendations.

Status & Actions: The bill was amended in Ways & Means to sunset the ability to allow advances July 1, 2025, and to declare an emergency for the act. The Children's Commission provided letters of support and had dialogue with legislators on the importance of the YJOC grant language. The bill has cleared House committees and is coming up for 3rd reading 2/5/24.

Agenda

3. Legislative Actions and Engagement

b. Issues for Potential 2024 IGA Legislative Action

- i. [Senate Bill 2](#) - Child Care Access Language
- ii. [Senate Bill 17](#) - Age Verification for Minors Language
- iii. [Senate Bill 45](#) - Trauma Informed Care (Human Trafficking) Language
- iv. [Senate Bill 171](#) - CHINS Reunification Planning Language
- v. [House Bill 1051](#) - State Policy on Parent/Caregiver Communication Language

Issues for Potential 2024 IGA Legislative Action

[Senate Bill 2](#) - Child Care Access Language *

Summary:

- Creates a dashboard providing information regarding state and federal childcare subsidies including the number of childcare subsidies available, the average copayment required under each and the number of children on each wait list.
- Requires the Early Learning Advisory Committee to complete a study of early childhood educator compensation in Indiana.
- Increases access to CCDF and On My Way Pre-K for childcare employees.

Status: The bill has passed through Senate committees and has passed 3rd reading, crossing over to the House with representative Devon as a sponsor.

* Previously approved by the Commission as an issue for potential legislative action

Issues for Potential 2024 IGA Legislative Action

Senate Bill 17 - Age Verification for Minors Language*

Summary:

- Requires that adult-oriented website operators utilize a “reasonable age verification method” to prevent minors from accessing adult content.
- Includes options such as mobile credentialing, third-party age verification services or a commercially reasonable method that leverages public or private data to verify age.

Status: The bill has passed through Senate Judiciary and has passed 3rd reading, crossing over to the House.

*Covered in the Commission’s enabling legislation <https://iga.in.gov/laws/2022/ic/titles/2#2-5-36-9>

Issues for Potential 2024 IGA Legislative Action

[Senate Bill 45](#) - Trauma Informed Care Language *

Summary:

- Requires an individual who holds an active license as a nurse and has direct patient contact to complete a trauma informed care training program within 5 years. Employer would maintain a record of the training completion.
- Requires the State Board of Nursing to study if trauma informed care curriculum should be required for nursing education programs. Training as current part of a nursing education program would satisfy the requirement.
- **Status:** The bill was amended to its current language in Health & Provider Services and has passed 3rd reading, crossing over to the House.

* Vetted by the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children subcommittee, concept presented to Commission with Human Trafficking prevention as an expected outcome.

Issues for Potential 2024 IGA Legislative Action

[Senate Bill 171](#) - CHINS Reunification Planning Language *

Summary:

- Adds circumstances when reasonable efforts to reunify are not required:
 - If the parent, guardian or custodian is required to register as a sex offender under United States Code, as a sex or violent offender under Indiana Code; or committed an offense described in Indiana CHINS statutes against a child resulting in conviction or judgement.
 - If the child was the subject of two or more removals that were the result of conditions caused by the parent, guardian or custodian.

Status: The bill has passed through Senate Family & Children Services and has passed 3rd reading, crossing over to the House.

* Covered in the Commission's [mission, vision, and overarching principles](#) per the 2023 Strategic Plan

Issues for Potential 2024 IGA Legislative Action

[House Bill 1051](#) – Adding Language to State Policy on Communication Between Caregivers & Parents *

Summary:

- Adds language to Indiana Code Title 31 (Family and Juvenile Law) that providing that supporting and facilitating two-way communication between parents and foster parents, or kinship caregivers is a state policy.

Status: The bill has passed through Family, Children & Human Affairs and passed 3rd reading, crossing over to the Senate with Sen. Donato as sponsor.

* Covered in the Commission's [mission, vision, and overarching principles](#) per the 2023 Strategic Plan

Action Item

Approval of Issues for 2024 IGA Legislative Action

1. [Senate Bill 2](#) - Child Care Access Language
2. [Senate Bill 17](#) - Age Verification for Minors Language
3. [Senate Bill 45](#) - Trauma Informed Care (Human Trafficking) Language
4. [Senate Bill 171](#) - CHINS Reunification Planning Language
5. [House Bill 1051](#) - Parent/Caregiver Communication State Policy Language

Other Legislative Issues from Commission Members

Concurrent Jurisdiction in CHINS Adoption Cases

(per [House Bill 1050-2024](#))

Summary:

- A petition for adoption must indicate if child to be adopted is the subject of an open or pending CHINS, TPR, or juvenile delinquency proceeding.
- Notice of a pending adoption must be given to the juvenile court if the child to be adopted is the subject of an open or pending CHINS, TPR, or juvenile delinquency proceeding.
- A juvenile court receiving notice of a pending adoption has 10 days after notice to exercise or decline jurisdiction over the adoption or take matters under consideration pending a hearing.

Status: Legislation was not able to receive a hearing this session.

Agenda

4. Indiana Birth Parent Advisory Board

a. Presentation: Monica Roose



An Introduction to the Indiana Birth Parent Advisory Board

February 5, 2024 Presenters: The IN Birth Parent Advisory Board



Introductions

The Permanency Initiatives Team

- ❖ **Harmony Gist**- *SSAT Deputy Director*
- ❖ **Haley Inman**- *SSAT Division Director*
- ❖ **Rachael Hudgins**- *Permanency Initiatives Program Manager*
- ❖ **Mafu Fuyana**- *Permanency Consultant*
- ❖ **Monica Roose**- *Birth Parent Advocate & Permanency Consultant*

IN Birth Parent Advisory Board FAQ

→ When did this board start?

The idea of the IN Birth Parent Advisory Board (BPAB) started in 2019, and the planning committee (including birth parents) began in February 2020. The official kickoff and rollout of the BPAB happened in April 2021.

→ What is the overall purpose of the board?

The BPAB is designed to provide birth parents with a platform through which to share their lived experience, thoughts/opinions, and feedback or ideas. The BPAB is an integral component of DCS, helping to plan implement, monitor, and evaluate policies, practices, and services impacting our children and families.

→ What changes have been made in the system as a result of the BPAB?

The birth parents have participated and been a part of changes proposed through the rapid improvement event (RIE) process, DCS' internal continuous quality improvement process. Birth parents have also been involved in workgroups, helped develop Icebreakers, and continuously participate in policy change or development.



What is the role of a Birth Parent Advisory Board?

- Birth Parent Advisory Boards can serve various roles in child welfare agencies based on emerging needs in the following ways:
 - Increase understanding and awareness of the needs of individual family members as well as the whole family.
 - Educate about and advocate for programs and services to address specific needs of parents, child and youth.
 - Serve as mentors and/or trainers on leadership skill development and opportunities for other parents who have been or are currently involved with the child welfare system



Implementation Challenges to Consider

- Parents' past trauma from involvement in the Child Welfare System
- Resistance of some individuals within the agency and other external stakeholders
- The most convenient time to convene is often outside of normal business hours
- Failure of some stakeholders to recognize that board members are not employees and thus special considerations are needed when asking to participate in projects

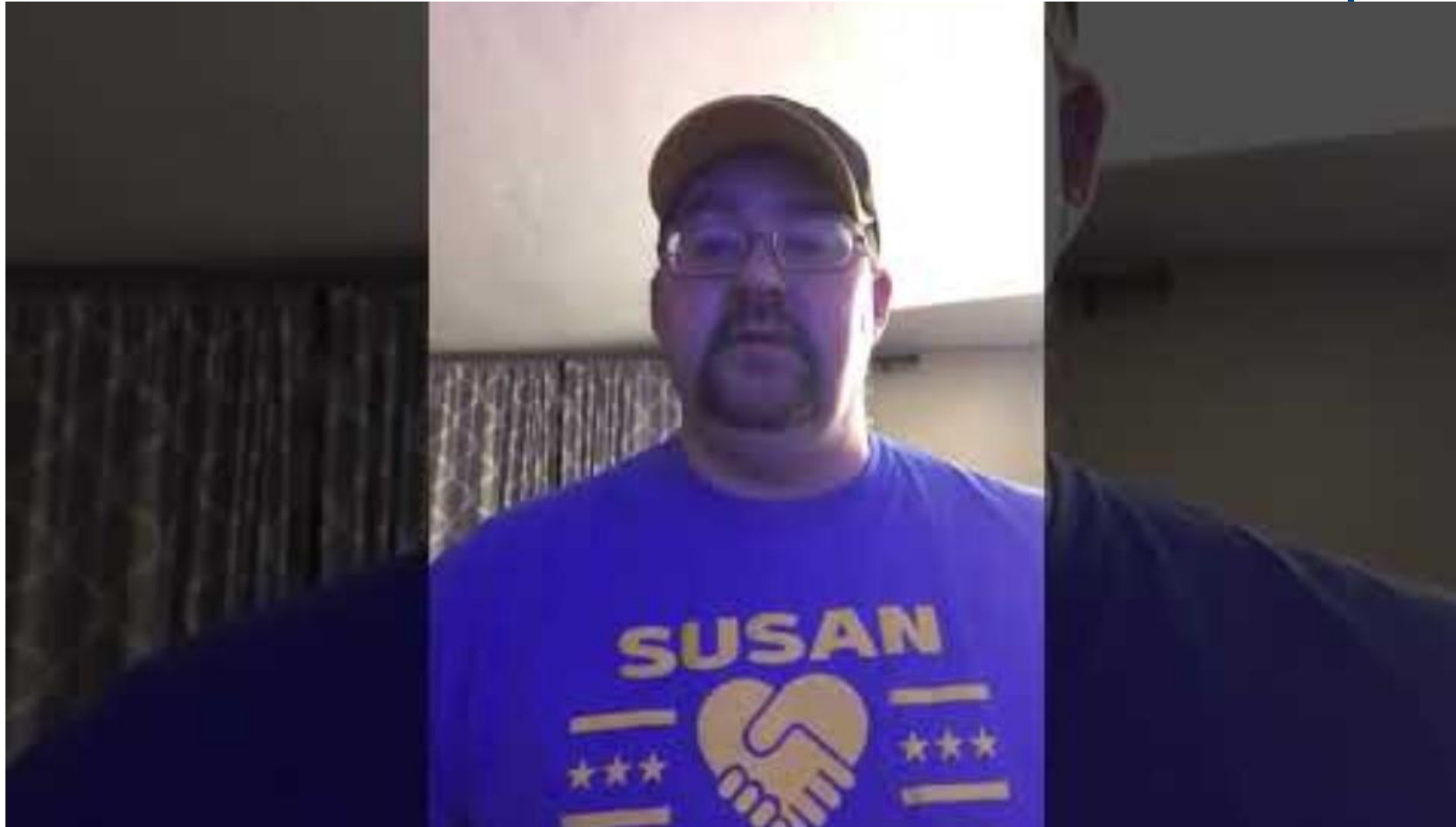


Benefits of The Lived Experience

- Improvement of child welfare practices and services, as well as access to better services
- Policy reform that ultimately results in more family-friendly child welfare approaches that are more humane, participatory, fair, and effective
- Provides valuable insight into child maltreatment prevention and strategies for successful outcomes based on parents' experiences of child welfare services
- Empowers parents and makes it so parents involved in the child welfare system feel less shame and isolation, and instead feel more supported and hopeful



Let's hear from our Parents!



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Future of the Birth Parent Advisory Board

→ Recruitment

→ Parent Ally Program



Stay in touch with the BPAB

For more information about the BPAB,
please visit our page:

<https://www.in.gov/dcs/permanency/birth-parent-advisory-board/>

For updates from our members, please visit
our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/zA3vwkSrCktNHuVi/?mibextid=u98aYd>





Contact Information

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Agenda

4. Indiana Birth Parent Advisory Board

b. Discussion on Integrating Lived Experience Parent Voices

Agenda

5. Executive Director Update

- a. Addressing Suicide and Bullying Prevention
- b. Joint Family and Children Committee Meeting- 1/11/24
- c. Day of the Child - 2/19/24
- d. 2023 CISC Annual Report

Agenda

6. Commission Member Announcements and
Adjournment

2024 Meeting Dates

- April 17
- June 18
- August 21
- October 16
- December 11