



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Committee/Task Force:	Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth Task Force		
Date of Meeting:	Nov. 6, 2020	Time:	9:00-11:00 am
Minutes Prepared By:	Ashley J. Barnett	Location:	Virtual- held via Zoom
1. Meeting Objective(s)			
Updates from sub-committees and Children's Commission			
2. Standing Members			
Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)	
Steve Balko	Indiana Department of Education	X	
Jeff Bercovitz	Indiana Office of Court Services	X	
Sirrilla Blackmon	Family & Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health & Addiction	X	
Coleen Connor	Tiptecanoe County CASA	X	
Ann Davis	Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)		
Hon. Kimberly Dowling	Delaware Circuit Court #2		
Tracy Fitz	Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council	X	
Hon. Stephen Galvin	Co-Chair- Monroe County Circuit Court #7	X	
Kory George	Wayne County Probation		
James (Mike) Goodwin	Indiana Department of Child Services, Sullivan County	X	
JauNae Hanger	Children's Policy and Law Initiative		
Jill Johnson	Marion County Public Defender Agency	X	
Hon. Charles Pratt	Allen Superior Court, Family Relations Division		
Angela Reid-Brown	Indiana Office of Court Services		
Michael Ross	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute		
Angela Sutton	Indiana Department of Correction		
Don Travis	Co-Chair- Indiana Department of Child Services	X	
Nancy Wever	Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI	X	
Julie Whitman	Commission on Improving the Status of Children	X	
3. Staff/Guests			
Name	Organization		
Ashley Barnett	Staff- Indiana Office of Court Services, JDAI		
Bob Bragg	Hamilton County Probation		
Terrie Decker	Indiana Department of Correction		
Mike Gray	Madison County Probation, ESC Sub-Committee Co-Chair		
Matt Gooding	Indiana Department of Child Services, ESC Sub-Committee Co-Chair		
Joel Wieneke	Indiana Public Defender Council		
4. Updates/Old Business			
Topic	Main Points	(R)ecommendations/(D)ecisions	
Approval of minutes from previous meeting	No corrections noted.	Jill Johnson moved to approve the minutes, Jeff Bercovitz seconded. All voted in favor.	



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<p>Objective 1:</p> <p>Strengthen collaboration between juvenile probation, mental health, the Department of Child Services, prosecutors, and public defenders at the county level, across the state, especially with regard to dual status children</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Magistrate Gaither</p> <p>Don Travis provided the update, did not attend the last meeting. The committee continues to work on the Dual Status Assessment Tool; one of the items being considered is re-ordering the questions on the tool. Once revised, the tool will be embedded in the preliminary inquiry system for both DCS and Probation. Nancy Wever and Julie Whitman attended the meeting and said they also discussed making some of the fields within the tool required, e.g. users would have to indicate whether or not the child is dual status and would not be able to continue with the tool until a response is provided. The committee would like to have the updated tool go into effect July 1, 2021, allowing time for training and updating materials so counties are prepared for the changes. The Office of Court Technology and Quest will coordinate to make sure their respective systems are updated.</p>	
<p>Objective 2:</p> <p>Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices for identification, referral, and appropriate services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Judge Dowling and Judge Harvey</p> <p>Neither Judge Dowling nor Harvey were present. Don Travis said the committee is following up on several agenda items they have had over the last few years. One of those items is dealing with youth from out-of-state being found in Indiana and at risk of human trafficking, as well as Indiana youth found out-of-state. The committee has engaged with a number of counties located along state lines to help address and develop consistency with interstate and trafficking issues. Judge Galvin noted that Monroe County is one of the CSEC screening tool pilot counties that recently completed a survey and the results are being analyzed.</p>	
<p>Objective 3:</p> <p>Increase alternatives to detention for youth, such as shelter care, assessment centers, intake centers, and alternative therapeutic settings</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Mike Gray and Matt Gooding</p> <p>Mike Gray provided the update. Discussed the surveys that have been administered over the last few months. Ashley Barnett is currently reviewing and summarizing the survey information so the committee can determine how best to move forward. Several meetings ago, Judge Dowling met with the sub-committee to discuss ESC needs for youth that have been trafficked. There has been a lot of information shared so the sub-committee is focused on creating actionable goals and objectives for the Task Force, while considering how much effort and what impact those goals/objectives would have. Some of the themes gleaned thus far is a lack of awareness among FCMs and POs about additional ESC facilities that could meet the needs of youth they serve. Also, there is a lack of foster care beds, particularly for higher-need youth in</p>	



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<p>Objective 4:</p> <p>Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices for preventing and diverting youth from entering the juvenile justice system</p>	<p>the delinquency system as well as training for foster parents to support them. One goal that could be accomplished quickly is the development of a one-page document that provides details about ESC facilities including age of youth accepted, whether they serve males and/or females, and any exclusionary criteria FCMs and POs can have access to when the need arises. Training for foster parents is another area that could have a large impact; Mike Gray reached out the developers of the Teaching the Teen Brain training to discuss the potential of creating a “Fostering the Teen Brain” curriculum for foster parents across the state. The committee is exploring ways to assist ESC facilities with serving high acuity youth; while this would be challenging to implement it has the potential to have high impact.</p> <p>Co-Chair(s): Tracy Fitz and Megan Horton</p> <p>Tracy Fitz provided the update. This committee continues to meet regularly. Short questionnaires are being developed for Chief Juvenile POs to learn what specific diversion programs are available in their communities and how they can be accessed. Judicial officers will also receive a separate (shorter) questionnaire to understand what they feel is lacking around diversion as well as the types of cases they believe are appropriate for such programs. Based on a suggestion from another Task Force member, Regional DCS Representatives will receive a questionnaire to determine if and how much prevention funds are being used for diversion programs. The sub-committee hopes to have all surveys distributed by the end of the year so all information needed to move forward is available in early 2021. Tracy asked Task Force members to encourage people in their local communities and respective agencies to complete the surveys. Jeff Bercovitz asked whether program cost would be one of the questions asked; Tracy said they did not plan to go that deep at this point, but want to just get an understanding of current diversion programming available. Don Travis suggested adding a question about funding source which Tracy said they can do. Judge Galvin asked how this dovetails with JDAI; Nancy Wever explained that part of the reason this information will be important is to make sure there is no duplication of funds. In addition, JDAI sites are being encouraged to partner with community-based organizations, even if they are not DCS providers, to meet the needs of youth and families.</p>	
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<p>Objective 5:</p> <p>Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices for preventing serious and violent delinquent behavior</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Steve Balko and Bob Bragg</p> <p>Steve Balko provided the update. The sub-committee met a few weeks ago, have been working on getting a clear definition of serious and violent delinquent behavior and tying it to the statute so they know which offenses to focus on. At the same time they have begun researching programs in Indiana and across the country that address “juvenile violence.” Bob Bragg noted that during their last meeting, it was discussed how difficult gathering this type of data is which is why they want to be as specific as possible about the offenses to review. In addition they decided to go back 5 years when conducting data analysis. JauNae Hanger provided information about programs currently available; a number have mixed reviews in terms of effectiveness. The sub-committee will determine if any of the programs (or parts of them) could be replicated. The Commission has preliminarily added this topic to December’s agenda; however since the sub-committee is still working, they will push to a later meeting to allow for additional time to review data, programs, etc. Judge Galvin asked about the source of the data being reviewed- Steve noted they are looking not only at juvenile cases but also waiver and direct file cases. Bob said the committee also discussed considering “youthful violence” cases up to age 25 (they have not yet decided on this). Jill Johnson encouraged the sub-committee to consider including direct file cases when reviewing the data because they have not seen an uptick in juvenile crime in Marion County despite what has been reported in the media. There was discussion about if the Task Force had a preference on whether the sub-committee should look at data for youth 18 and under OR if they should include data for youthful offenders up to age 25. Julie indicated that the Commission has never defined an exact age for what it means to be a “vulnerable youth,” but the general feeling is likely that youth means up to age 18. However, because of the interest in brain development consideration should be given to review data for youthful offenders past age 18 if there is a focus on making resources available to prevent youth from committing violent acts. Jeff Bercovitz pointed out that at the federal level, the age of youthful offender goes up to 25; he also encouraged the sub-committee to note the sources of the data.</p>	<p>Julie Whitman is considering asking the Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) to present to the Commission about the increase in violence in Marion County. Bob said the sub-committee has discussed adding additional members and since IMHC is engaged in this work, Julie thought they might be a good fit and will make the connection.</p> <p>Joel Wieneke provided the following publication for review: https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2017/20170525_youthful-offenders.pdf</p>
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<p>Objective 6:</p> <p>Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising programs to engage justice-involved youth and parents in effective treatment, services, and community connections</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Coleen Connor and Rebecca Humphrey</p> <p>Coleen Connor provided the update. She stressed the importance of involving youth and families in their own treatment. This sub-committee released surveys earlier this year; there were some challenges with getting the information returned so they reached out to counties individually by email and phone to improve response rates. While the information collected thus far is qualitative, one emerging theme is that programs such as electronic monitoring are not very helpful when it comes to engaging youth and their families. In addition, gaps in programs have begun to be highlighted so the sub-committee will do additional research to see where exactly those gaps are. They will also reach out to groups such as IARCA, Regional Service Councils and other stakeholders to see what strategies they use to engage youth and families. The sub-committee hopes to complete the summary of the surveys and present to the Task Force by early 2021.</p>	
<p>Objective 7:</p> <p>Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices to support youth transitioning back to their families and communities from corrections, secure detention, and residential programs</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Joel Wieneke and Angela Sutton</p> <p>Joel Wieneke provided the update. Despite the number of surveys/questionnaires being conducted by the other sub-committees, this group will also be conducting a short survey to collect key information on re-entry practices taking place across the State. Dr. Matt Aalsma and one of his post-doctoral students are creating the survey to help them understand the type of re-entry planning taking place, when the planning starts, how families are connected to services and how long the re-entry phase lasts for a typical youth. Nancy Wever asked whether Angela Sutton would remain the co-chair of this sub-committee given her new role at IDOC as Deputy Commissioner of Diversity and Development; Joel said Angela has not indicated that she plans to transition out of this role.</p>	
<p>Objective 8:</p> <p>Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices and policies that integrate the science of child and adolescent development into the justice system's response to children and youth</p>	<p>Co-Chair(s): Judge Pratt and JauNae Hanger</p> <p>No one present to provide update.</p>	



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5. New Business/Presentations			
Topic	Main Points	(R)ecommendations/(D)ecisions	



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<p>Commission Update</p>	<p>Julie Whitman provided the update. The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for December 15 from 10am-noon EST via Zoom. Julie has been focused on this week's election results to determine if there are changes within the Legislative and Executive branches that impact who the Commission will partner with; there do not appear to be any changes at this point. The 2021 meeting schedule has not yet been confirmed as meetings are at the discretion of the Chair. Next year the Commission will be chaired by the Executive Branch; since Gov. Holcomb won reelection, Julie will work with them to see who will serve as Chair.</p> <p>The Youth Engagement Summit went very well; the next step is working to keep the youth engaged and connecting them with policy makers to ensure their recommendations are heard and carried out. There was lots of interest in actively engaging youth in various groups/agencies that work on behalf of youth; VOICES continues to work with the youth to help them with follow up and connect to areas where they expressed interest. Also during the last Commission meeting, there was interest in adding 2 youth members. This would have to be done legislatively since Commission members are named in statute; Julie is drafting legislation. As noted previously, there is no age limit for who is considered a "vulnerable youth;" the only requirement is that the young person was served by DCS, DOC, FSSA or juvenile probation at some point during their teenage years.</p> <p>Julie asked if anyone from the Task Force could provide an update on the group JauNae Hanger convened about juvenile competency. Joel Wieneke said they are drafting juvenile competency legislation and have a sponsor.</p> <p>The CSG assessment is moving forward, they are starting to reach out to various justice system stakeholders to schedule interviews and begin the data assessment. The Task Force working with CSG will convene again in January and will eventually have a report to present. Anyone who has not been contacted by CSG but would like to talk to them can reach out to Julie who will make appropriate connections.</p>	
<p>2021 Meeting Dates</p>	<p>The 2021 meeting dates are: January 8, March 5, May 7, July 9, September 3 and November 5. All meetings are scheduled from 9:00-11:00am EST and will be virtual unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>Judge Galvin expressed his appreciation for Task Force members and all their hard work on behalf of Indiana's children and families.</p>	<p>Ashley Barnett will send meeting invites to all Task Force members.</p>



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6. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)					
Action	Responsibility		Due Date		
Update tracking document with sub-committee goals and timelines.	Sub-committee chairs		Ongoing		
Submit member rosters and written updates for each Task Force meeting.	Sub-committee chairs		Ongoing		
Submit sub-committee minutes to Ashley Barnett	Sub-committee chairs		Ongoing		
7. Adjournment					
Action					Time
Judge Galvin adjourned the meeting.					10:04 am
8. Next Meeting					
Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)	January 8, 2021	Time:	9:00-11:00am	Location:	Virtual
Topics/Objective(s):					