

2014 Interim Report Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

10/31/2014

**Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
Membership Roster**

Brian Bailey

Director
Indiana State Budget Agency

Mary Beth Bonaventura

Director
Indiana Department of Child Services

Vacant

Executive Director
Indiana Department of Correction,
Division of Youth Services

Sen. Travis Holdman

State Senator
District 19

Lilia Judson

Executive Director
Indiana Supreme Court, Division of
State Court Administration

Rep. Rebecca Kubacki

State Representative
District 22

Sen. Tim Lanane

State Senator
District 25

Larry Landis

Executive Director
Indiana Public Defender Council

Susan Lightfoot

Chief Probation Officer
Henry County Probation Department

Dr. John Wernert, M.D.

Secretary
Family and Social Services
Administration

Kevin Moore

Director
Division of Mental Health and Addiction

David Powell

Executive Director
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Rep. Gail Riecken

State Representative
District 77

Glenda Ritz

Indiana Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Hon. Loretta Rush

Chief Justice, Indiana Supreme Court

Sean Keefer

Deputy Chief of Staff for Executive
Branch Agencies, Office of the Governor

Dr. Jerome Adams, M.D.

Indiana State Health Commissioner

Gregory Zoeller

Indiana Attorney

I. DIRECTIVES

In accordance with Legislative Council Resolution 14-01, the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana is charged with studying the following topic:

- A. Under-reporting of crimes against children, including the reasons for under reporting. (HB 1137-2014, SECTION 1 (as introduced); IC 16-19-13-7(a)(3)(A), as added by SEA-227-2014, SECTION 6 (study by the Office of Women's Health or State Department of Health concerning differences between the reporting of crimes of domestic and sexual violence committed against children).

II. SUMMARY OF WORK

On July 16, 2014, Representative Christina Hale and Dr. John Parrish-Sprowl, Co-Director, Global Health Communications Center, IUPUI presented information to the Commission regarding the crimes of domestic or sexual violence study required by SEA 227-2014.

Representative Hale explained the study requires the Office of Women's Health or the State Department of Health to determine the extent to which crimes of domestic or sexual violence are underreported, to identify what crimes of domestic or sexual violence are most commonly underreported, why victims do not report these crimes, to evaluate methods for improving the reporting of the underreported crimes, and make recommendations concerning best practices.

Representative Hale said the goals of the study are to connect victims to the services they need and to prevent these crimes from happening. Representative Hale and Dr. Parrish-Sprowl highlighted some of the challenges with the study. These challenges include how and when to conduct the study, how to define what the study is looking at, how to obtain available data, and how to finance the study. They reported that the Criminal Justice Institute has agreed to fund phase 1 of the study, which costs approximately \$65,000. Preliminary findings for phase 1 of the study are expected to be presented to the Commission in 2015. Funding for phase 2 of the study is being pursued.

Human Trafficking will be the topic of discussion for the November 19, 2014 Commission meeting. Invited presenters include Attorney General Zoeller, Heather Kestian, Department of Child Services, Skylar Whittington, Indiana State Police, Dr. Lisa Elwood, Indiana University, Ms. Marti MacGibbon and Traci McDaniel, Julian Center.

Meeting minutes and other information concerning the work of the Commission can be accessed from the Commissions website at <http://www.in.gov/children/index.htm>.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission during the interim has made no finding of facts or recommendations.