

## Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force

- TF met on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Members (16 in total) have varying backgrounds from around the state:
  - Members from FSSA, Department of Correction, DCS, State Police, Professional Licensing Agency, and alike;
  - Also, have members representing rural areas of Indiana including service providers, social workers, and youth counselors.
- TF plans on creating a mission statement and establishing goals in the in the coming days.
- TF will divide itself into subcommittees based on TF priorities. Members will have the opportunity to choose 1-2 subcommittees of their liking.

Many substance abuse issues were addressed including:

- TF will locate a recent survey performed by DCS and the Judicial Center regarding the availability of services
- DCS is currently gathering data on evidence based practices and the TF will review after that's completed
- TF saw three categories to address initially:
  - Access to services and the disparity of services;
  - Determine best evidence based treatment programs; and
  - Determine best evidence prevention programs
- TF discussed how treatment is provided in the juvenile justice system and its disparities
- TF discussed what payment structures exist, what programs are available, and how do they work
- TF discussed the importance of substance abuse services to expecting mothers
- Discussed the greying of the service provider workforce:
  - Currently, 70% of the behavioral health workforce is 55 and older
  - Possibly partner with universities so students can work with providers. Also, eliminate barriers to this type of access.
- Division of Mental Health and Addiction has a care action plan and the TF will be looking more into this plan
- Explore early intervention and treatment plans
- Determine what the state is currently working on and how much money goes to each – reactive vs. proactive treatment/counseling
- Department of Correction does little to no follow-up treatment on rural youth, nor does it have any program to treat drug and addiction issues in the home
- Explore treatment opportunities for juveniles who are in detention before they go to trial.
- Use metrics to determine what works and what does not

- College students entering the mental health provider workforce are having a hard time finding a job – why is this when there is such a big need for providers?
  - What ways are there to where technology can be used to treat youth in the DOC that also involve their family. For example, using smartphones (Skype or Facetime) for the youth to undergo treatment along with the parent
  - Services cost more in rural areas in part because of the drive times. How do we address this issue?
  - The ways that counties can pay for treatment is inefficient
- 
- The meeting was successful
  - Other issue to be explored: Substance abuse of parents (particularly those homes where youth return from the DOC just to be placed in a drug abusing home)
  - The TF plans to meet again in about 6 weeks to check on the progress of the subcommittees.