

February, 2015

TO: Commission on the Improvement of the Status of Children in Indiana

FROM: Dr. Susan Lockwood, Chair, Education Outcomes Task Force

RE: Comprehensive Statewide Juvenile Reentry Systems Reform Planning Program (OJJDP FY 2014 Second Chance Act)

The Indiana Department of Correction is the recipient of a \$100,000 planning grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to develop a Comprehensive Statewide Juvenile Reentry Systems Reform.

The project is directed by Dr. Susan Lockwood of IDOC/DYS, with support from Dr. Taiping Ho of Ball State University, Mr. Tim Spear, and Ms. Judy McIntosh (education consultants for IDOC/DYS).

Since one of the objectives of the Education Outcomes Task Force is specifically related to transitioning youth to the communities, the Education Outcomes Task Force is fulfilling one of the requirements of the OJJDP planning grant, which calls for a Statewide Reentry Task Force. The purpose of the Statewide Reentry Task Force is to synthesize the information gleaned from the two regional reentry task forces, and assist with the development of the Comprehensive Reentry Strategic Plan. **The Education Outcomes Task Force will act as the Statewide Reentry Task Force for the purposes of this planning grant.**

Additionally, the planning grant calls for two regional reentry task forces. Currently, these regional task forces are co-chaired by Dr. Susan Lockwood, of IDOC/DYS, and Dr. Theresa Ochoa, from Indiana University. One of the regional task forces is located in South Bend, and the second is located in Indianapolis. Both of the regional reentry task forces meet on a monthly basis to work on the objectives of the planning grant.

There are four elements to the planning grant process:

1. Establishing the Reentry Task Forces: These groups inform the development of the comprehensive reentry strategic plan
2. Tracking Recidivism and Other Youth Outcome Improvements: IDOC is in the process of establishing the datasets that will set the baselines for the purpose of measuring recidivism and other youth outcome improvements
3. Developing a Comprehensive Reentry Strategic Plan: This includes identifying the barriers to successful reentry and delineating the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the reentry process
4. Developing Implementation and Sustainability Plans: Through the planning process, **the Statewide Reentry Task Force will be able to inform the Commission if there are specific needs to change overarching policies/practices to advance the success of juvenile reentry.**

Because of the nature of the existing structure already in place, Indiana is well-positioned to complete the planning grant and submit a viable proposal for the implementation grant, which would provide up to \$2 million over four years to implement the comprehensive reentry plan. **As stakeholders identify the barriers to successful reentry, the Commission can support the work through addressing any needed changes in policy or practice to support the OJJDP objectives.**

Also note: It is the intent of the project director to align the work of this planning project with the objectives of the juvenile court.