

**Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana  
Education Task Force  
September 5, 2014  
Indiana Government Center South Building, Conference Rooms 1+2  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Melissa Ambre, Kate Coffman, JT Coopman, Leslie Crist, Leslie Dunn, Laurie, Elliott, Reba James, Rebecca Kubacki, Susan Lightfoot, Kaarin Lueck, Marg Mast, Marilyn Moores, Lenee Reedus, Gail Riecken, Anita Silverman, Susan Lockwood

**Absent:** Cathy Danyluk, Nancy Gettinger, Robert Marra

**Guests:** Kellie Whitcomb

**Assistant:** Amanda Norris, IDOC

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Minutes from July 8, 2014 meeting were approved.

Susan Lockwood called the meeting to order and introduced two new Task Force members: Leslie Crist, from the Department of Workforce Development, and Leslie Dunn, from GAL/CASA.

Kellie Whitcomb, from the Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services, recommended that the Task Force include someone to represent the interests of Juvenile Detention Centers. Susan Lockwood will follow up with this.

Susan Lockwood and Rebecca Kubacki provided the Task Force with a summary of their August 28, 2014 meeting with Dr. Tim Brown, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. They provided Dr. Brown with information regarding funding issues and suggested that Indiana develop a way to apply the school funding formula to every student, whether or not he is court-involved. This would provide funding to students enrolled in schools in Indiana's juvenile correctional facilities. Dr. Brown suggested that Indiana Department of Correction schools be set up like a school corporation and be funded as such. He also asked Task Force representatives to meet with the House Education Committee and make them aware of the issues. Rebecca Kubacki has arranged for a meeting with Rep. Todd Huston and Rep. Robert Behning for October 7, 2014.

The Task Force was provided with an update about Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) collaboration with Oakland City University (OCU) and the American Prison Data System (APDS) to implement a pilot project allowing youth at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility to use android tablets to supplement their access to education and reading content. The project's implementation is underway, with tablet distribution to the youth beginning September 26. APDS has existing pilot projects in the Montgomery County Jail (Maryland), California, and Kansas.

Additionally, Susan Lockwood, Kellie Whitcomb, and Laurie Elliott will meet September 12, 2014, with Mr. John Sonnenberg, from Pearson publishing, regarding the use of GradPoint software at the Vigo County Detention Center. GradPoint is a digital solution offered by Pearson to provide options for blended learning, virtual school, and on-line credit recovery. Vigo County Detention Center, along with the public schools in Vigo County, currently uses GradPoint. The objective of the group is to create a “model” for other detention centers to replicate. The Task Force team will coordinate with Pearson, the local school corporation, and the detention center to build the model. Task Force members asked that in the process of creating the model, the team also report on the associated costs and the benefits of using the software to provide meaningful and relevant programming for the youth.

Kaarin Lueck pointed out programs need to include teachers and teacher assistants to facilitate any use of computers, tablets, or other technology in order to meet the needs of students requiring special education services.

Marilyn Moores described the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center’s new Charter School, which includes a school for youth to return to upon their release from Detention. There was discussion about the funding and members agreed that the public schools were billed for services provided by other entities. Anita Silverman mentioned that Detention Center programming needed to be worthy of billing. Those students who are only at the detention centers for one-two days are basically just “absent from public school” and billing the school corporation for education services didn’t seem fair. Kellie Whitcomb and Laurie Elliott stated the standard for providing education services included enrollment into school at the detention center by Day 3 of the incarceration period.

There was lengthy discussion regarding Transition. Susan Lockwood informed the group of a meeting with Dr. Jeff Pittman, from Ivy Tech’s Corporate College, on September 8, 2014 to discuss Ivy Tech’s ability to offer special support to at-risk youth. Kaarin Lueck suggested that Susan ask Dr. Pittman if Ivy Tech could arrange to make routine visits to correctional facilities and detention centers to make youth aware of their post-secondary options for job training and certification through Ivy Tech. If not routine visits, perhaps a video could be produced and distributed for staff to use with youth in the facilities. Marilyn Moores stated that some youth are not necessarily “college-bound”, but need options for job training and certification. Leslie Dunn added the need to inform youth about careers and financial aid opportunities. Leslie Crist reminded the group of the Work INdiana program offered through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, and the JAG (Jobs for America’s Graduates) program specifically designed for at-risk youth. Kate Coffman informed the group about the Merit Learning Center, and suggested that the Merit staff make a presentation to the Task Force. Also, The Crossing, a faith-based alternative, was brought to the attention of the group. Marilyn Moores and Rebecca Kubacki will arrange for a staff from The Crossing to make a presentation to the Task Force. Marilyn Moores mentioned a “Transition Academy”, required for court-involved/agency-involved youth, in Salt Lake City, Utah, in which youth learned about their options for post-secondary, careers, etc. She also mentioned the National Guard and the opportunities afforded to those youth who joined. Also, it was suggested that the Task Force learn more about the Excel Centers, located across the City of Indianapolis, and their alternative education programming.

An additional topic related to transition included the need for youth to get Driver's Education Training. Kate Coffman mentioned the Indiana Automotive Council and suggested that they provide funding for at-risk youth who need to receive Driver's Education. Rebecca Kubacki stated that she would follow up with this organization and see how they could assist.

Some Task Force members expressed frustration with school corporation policies forcing any court-involved youth to return directly to an alternative placement in the school corporation upon release from detention/corrections. JT Coopman stated that the schools needed to consider the nature of the student's crime, the safety of other students, and the needs of the youth on a case-by-case basis upon reentry into the community.

Susan Lockwood informed the group of a presentation made to the Department of Workforce Development's State Youth Council by Dr. Andrew Melin, the Superintendent of the Greater Clark County Schools. He has developed an extensive program that connects youth to careers. Susan, along with Leslie Crist, will arrange for Dr. Melin to make a presentation to the Task Force.

Chief Justice Rush asked Susan Lockwood to connect with Judge Steve Nation, from Hamilton County, regarding the Youth Assistance Program there. Judge Nation provided Susan with information to distribute to the Task Force, and has said he would be happy to share additional insights through a personal meeting with Task Force members. Gail Riecken mentioned a similar program, "Youth First", in Southern Indiana, and stated that she could arrange for them to present to the Task Force as well.

Finally, Susan Lockwood distributed a Sub-Committee Sign-Up sheet to the Task Force members. Each sub-committee is aligned to one of the five objectives. She stated that many of the presentations, etc. could be done through the sub-committees and the sub-committees could bring recommendations to the Task Force. Kaarin Lueck suggested if sub-committees already knew the positions or recommendations they wanted to make on specific topics, they could draft "position papers" to present as recommendations.

In Open Discussion, Rebecca Kubacki asked Susan Lockwood to prepare a brief presentation for the Commission to bring it up to date on the work of the Education Task Force. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 17, 2014.

Susan Lockwood advised the Task Force of the Allen County Youth Conference scheduled for October 2, 2014, in which Dr. Peter Leone, from the University of Maryland, would present a workshop to participants regarding education in secure settings. Judge Pratt, from Allen County, has arranged for Dr. Leone to spend the following day, October 3, with juvenile detention staff, brainstorming solutions to issues involving the education of the youth. Task Force members are encouraged to participate, and should contact Susan if interested.

Kaarin Lueck and Marilyn Moores expressed serious and immediate concerns about the Indiana Department of Correction's decision to close Camp Summit Juvenile Boot Camp, located in LaPorte, Indiana. They asked, along with other members of the Task Force, to send written communication to Chief Justice Rush informing her of the concerns of the Task Force.

The Education Task Force will meet again Friday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m. with a focus on Transition and Access to Technology.

Please see below for Sub-Committee Assignments:

**Objective #1: Meaningful Programming**

Susan Lightfoot  
Kaarin Lueck  
Kate Coffman  
Laurie Elliott  
Bob Marra  
Susan Lockwood

**Objective #2: Necessary Funding**

Melissa Ambre  
Lenee Reedus  
Marilyn Moores  
Kellie Whitcomb  
Rebecca Kubacki  
Gail Riecken  
Susan Lockwood

**Objective #3: Accountability**

Kaarin Lueck  
Marg Mast  
Anita Silverman  
Nancy Gettinger  
Susan Lockwood

**Objective #4: Technology**

JT Coopman  
Laurie Elliott  
Anita Silverman  
Susan Lockwood

**Objective #5: Transition**

Rebecca Kubacki  
Leslie Dunn  
Kellie Whitcomb  
Lenee Reedus  
Reba James  
Leslie Crist  
Gail Riecken  
Cathy Danyluk  
Susan Lockwood