

Education Outcomes Task Force

Dr. Susan Lockwood, Director of Juvenile Education, Indiana Department of Correction, Chair

Priorities

1. Increase school stability and decrease absenteeism (truancy)
2. Improve transitions for youth from DOC and DCS to other agencies and to the community, including reenrollment into school
3. Increase alternatives for schools regarding youth who would otherwise be suspended or expelled
4. Cross-Task Force work on Substance Abuse Education and Treatment

Members

1. Danielle McGrath, Executive Committee Liaison, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs
2. Melissa Ambre, Indiana Department of Education
3. Dr. J. T. Coopman, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents
4. Leslie Crist, Indiana Department of Workforce Development
5. Cathy Danyluk, Indiana Department of Education
6. Leslie Dunn, Indiana Supreme Court, Division of State Court Administration
7. Laurie Elliott, Youth L.A.W. Team
8. Margaret Gant, Indiana Department of Child Services
9. Hon. Nancy Getting, LaPorte Circuit Court
10. Reba James, Indiana Department of Child Services
11. Rebecca Kubacki, former State Representative
12. Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Probation
13. Dr. Terri Miller, Systems of Care
14. Dr. Theresa Ochoa, Indiana University
15. Lenee Reedus-Carson, Indiana Department of Education
16. Gail Riecken, State Representative
17. Paul Runyan, Hoosier Academy
18. Dr. Anita Silverman, Transitions Academy
19. Julie Smart, Indiana Department of Education
20. Christopher Stilwell, Tri Junior-Senior High School
21. Kellie Whitcomb, Indiana Department of Correction

Meetings

July 9, 2015

September 11, 2015

November 6, 2015

January 8, 2016

March 4, 2016

May 6, 2016

Accomplishments of Past Year

1. Identified three promising initiatives including the Youth Assistance Program (established by Hamilton County Judge Steve Nation), Systems of Care (Department of Mental Health and Addiction), and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.
2. As a result of a federal juvenile reentry planning grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), a comprehensive action plan was developed to improve youth reentry into their communities and schools.
3. A subsequent federal planning grant was received from OJJDP relevant to youth supervision and aftercare. This planning project is still underway, and will lead to further action to improve youth reentry into their communities and schools.
4. Juvenile Detention Standards, specific to the provision of education services to youth, were presented to public school superintendents at their Fall 2015 District Meetings.
5. The Indiana Department of Correction/Division of Youth Services (IDOC/DYS) is partnering with the Youth L.A.W. Team to pilot the use of Gradpoint, an on-line curriculum, in several county detention centers, using licensed teachers to provide oversight to the participating students.
6. Ms. JanNae Hanger, of the Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana, hosted a "Summit on Discipline" in October, 2015. A report from the summit will be available in Summer, 2016.
7. Determined 50% of those youth who are eligible to return to public school upon release from IDOC do not re-enroll. Determined at least 25% of youth between the ages of 18-24 in the State of Indiana do not have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.
8. Noted that there is a high rate of graduation being reported by Indiana's public schools, but also an increased rate of youth between 18-24 attending adult basic education programs through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.
9. Identified a 91% high school graduation rate by those students enrolled in JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) programs in Indiana's public schools. Noted that JAG is not available in every public high school in the state of Indiana.

10. The Sub-Committee on School Discipline and Climate met regularly, and has its own report for the Commission.
11. The Cross-Task Force work with the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force officially began March, 28, 2016 with its next meeting scheduled for May 9, 2016.

Current Action Plan

1. IDOC/DYS leadership will meet with technical assistance providers from the Council of State Government to plan a third Reentry Summit to be held before August, 2016. The Summit will be facilitated by Dr. Roger Jarjoura from the American Institute of Research (AIR) and others contracted through AIR.
2. Create a sub-committee to study the California model of Juvenile Court Schools (<http://www.socratek.com/StateLaws.aspx?id=824858&title=Educationnode&showall=true>) and make recommendations to the Commission regarding its applicability in Indiana.
3. Create a sub-committee to review Indiana's school accountability law and graduation data reported to the Indiana Department of Education, including data specific to "mobility" and "home schooling". The sub-committee will also determine ways for the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana Department of Child Services to work collaboratively to connect youth with appropriate education and career pathways that lead to successful completion of high school equivalency, job certification, and sustainable employment.
4. Continue the work of the Sub-Committee on School Discipline and Climate and the Cross Task Force assignment with the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force, as outlined in their individual reports.
5. Review current membership of the Education Outcomes Task Force and determine the need to make changes or additions.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

1. Reentry Summit will be held by August, 2016, with an updated action plan to be presented to the Education Outcomes Task Force by September, 2016.
2. Sub-Committee on Juvenile Court Schools will be established in May, 2016 with a report to the Education Outcomes Task Force by March, 2017.
3. Sub-Committee on School Accountability and Agency Collaboration will be established in May, 2016 with a report to the Education Outcomes Task Force by March, 2017.

4. Sub-Committee on School Discipline and Climate will report to the Education Outcomes Task Force at each of its 2016-2017 meetings, and any recommendations from the Sub-Committee will be forwarded to the Commission.
5. Task Force members working with the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force will report to the Education Outcomes Task Force at each of its 2016-2017 meetings, and any recommendations will be forwarded to the Commission.
6. Education Outcomes Task Force membership for 2016-2017 will be established by July, 2016.

Recommendations for the Commission

1. Endorse the establishment of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) programs in all public high schools in the State of Indiana.
2. Approve two new sub-committees of the Education Outcomes Task Force:
 - a. School Accountability and Agency Collaboration Sub-Committee
 - b. Juvenile Court Schools Sub-Committee

Anticipated Next Steps

1. Survey agency leadership to identify sub-committee members
2. Approach the Governor's Office and the Department of Workforce Development with Commission endorsement of the need for JAG programming in every public high school in Indiana.