

Commission On Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force

Co-Chairs: Jane A. Bisbee and Dr. Jennifer Walthall

May Report

The Task Force had several specific topics assigned as well as planning for future topics.

Neonatal Incubators/Baby Box

Literature review was completed and presented for discussion by Task Force. The findings of the Task Force were presented to the Commission. The Task Force recommended a robust statewide promotion of the Safe Haven law.

Youth Suicide

A multidisciplinary workgroup made up of members of several Task Forces convened to discuss youth suicide. The Statewide Suicide Plan was reviewed and discussed by the group. An update was presented to the Commission.

Planning for 2016

The Task Force met to plan meeting topics for 2016. The discussion centered on Child Health as Infant Mortality had been the primary focus of the Task Force in previous years. A key component of the plan for 2016 was determined to be concentrating on the use and availability of mental health services for children in Indiana.

The 2016 Task Force plan in regards to mental health issues for children includes:

- **Multiple guest speakers in 2016**
- **Policy barriers**
- **Best practice models**
- **Child health gaps focus**

It is expected that the review of mental health issues for Indiana's children will be the focus of the Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force for most of 2016. The issues are multifaceted and involve a multitude of issues as indicated above.