

Members

Sen. Ronald Grooms, Chairperson
Sen. Jean Breaux
Rep. Wes Culver
Rep. Sheila Klinker
Sally Lowery
Suda Hopkins
Betty Williams
Christopher Durcholz
Susan Ferwerda Hoback
Betty Dunham
Scott Sefton
Sharon Kooi



COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 8, 2013
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Sen. Ronald Grooms, Chairperson; Sen. Jean Breaux; Rep. Sheila Klinker; Christopher Durcholz; Betty Dunham; Scott Sefton.

Members Absent: Rep. Wes Culver; Sally Lowery; Suda Hopkins; Betty Williams; Susan Ferwerda Hoback; Sharon Kooi.

The fourth meeting of the Commission on Developmental Disabilities was called to order at 10:15 A.M. by Sen. Grooms, Chairperson. Members discussed the Commission membership and attendance. In response to a question concerning the inclusion of a direct support professional (DSP) as a member of the Commission, the attorney for the Commission, Ann Naughton, responded that if an appointment was to specify a DSP as a member, then legislation would be required. Members requested that a recommendation be added to the final report supporting the inclusion of a DSP as an appointed member of the Commission.

Guardianship Issues; Becky Prior, Indiana Adult Guardianship Task Force

Ms. Prior reviewed when adult guardianship is necessary, the levels of guardianships that can be assigned by a court, and the growing need for guardianship services. (See the slide presentation in Exhibit 1.) She also distributed to the Commission, a report on adult guardianship in Indiana. (See Exhibit 2.) Ms. Prior discussed the funding history of a model volunteer guardianship program that was initially funded by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS) and subsequently located in the Supreme Court biennial budget appropriations for the Office of Adult Guardianship. Commission questions followed with

¹ These minutes, exhibits, and other materials referenced in the minutes can be viewed electronically at <http://www.in.gov/legislative> Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies.

regard to funding sources and the volunteer nature of the program. Additional questions concerned the necessity for authorizing legislation to establish the Office of Adult Guardianship in statute and the need for adequate funding.

PD 3246 - START Program Evaluation

Senator Grooms introduced the preliminary draft (PD) and explained the draft language. (See Exhibit 3.) He proposed that the estimated funding for the evaluation of \$82,000 would allow it to be funded within the existing level of resources available to DDARS. While all the members present supported the concept of the proposed language, the Commission was unable to take official action due to the lack of a quorum.

Prader-Willi Syndrome; Fred Jackson

Senator Grooms introduced the topic and announced that the testimony to follow concerned a current court case. He explained that the Commission does not interfere with the administrative process. Mr. Jackson stated that he had spoken to the Commission last year on Prader-Willi Syndrome and his daughter Carly's situation. (See Exhibits 4 & 5.) He requested help in convincing DDARS to allow and pay for a continuing out-of-state placement and the commitment to build an in-state facility to accommodate individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Commission questions followed regarding the rarity of the condition, the option of changing state residency, and when the DDARS should consider special high-needs cases.

Visual Preschool Services; Annie Hughes, Visually Impaired Preschool Services, (VIPS), Bloomington

Ms. Hughes reviewed the gap in First Step services for visually impaired infants and toddlers and explained that this group needs a service referral network similar to that put in place for deaf children. She described the not-for-profit VIPS in Bloomington. (See the Brochure in Exhibit 7.) She discussed the services provided to visually impaired children and explained that the Indiana Blind School does not serve children under the age of three years. Commission questions and discussion followed concerning the ability for services to be billed to Medicaid, the financing of VIPS, and the frequency and type of services provided. Ms. Hughes explained the need for funding from the state to provide training and to implement a provider network to be overseen by VIPS. Commission members requested staff to add a recommendation to the final report requesting the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to research the availability of services for visually impaired infants and toddlers under the age of three years.

Draft Final Report

Commission staff reviewed the contents of the draft final report and the proposed recommendations for the members of the Commission. Discussion followed with regard to the specific wording of recommendation #2 concerning the development of a registry for offenders. The members agreed the word "support" should be changed to "explore". Further discussion followed concerning the need for a registry. Mr. Scott Sefton, a Commission member, distributed a document illustrating how Tennessee addressed this issue. (See Exhibit 8.) The Commission could not take official action on the final report due to the lack of a quorum.

Senator Grooms thanked the members for their attendance. After remarks concerning the mission of the Commission by John Dickerson, Executive Director of the ARC of Indiana, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.