

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

November 2013

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Commission on Developmental Disabilities

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A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Commission can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana Commission on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities was established by P.L. 78-1994 to do the following:

- (1) Develop a long-range plan for community-based services for the developmentally disabled; and
- (2) Review, make recommendations, and monitor changes regarding services to the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled population.

P.L. 245-1997 amended the original legislation, extending the life of the Commission to January 1, 2001. P.L. 272-1999 further extended the life of the Commission to January 1, 2005, and added the following responsibilities:

- (1) Review and make recommendations regarding the implementation of a comprehensive plan ("317 Plan") prepared by the Developmental Disabilities Task Force; and
- (2) Review and make recommendations regarding the development of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services of a statewide plan to address quality assurance in community-based services.

P.L. 242-2001 added an annual review of the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program ("First Steps") to the Commission's duties.

In 2002, the Commission was converted to a permanent statutory commission in P.L. 190-2002 (IC 2-5-27.2). In addition, the Commission was required to:

- (1) Study and make recommendations for the state to use state employees or contract with a private entity to manage and implement home and community-based services waivers;
- (2) Study and make recommendations regarding state funding needed to provide supplemental room and board costs for individuals who otherwise qualify for residential services under the home and community-based services waiver; and
- (3) Monitor and recommend changes for improvements in the implementation of home and community-based services waivers.

In 2009, the name of the Commission was changed to the Commission on Developmental Disabilities.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Commission met four times during the 2013 interim: August 6, 2013, August 27, 2013, September 24, 2013, and October 8, 2013. All Commission meetings were held at the State House in Indianapolis. For more detailed information concerning the testimony at a meeting, please see the minutes for the Commission, which can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

At the August 6, 2013, meeting, Ms. Cathy Robinson, Director of the First Steps program, presented the annual update of First Steps. Ms. Melody Cooper, President of Self Advocates of Indiana, provided the members with a review of the activities of Self Advocates during the past year. The Commission heard a presentation by Tim Brown and Dr. Cara Misetic of the Department of Correction (DOC) on identification of developmentally disabled offenders, services available during incarceration, and reentry services provided by DOC. Nicole Norvell, Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS) presented an overview of the organization of the DDARS, the services provided, and the performance metrics used.

At the August 27, 2013, meeting, Nicole Norvell returned to respond to questions asked at the previous meeting. Dr. David Mank, Director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, reviewed the mission of the Institute and gave an overview of the activities of the seven centers of expertise within the Institute. Kim Opsahl, President of the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (INARF), presented an overview of INARF and discussed industry issues. John Dickerson, Executive Director of the ARC of Indiana, reviewed legislative accomplishments of the ARC in the preceding session, discussed issues requiring more study, and mentioned three priority areas requiring ongoing work. Finally, Dee Quaglio, President of Direct Support Professionals (DSP) of Indiana, discussed the dissolution of the pilot program for DSP certification that included classes offered through IV Tech and increased hourly pay upon completion of the educational program.

At the September 24, 2013, meeting, Dee Quaglio, President of Direct Support Professionals (DSP) of Indiana, reviewed the DSP Initiative in more detail. The DSP Initiative was a collaborative pilot program designed to develop an educational and career ladder for direct support providers. Dr. Joan Beasley, Director of the Center for START Services at the University of New Hampshire, presented the concept of the Systematic Therapeutic Assessment, Respite, and Treatment (START) program as an approach to providing appropriate and effective support services for dually diagnosed individuals. George Harris, Director of Crisis Management, AWS Benchmark Program, described the crisis management system put in place in the state of Georgia. Steve Cook, V.P. AWS, testified that the Benchmark program was based on a practice model developed in Indiana and provided background information on the contract for these services the state operated from 2007- 2010.

The fourth meeting was held October 8, 2013. Becky Prior of the Indiana Adult Guardianship Task Force reviewed when adult guardianship is necessary, the levels of guardianship that may be assigned by a court, the growing need for adult guardianship services, and the need for adequate funding. The Commission heard testimony from a parent of an individual receiving services from DDARS. Ms. Annie Hughes of Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS), Bloomington, reviewed the gap in First Step services for visually impaired infants and toddlers and explained the need for a service referral network similar to the network implemented for deaf children. Senator Grooms presented PD 3246 that would require an evaluation similar to the START program, and the Commission reviewed the draft final report. Due to the lack of a quorum, the Commission could take no official action on PD 3246 or the final report.

III. COMMISSION FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PD 3246 Start Program Evaluation

Lacking a quorum, the Commission took no official action.

The Commission made the following recommendations to:

- (1) support the development of a registry of professional guardians to track the number of clients assigned to each guardian.
- (2) explore the development of a registry of offenders convicted of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a developmentally disabled individual.
- (3) support the certification of direct service providers to include an educational component provided statewide by IV Tech or a similar institution.
- (4) support the addition of a direct support professional to the membership of the Commission on Developmental Disabilities.

Approval of the Final Report

The Commission could take no official action due to the lack of a quorum.

WITNESS LIST

Joan Beasley, M.Ed., Ph.D.	Director, Center for Start Services, University of New Hampshire
Tim Brown	Director, Legislative Services, Department of Correction
Steve Cook	Vice-President, Anthony Wayne Services
Melody Cooper	President, Self-Advocates of Indiana
John Dickerson,	Executive Director, The ARC of Indiana
Teresa Grossi, Ph.D.	Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
George Harris	Director, Crisis Management, Anthony Wayne Services
Annie Hughes	Visually Impaired Preschool Services, Bloomington
Fred Jackson	Parent
David Mank, Ph.D.	Director, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
Carra Misetic, Ph.D.	Director, Regional Behavioral Health, Department of Correction
Nicole Norvell	Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
Kim Opsahl	President/ CEO, Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
Becky Prior	Indiana Adult Guardianship Task Force
Dee Quaglio	President, Direct Support Professionals
Cathy Robinson	Director, First Steps Program