



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Leslie Hulvershorn & Sirrilla Blackmon

Date of Submission: 6/10/2019

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Public Promotion

Other: move issue from one task force to another and expand objective

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance:

Child Safety and services Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Educational Outcomes

Summary of Recommendation:

We propose to (1) Move the suicide objective to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task force and (2) Address the issue of parents/guardians refusing mental health care, particularly in the context of suicidal youth.

Background of Recommendation:

Currently, the only objective pertaining to youth suicide is housed within Child Safety and Services Task Force and simply asks the task force to share the work of the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition.

What is the need or problem?

During state-level reviews of youth who have died by suicide, a number of deaths have occurred, in part, due to parents denying access to mental health care for suicidal youth.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

In the experience of surveyed providers, Indiana DCS does not treat this circumstance as medical neglect, resulting in providers using Emergency Detentions to ensure care is provided. Other states have taken other approaches. This issue has not been systematically studied or otherwise addressed in our state.

What is the recommender proposing, and how will it help solve the problem?

We propose to convene a new subcommittee on the Mental Health and Addiction Task Force to understand more about this problem and potential solutions.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

Provider survey during ISDH and DMHA mortality review meetings.

If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.

Click or tap here to enter text.

If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.

Click or tap here to enter text.

If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.