



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Task Force:	Child Health & Safety		
Meeting Date:	1/30/2023	Meeting Time:	10:00 am – 12:00 pm ET
Minutes By:	Sonya Rush Division Director, DCS	Location:	Microsoft Teams

Committee Members		
Name:	Organization:	Attendance: (where x is present)
Kate Schedel: <i>co-chair</i>	IDOH	X
Sonya Rush: <i>co-chair</i>	DCS	X
Angela Reid-Brown	ISC	X
Jeffery Whittman	Prevent Child Abuse	X
Carey Michels	FSSA	X
Elizabeth Wahl	FSSA	X
Hannah Robinson	FSSA	X
Mark Fairchild	Covering Kids & Families	X
Rachael Fisher	Community Health Network	X
Christina Commons	FSSA	
Maureen Greer	IPQIC	
Brittany Winebar	UMass	
Angela Smith-Grossman	DCS	X
Deanna Szyndrowski	SCAN, Inc.	
Julie Whitman	CISC	X
Shannon Schumacher	The Villages	X
Jack Turman	Grassroots MCH Leaders	X
Ashley Mager	Grassroots MCH Leaders	
Stephany Knight	Youth Board Member	
Tammie Carter	LifeSmart Youth	X
Dejuna Rodriguez	Youth Board Member	X
Kristi Linson	IDOH	X
Belinda Drake	IYG	
Clarissa Lovell	CHIP	
Katie Goodwell	FSSA – First Steps	
Sue McKinney	OECOSL	X
Lindsay Williams	IDOH	
Sam Mundt	IDOH	
Minette Kamara	LifeSmart Youth	X
Timike Jones	ICADV	

Agenda & Notes

1. Welcome and Introduction by Kate Schedel
2. Attendance and Introductions: [Welcome to Jeffery Wittman, who is replacing Sandy Runkle](#)
3. Subcommittee Reports
 - 1.1 **Increase access to and use of community-based collaborative efforts that promote wellness in the first year of life, especially in the black communities.**

Team Lead: Jack Turman

- Housing Equity For Infant Health: Huge thank you to Kate and IDOH for funding our HRSA Healthy Beginnings at Home to support rental assistance for moms. We have another grant application in to help with the rest of the coverage.
- Presented all of our work last week at the Statehouse Family Impact Summit
- Jack was picked as a 2022 Thought Leaders for the American Public Health Association for the Grassroots MCH Initiative, Mothers on the Rise, and Housing Health Equity!
- Will be happy to be presenting at the Commission to inform them of our work as well in February
 - Two presentations: 1) Overview of the work you are doing and 2) Proposal and ask to Commission
 - On calendar for February 15, 10 - 12
- Mothers on the Rise (MOTR) – going very well. HOUSING is the biggest issue and #1 barrier we continue to struggle with, so we really want to bring the two projects together and address these together to inform the commission on the critical need that housing plays.
 - Jack really wants people to know the significance of having an eviction on record and how it impacts future housing – Julie will find STATUTE from last session re: having this removed ([HB 1214](#))
- Resources being made: How can we help people know their rights? Health Justice team put these together: Know your Rights documents. Jack will share next meeting.

Housing Equity for Infant Health – Ready to go. Waiting in IU committee approval. IRD Human ethics committee to give final approval. IU data team to approve data use agreement. Will start enrolling moms right away once approval is approved. Everyone is ready to go. Primary source of mothers is Care Source, but there are other partnerships that will provide referrals of mothers. 1 or 2 trimester, housing insecure/homeless and first 50 women must be care source eligible. Then it is open to any Medicaid and housing insecure women.

Mothers on the Rise - Christina and Miranda have left DOC, but everything running smoothly. Fortunate that the Leah Hession, who is overseeing the MCH in the unit, has decided to remain and is heading the program. The program is actually growing. MOR is still a priority for DOC and they are strategizing how to grow it. Share link to website: https://fsph.iupui.edu/doc/research-centers/FINAL-Health-Navitation-Roadmaps-for-Women-in-Prison_reduced.pdf

Mothers in the Justice System – Team is working to prepare ideas for proposals for partnership IU McKinney School of Law and Prison Policy Institute. Increased meetings to prepare recommendations/proposals. 2/15 presentation to the CISC has have been moved to 4/19.

1.2 **Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Indiana (primary prevention)**

Team Co-Lead: Sandy Runkle and Hannah Robinson

- Continuing survey process in Jay, Jackson, Delaware, and Allen: have had stakeholder meetings in all four counties and held 1 focus group with service providers
- Getting ready to hold first parent focus group in Delaware County on December 9. Focus group with parents in Jay County scheduled as well. Once Delaware holds focus groups, we can look at data on progress of community action plan. We have had an issue with getting diversity in the stakeholder group – CASY is assisting us with helping us to come up with plan for diversity. Jay and Jackson are very rural but there has to be some diversity there – we must make sure all voices are heard. We are getting the people, but we want to make sure the CAP has as many community voices as possible.
- Sandy's last day will be January 20 with PCAIN. Has been a pleasure working with you since 2017.
- Jeff Whitman will continue the work and hopefully will identify a replacement by January

Jeffery Wittman – Pilot of framework. * Different counties at different levels of progress. Jay and Delaware have done stakeholder meetings, data and surveys back from Delaware, Jay is soon to come. Ready to have the stakeholder group come back analysis the data and review tools, choose goals and tools and implements a plan. Focus is Implementation. Widen net of Child Abuse and Neglect, Jackson very promising stakeholder meeting. Little bit of stall but ramping back up. (40 people at meeting. LaPorte County – hired a new person to coordinate the framework from there. Allen, Steuben, Wells and Dekalb currently in process of scheduling focus groups. All in year 1 of implementation pilot. For year 2 got verbal from Lake, Porter, Vanderburg, Bartholomew, and Howard. Got some feelers out for a few other counties. Looking to have 8 counties for year 2 of this pilot. Got people on ground in each of the counties. Partnering with SCAN for west side of County. There are different point people in other areas. Jeffery is there for technical support. Lots of creative ideas and super innovative. Shannon shared unique dynamics and partnerships in Delaware County.

1.3 Reduce the number of substantiated reports of abuse of children in state care.

Team Lead: Stephanie & DeJuna

- No update from our youth advisors. Sonya will check in with them to see if there are any updates on this work.

No update:

1.4 Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising models for reducing the sexual victimization of adolescents.

Team Leads: Brittany Winebar

- Terri is no longer serving on CISC. Brittany is in a new position but will continue this work.
- The group is working on definitions and reviewing data to determine next best step. Terri will be leaving this position.
- Planning strategically on where the direction of the group will go and will start working towards the ask and a presentation to the commission.

Tammie Carter - Defining who is adolescent. Last update was working on comprehensive strategies, what would be the biggest impact for our youth. Youth Risk behavior survey is in process. Will get an update from the subgroup and provide to the group in future.

1.5 Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising ways to support adults caring for vulnerable children.

Team Lead: Shannon Schumacher/Angela Smith Grossman

- Kinship Families: Committee working on Kinship Caregivers. Focus on what we can affect in both formal and informal issues. 1) Allow CCDF (childcare vouchers) for kinship adoptions – worked with increasing CCDF but relatives don't qualify as they are not licensed foster parents” Hard with Federal Rules for TANF – been navigating a difficult year with capacity on which kids get waivers. The committee exposes issues on what we can work on outside the committee. As part of DCS we have always had post-adoption support. Now we have pre-adoption services as well. Contract will roll out in the fall to do pre/post adoption.
- Using Kinship Caregivers, but this is DCS staffed and it was difficult to get meaningful feedback from initiatives and efforts about what they need.
- Continue to have a struggle to serve non DCS families. Majority of kids in kinship families are under the age of 6. DCS families average of 7. Most referred for TANF (\$139/family).
- Replan for 2023.

Shannon Schumacher – Changes in subcommittee. Not meeting as a subcommittee. Discussion to engage Kin Families. Most families are not involved with DCS. There was difficulty getting family input. DCS is going out to the support groups quarterly and asking questions. Will take information and determine what needs to be changed. A hurdle was getting children enrolled in school. Was able to get confirmation that caregivers can enroll children. Other hurdle is Child Care Vouchers. Kin need to be able to get vouchers with same criteria as foster parents. Angela and her team met with support group last week. Paying for concrete supports (basic needs), The Villages Family Connection Network is focusing more on the concrete supports starting January 1. Already awarded \$17, 000 to kin families for rent, utilities, childcare. Not advertising far and wide because now you do not have to be engaged in case management. More than 50,000 without DCS involvement. School systems, DCS. Not statewide, only Marion

County and surrounding counties. Have a child 0-18. The Villages are raising funds for these concrete funds. How do we fund support for the families? Scheduled to present to CISC in April.

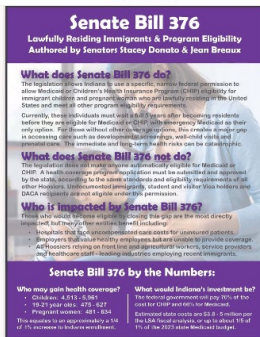
1.6 Increase access to healthcare and developmental screens by decreasing the child uninsured rate.

Access to healthcare Team Lead: Mark Fairchild

- Did bring a recommendation to the commission last meeting, and it was successful. It was endorsed by CISC and now will put together legislation. There is a \$5 million dollar price tag, so we will put it through the legislature.
- Senators Breaux and Donato putting it through – FSSA is supportive in worst case scenario. Rep Bauer and Ed Claire as a carry on the other side. Just dotting I’s and crossing t’s and hope for a smooth process with commitments over summer to maternal and child health. Especially looking at one of the highest risk groups
- Most immigrants have means when coming into the US for the legally residing path but hit some hardship since coming to the US.
- This will move to the IPQIC Governing Council in January.

Presented to CISC last year about lawfully residing vulnerable women and children. Now has the backing of Senators Breaux and Donato who have backed a bill seeking to cover the individuals. There is approval for a hearing. Very specific and narrow federal permissions to get Medicaid and CHIP matching funds. Small fiscal impact to the state to get 6000 pregnant women and children covered. Right now only medical access is emergency room. Current bill:

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2023/bills/senate/376>. There is also a factsheet: [SB 376 Handouts and Samples](#)



Medicaid is now in its own space separate from the Medical Crisis. Subcommittee is currently not meeting due to legislation.

Development Screening Team Leads: Christina Commons and Kristi Linson:

- We have been meeting with NASHP (National Academy of State Health Policy) and working to narrow down how to move forward in this project with their technical assistance.
- Best course of action is to utilize the IWB – researching where we can hold this data and still seeking linking this with CHIRP.
- Clarissa is working on the dashboard for Medicaid enrolled children – will review this over the next few weeks
- Had presentation last week from ECCS grant, with summary of the work that happened in the Indy Promise Zone.
- One barrier for data is we only have this information from Medicaid as of now. We already know this screening rate is low already

Working with Immunization group at IUH. Possible add developmental screening to CHIRP. Meeting with other states to see if it is affective. Lots of different entities have access to CHIRP. Not yet final, but record may need to start with the medical providers, but other providers would be able to see the record. Hope to reduce duplication of screenings and reduce confusion. They are also developing one pagers. Most developmental screenings are being completed in many locations by many different providers. The family is the primary person who needs to be invested. Understand the language and the different milestones.

1. Next Council Meeting: December 7, 10am – 12 ET
 - o Reception next door at noon. Celebrate another year on behalf of Indiana's kids and families.
 - o Following meetings set for 2/15, 4/19, 6/21, 8/16, 10/18, and 12/20/2023. They will move back to Government South building.
2. For Mark – keep Julie posted if a bill gets filed, and she will go to endorse.
3. Officially leaving in 2023. My last day will be February 17, and will be going to Lilly Endowment
 - o Job will be posted in December, would love to have someone in this role who knows the Commission but can bring things that I haven't brought.
4. Working to get the next Strategic Plan in place – had a retreat in early November and took data from our Impact Evaluation and will be putting it all together into a draft. Could we have a greater impact if we have a narrower focus? Yes, but there is nothing that we feel like we can drop! How do we prioritize this?

Julie only has 2 weeks left in current role. Finalist interviews this week. Hopefully the Commission will adopt the Strategic Plan. Provided a view of the objectives for this Taskforce:

Improve the Health and Safety of Vulnerable Children and Youth

1. **Increase community-based social and concrete support for families with children, including those being cared for informally by relatives**
2. **Increase housing stability for families with children**
3. **Recommend ways to increase the power and voice of children in State Care**
4. **Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising models for promoting healthy teen relationships, preventing unplanned pregnancy, and reducing the sexual victimization of adolescents**
5. **Increase access to early intervention for vulnerable young children**

Proposal to Commission will also include the role of Committees. There has not been a good way to mesh the work. Proposal is to have an equity expert and a trauma expert in each group.

List of General proposals/recommendations:

How the Commission communicates with local collaboratives? Establish a two-way communication pipeline. Need to get more stakeholders who do the work to sign up for updates from the Commission. This need came out of the evaluations.

Increase youth and family engagement on the Commission. There has been a request for some funding for the Commission. Money has been added to the state budget bill. Will allow for another fulltime staff and funding for stipends for youth and family participation.

Track bills that relate to children. Posted on Commission website. Helpful if you don't have time to watch Legislation.

There is a plan for a Conference this year. Case Family Programs has \$55,000 set aside for a Youth and Family Summit. The theme is prevention. Bring youth and family advisory boards from around the State to develop the summit. There is a list of those who have volunteered to serve on the planning committee.

5. Reminders
 1. Next Council Meeting on 2/15/2022 at Indiana Government Center South - Conf Rm A
 2. 2023 meetings will be virtual