



Child Health and Safety Task Force

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2024

The Child Health and Safety Taskforce met on September 30, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Minutes were prepared by Kate Schedel (co-chair).

Members Present:

The following members of the Committee were present via Microsoft Teams:

- Kate Schedel, co-chair, Indiana Department of Health (IDOH)
- Sonya Rush, co-chair, Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)
- Tammie Carter, LifeSmart Youth
- Olivia Clark, Indiana Department of Health (IDOH)
- Christina Commons, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)
- Rachael Fisher, Riley Children's Health
- Katie Goodwell, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)
- Maureen Greer, Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Council (IPQIC)
- Kristi Linson, Indiana Department of Health
- Susan McKinney, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)
- Carey Michels, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)
- Hannah Milner, Foster Success
- Sam Mundt, Indiana Department of Health (IDOH)
- Derika Parris, Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana
- Shannon Schumacher, The Villages
- Angela Smith-Grossman, Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)
- Willie Taylor, Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)
- Dr. Jack Turman, Indiana University, Grassroots Maternal and Child Health Initiative
- Elizabeth Wahl, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Brittany Winebar, Prevail Inc.
- Jeff Wittman, Prevent Child Abuse IN

Staff/Guests Present:

Mark Fairchild (CISC), Blane Cook (CISC), Karen Hayden (DCS).

Welcome and Introductions:

Kate began the meeting and welcomed members and guests at 10:00am.

Approval of Minutes from the July 29, 2024 Meeting:

The minutes were unanimously approved.

New Strategic Objectives:

Increase community-based social and concrete support for families with children, including those being cared for informally by relatives:

Karen Hayden, DCS

- Karen shared that DCS is currently refining assessment tool for and have identified a few areas to change in the assessment tool. More details to come on this.
- Still working with the kinship advisory board, which was revamped at the beginning of 2024. They have taken the time to learn about what each agency does, understand the families they serve, and how we can better identify kinship families when they come in the door and improve what we can offer them. Now we can prioritize kinship OUTSIDE of DCS (e.g. – families enrolling in food stamps or Medicaid). Meeting again on November 19 – will work to identify and share resources and better open doors for kinship caregivers.
- Federal DCS grant approved until 9/30/2025 (note: slightly reduced amount of funding). Starting yearend report for grant. Working through stipend and new licensing track, but it is currently on pause for now due to the adoption subsidy.)

Increase housing stability for families with children:

Dr. Jack Turman, Indiana University

- HRSA Funded Housing Grant update: will be reported out at the October Commission. Excited to share data from first cohort, CareSource, and financial information.
- Update – 24 of 25 participated have delivered babies and 19 of 24 had healthy full-term infants for moms that were considered medically fragile. Some were twins and came early and are already high risk. We did have one fetal loss.
- Have three new moms enrolled and are getting housed. The next group is already in line for October enrollment. Overwhelmed with the number of pregnant women reaching out for housing assistance – the need is there, and this program cannot serve them all right now.
- The first 11 enrolled participants now have sustainable Section 8 housing!
- The Housing Justice Conference had 76 attendees and was a success. Two project officers from HRSA attended.
- We will help seal all evictions for all participants, helping increase credit scores with all participants via Credit Karma, and helping assist with other costs.

Recommend ways to increase the power and voice of children in state care:

Hannah Milner, Foster Success

- Working on strategic planning with IDOH for both Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs and Adolescent/Young Adults.
- Recently trained 15 youth in Youth Mental Health First Aid.
- Starting new contract year for youth advisory board at Foster Success and ensuring teens/young adults are getting educated on health insurance coverage and Medicaid coverage knowledge and use from 18 – 26 years of age.
- Just released **annual impact report** (<https://fostersuccess.org/project/2023-cover/>). Around 30% of youth don't know if they have healthcare coverage or how to use it.
- Youth Impact Day – coming up soon! (see flyer attached to email)
- Mark and CISC will think about where this group will stand in the future strategic plan.

Increase access to early intervention for vulnerable young children.

Kristi Linson (IDOH) /Christina Commons (First Steps)

- IPQIC committee continues to work with other states and agencies to learn and now will move to put an action plan into place. The council will set goals and action plan to increase developmental screening and taking realistic action steps and get referrals into needed programs. They intend to support families in their children's development and will continue to tackle where to house the data and work on Help Me Grow

Willie Taylor (DCS) and Jeffrey Whittman (PCAIN)

- Grant from Casey Family Programs – 2 of 3 events have been completed.
 - Lawrence Transportation Panel (April) with follow up report/resource list
 - Brown County – put together community baby shower last weekend. Overall: 62 children and grandchildren served with the event. Over 16 community partners put the event on at the local YMCA. They had 13 car seat installations and some free car seats distributed, 8 people took safe sleep courses, six volunteers worked at info table, and 27 exit surveys collection. Very successful and now group wants to continue working together.
- Increasing involvement of youth voice – would like to identify where they are, who is the leader. Is anyone able to get this list together. (CISC intern is doing this, and Kate will introduce them to FSSA team).
- Thriving Families work – working on Family Resource Center development and collaboration between FRCs and lived experience experts. Will continue to bring together parent & practitioners and work on building support together.
- CPCS team is scoring RFPs for 2025 – may have new service providers starting in July 2025. It had a strong applicant pool. SIFN – new network to connect and locate all CBOs operating similarly to FRCs. IYSA is having annual Grand Royale on October 10 (in email below, though registration deadline just passed).

Executive Director Update

Mark Fairchild

- Ready for the October meeting – BEST Youth Initiative update (youth voices and chronic absenteeism) and Dr. Turman will present.
- BYI Updates
 - The Forum for Youth Investment team will put together a report of all the interviews they completed during their site visit. Will do series of youth and parent focus groups next
 - Will be making a pitch for another coordinator for parent/youth voices aspect – is there a way to support all the groups that are out there and offer opportunities to bring these groups together.
- Will have youth day at the statehouse in February.
- Strategic sharing series for youth and sharing their stories. Will be a series of 3 webinars starting at the end of next month.
- December 11 presentation from each task force at the commission meeting (10 – 15 mins update).

Other Partner Updates

- Pregnancy Promise – Elizabeth Wahl or Carey Michels
 - Continue to enroll moms across the states, surpassed over 1000 moms enrolled! Serve 90 of 92 counties. Recently awarded SAMSHA grant funding to expand to all substance use (beyond opioid use).
- DCS – Sonya Rush
 - DCS is evaluated every 4 years and need to do better. Did establish goals – looking at safety, engagement, supervisor capacity, how family matching is done, recruitment and retention of foster homes, and working with court system. Official launch is coming soon.
- IDOH – Kate Schedel
 - Youth Advisory Board: Toolkit created for others hoping to do the work.
 - YRBS 2023 data is out – should be a dashboard coming soon.
 - CYSCHN – what are we currently seeing across agencies and professions, and how can we plan for the best use of our grant funds.
- Upcoming Events
 - Youth Impact Day on Saturday, October 19, 1 – 5pm, Lafayette (flyer attached). The event will focus on pregnancy and parenting youth.

Reminders

Next Commission meetings: 10/16, 12/11

Next Task Force meetings: 11/25