



Commission on
Improving the
Status of Children

Commission on Improving the Status of Children

OCTOBER 15, 2025

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

Agenda

2. Consent Agenda

Action: Approve Minutes from the August 2025 Meeting

Agenda

3. Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth Task Force Recommendation

- a. Recommendation regarding family access for youth in secure detention
 - Nancy Wever, Task Force co-chair
 - Joshua Nichols, Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA) President



Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth Task Force

**A Task Force of the Commission on Improving the
Status of Children in Indiana**

October 15, 2025

Members



Judge Holly Harvey – Co-Chair

Monroe Circuit Court – Division 7

Nancy Wever – Co-Chair

Indiana Office of Court Services

Steve Balko

Indiana Department of Education

Amber Becker

Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Ann Davis

Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)

Terrie Decker

Indiana Department of Correction, DYS

Judge Kim Dowling

Delaware Circuit Court 2

Tracy Fitz

Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Mike Goodwin

Department of Child Services

JauNae Hanger

Waples & Hanger

Liz Houdek

Indiana Public Defender Council

Waylon James

Department of Child Services

Jill Johnson

*Marion County Public Defender Agency,
Juvenile Division*

Samantha Lewis

Wayne County Probation

Joshua Nichols

Indiana Juvenile Detention Association

Kiarra Pearson

Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Leah Pezzarossi

Open Door Youth Services

Kaylee Price

Lived-Experience Community

Colleen Saylor

Indiana Office of Court Services

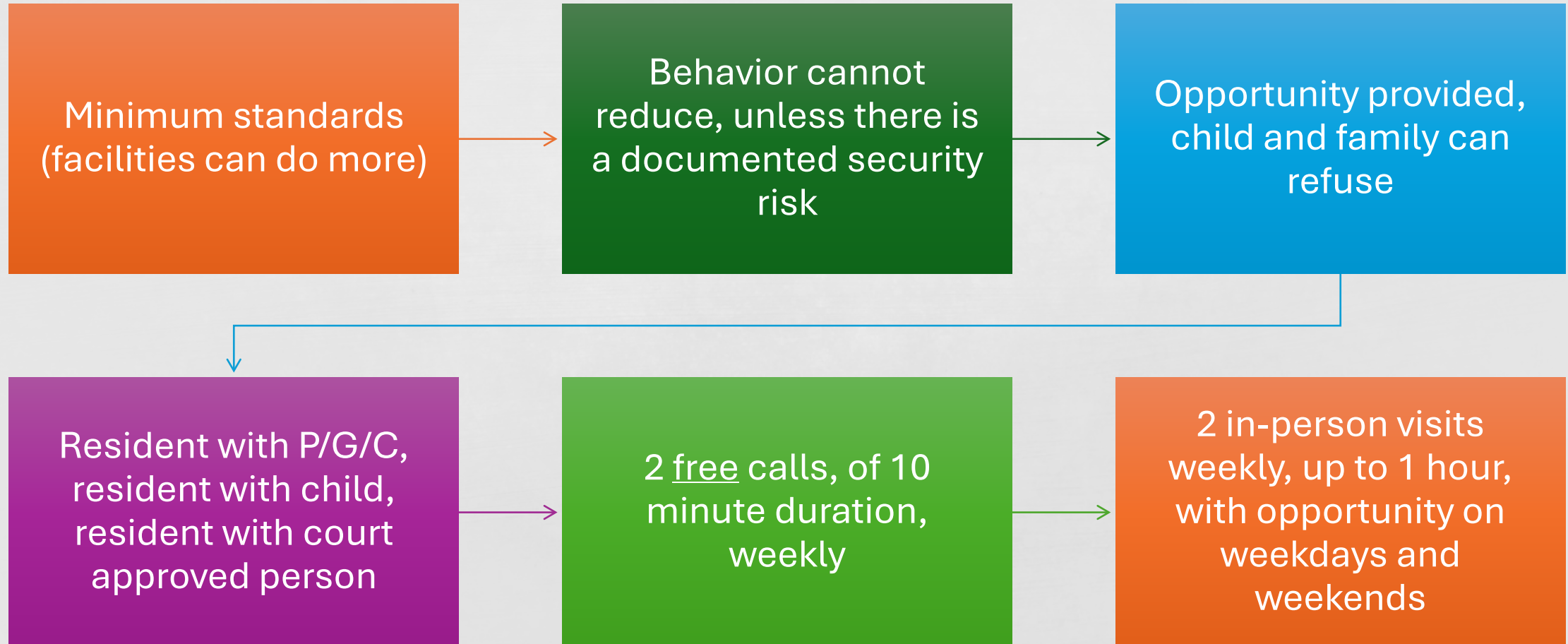
Ellen Sheets

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Joel Wieneke

Child Advocates

Proposed Legislative Initiative on Family Access in Juvenile Detention (Overview)



Indiana Juvenile Detention Association

Response To Proposed Legislation Regarding Right Of
Children In Detention Facilities To Have Access To
Family



Variety of Perspectives

- Survey indicated that there are a variety of perspectives and approaches to visitation.
- Not all facilities are fully supportive due to concerns regarding time constraints and staffing.
- Nearly 98% of facilities recognize importance of family contact

Facility Responses

- Nearly 78% of facilities responded in some form to the survey (via web form, or telephone)
- 33% of facilities that had not previously responded to the survey did respond on a second attempt

Impact

- Current practices align with 210 IAC Article 8 standards
- Juvenile Detention Centers do not anticipate fiscal impact
- Facilities already equipped to manage visitation.
- Largest concern was number of visits per week and the duration of the visit.

Commitment of IJDA

- IJDA will work with Juvenile Detention Centers to implement any new legislative practices into facilities.
- IJDA would serve as a liaison through the legislative process and implementation to juvenile detention centers across the state.





**Thank you for the
opportunity to do
this work!**

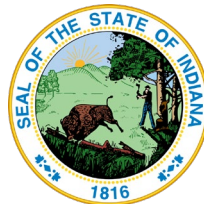


Agenda

- 4. Strategic Planning Update
 - a. Patrick Freeland, Forum for Youth Investment
 - b. Commission Discussion and Q&A

Strategic Planning Highlights from September

Patrick Freeland, Director of Statewide
Quality Improvement Systems, Forum for
Youth Investment



CISC Strategic Planning Goals

- **Goal 1:** Improve the health and safety of vulnerable children and youth
- **Goal 2:** Increase access to quality mental health and addiction services for children and their families
- **Goal 3:** Improve educational outcomes of vulnerable youth
- **Goal 4:** Improve safety and outcomes of youth who come into contact with the justice system
- **Goal 5:** Improve outcomes for youth related to suicide, bullying, and online safety.



Strategic Planning Highlights –9/23/25

Purpose of the Session:

- Bring CISC members together to deepen shared understanding of its five strategic goals
- Clarify CISC's unique role in these goals
- Further establish baseline metrics and targets

What We Did Together:

- Conducted a hands-on Gallery Walk to define CISC's unique value-add across each goal.
- Facilitated goal-specific small group deep dives focused on metrics, outcomes, measures of success, timelines, and key leverage points.



Emerging Themes Across all 5 Goals

CISC Members Identified:

- **Centering Youth Voice:** Across all goals, participants emphasized engaging young people and those with lived experience in shaping solutions.
- **Avoiding Duplication & Silos:** The group consistently noted the importance of aligning with existing efforts and building bridges across systems.
- **System Flexibility & Data Use:** Success depends on CISC promoting adaptive, data-informed strategies while allowing local flexibility.
- **Non-Punitive, Equity-Based Approaches:** Many reflections prioritized trauma-informed, inclusive, and preventative strategies over punitive ones.



CISC Next Steps



Agenda

5. Department of Child Services Older Youth Initiatives

a. Anisa Evans-Tucker, DCS



Older Youth Services Overview

Presenters: Anisa Evans-Tucker, MSW - Older Youth Initiatives Manager

Older Youth Practice and Policy

Older Youth
Services

Older Youth
Case
Management



Older Youth Case Management – Planning for Exiting Foster Care

- Youth Driven Child and Family Team Meeting
 - Begins at age 14 and reviewed every 6 months.
 - Reviews Case Plan
 - Permanency Options
 - Service Needs i.e.: **Older Youth Services**, Community Based Services
- Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood & Transitional Service Plan



Older Youth Case Management – Planning for Exiting Foster Care

- Transition Plan for Successful Adulthood (Document) – Reviewing the independent living service needs of youth as they emerge into adulthood.
- Transitional Service Plan – Completed 90 days before the youth 18th birthday. To ensure youth transition successfully and experience positive outcomes.
- Both plans address the following:
 - Vital Documents and Health Records
 - Housing & Transportation
 - Employment / Education
 - Successful Adulthood Preparation: Self – Care, Daily Living Skills, Supportive Connections
 - Financial and Asset Management, i.e.: Money Management



Older Youth Case Management – Court Process

- Youth age 14 and older should be engaged in the court process.
 - Explain the court hearings
 - Prepare youth for court hearing
 - Ensure youth have an opportunity to attend the court hearing.
 - Ensure youth complete the youth court report and have an opportunity to speak in court or with the judge.
 - The court makes the final decision and ruling in all court proceeding including case closure hearings.

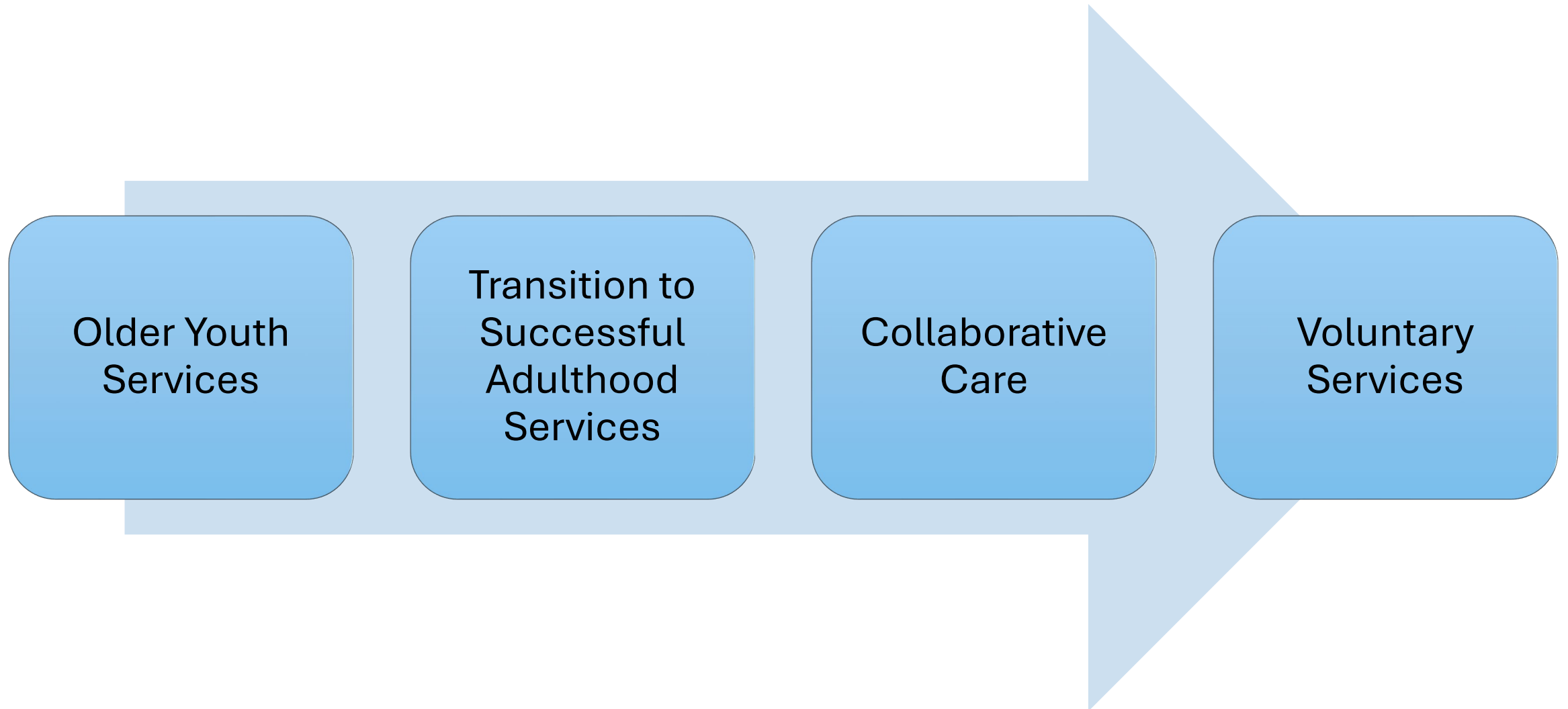


Older Youth Services

- Older Youth Services (OYS) are available to eligible Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and Juvenile Delinquent/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) youth to assist the youth in preparing to successfully transition to adulthood.
- Youth in out of home care, i.e.: Foster Care
 - Begins at age 16
- Services after case closure
 - Case Plan of Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA)
 - Closure at age 18 or older
 - Voluntary Services



Older Youth Services – Continuum of Care



Older Youth Services

Older Youth Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OYS begins at age 16 and primarily focuses on developing independent living skills. OYS can be provided concurrently with other case plan goals such as reunification, guardianship, or adoption.
Transition to Successful Adulthood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TSA begins at age 17.5 and primarily focuses on providing intensive independent living and transitional services to assist youth who are expected to age out of foster care. Includes extended foster care placements for youth at age 18.
Collaborative Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CC begins at age 18 and provides extended foster care placement and supervision while youth continue to work on their successful adulthood learning plan goals. Must meet federal eligibility requirements.
Voluntary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VS begins at age 18 and provides after care services to young adults whose case closed due to aging out of foster care or whose case close due to guardianship and adoption at age 16 or older.



Older Youth Services & Program Terminology

- Opt-In or Opt-Out: Youth can opt in or opt out of extended foster care, i.e.: Collaborative Care. The program is a voluntary program.
- Continuation of Services: Youth can continue placement and services through the Transition to Successful Adulthood Services program with an open CHINS case.





Contact Information

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DCS Older Youth Initiatives Website:
<https://www.in.gov/dcs/older-youth-initiatives/>



Agenda

6. Executive Director Report

a. Mark Fairchild

Agenda

7. Commission member announcements and adjournment

2026 Meeting Dates

- December 10, 2025
- February 18, 2026
- April 22, 2026
- June 17, 2026
- August 19, 2026
- October 21, 2026
- December 16, 2026