



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Meeting Minutes

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
Indiana Government Center South

- Audrey Arbogast, Chief of Staff, Indiana Secretary of Health & Family Services
- Emma Blackwell, Youth Representative
- Bernice Corley, Executive Director, Public Defender Council
- Jada Cuttriss, Youth Representative
- Terrie Decker, Executive Director, Division of Youth Services, Indiana Department of Correction
- Representative Dale DeVon
- Senator Stacey Donato
- Aaron Hood, Chief Administrative Officer, Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
- Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary, Indiana Department of Education
- Hon. Dana Kenworthy, Court of Appeals of Indiana
- Jennifer Dorfmeier, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Chris Naylor, Executive Director, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Mitch Roob, Secretary, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Chad Ranney, Indiana State Budget Director
- Todd Rokita, Indiana Attorney General (non-voting member)
- Sarah Sailors, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Representative Vanessa Summers
- Eden Bezy (non-voting member for Dr. Lindsay Weaver, State Health Commissioner, Indiana Department of Health)
- Senator Shelli Yoder

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Representative DeVon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and invited members to introduce themselves. Representative DeVon welcomed Jennifer Dorfmeier as the interim director of the Indiana Department of Child Services.

### 2. Consent Agenda

**Action:** To approve the minutes from the February 2026 meeting, took by consent and approved unanimously 10-0.

### 3. Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAIN) Updates

**Shannon Schumaker, CEO of The Villages & Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Indiana**  
**Dr. Nicolle Probst, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana**

The presentation can be found on slides 4-18 of the [meeting slides](#). Shannon Schumacher introduced herself and her role. Shannon acknowledged April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and reviewed the mission and vision of

Indiana's chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. She shared data on the current state of child abuse in Indiana. She emphasized the leading contributing factors to child abuse and neglect. She summarized Prevent Child Abuse Indiana's prevention framework, focused on increasing awareness, education, partnership, and local support. Nicholle Probst explained the intended impact of the Eyes on the Child campaign; an initiative focused on internet and water safety. Nicholle opened the floor for questions.

**Discussion:**

Sarah Sailors noted that not all counties in Indiana have established local prevention councils and asked about barriers in participating in these efforts.

Jennifer Dorfmeier suggested possible collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources water safety program to increase utilization of PCAIN's water safety badge initiative.

#### 4. Handle With Care Update

**Chelsie Irwin, Indiana Department of Health**

The presentation can be found on slides 19-35 of the [meeting slides](#). Chelsie Irwin introduced herself and her role as the Director of Youth and Family Programs with the Indiana Department of Health. She explained that the goal of her work is to better understand and expand education on adverse childhood experiences. She shared that the Handle with Care program provides a free platform for first responders to send a confidential notification to a child's school if the child has been involved or witnessed a traumatic event. Chelsie emphasized the confidentiality of the information shared about a child with their school. She shared that the Indiana Department of Health is partnering with the Indiana University School of Social Work to evaluate the program's effectiveness. Chelsie opened the floor for questions.

**Discussion:** Representative DeVon suggested collaborating with the Commission for Higher Education. Judge Kenworthy asked if Handle with Care has collaborated with Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAIN).

#### 5. School Attendance Update

**Stephen Balko, Indiana Department of Education**

The presentation can be found on slides 37-47 of the [meeting slides](#). Stephen introduced himself and his role as the State Attendance Officer. He explained that the Indiana Department of Education has signed on to participate in the national Attendance Works Challenge. He shared current statewide attendance data, reviewed the Attendance Insights Dashboard, shared an update on the Attendance Resource Guide, and gave an overview of the Early Warning Identification System. Stephen opened the floor for questions.

**Discussion:** Representative Dale Devon asked how Indiana attendance data compares to other states.

#### 6. Executive Director Report

**Mark Fairchild, Executive Director**

The presentation can be found on slides 48-70 of the [meeting slides](#). Mark reviewed bills that touched on foster youth rights, redaction of court records, boards and commissions, and child safety.

#### 7. Commission Member Announcements & Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.