



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Meeting Minutes

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Indiana Government Center South

- ☒ Emma Blackwell, Youth Representative
- ☒ Bernice Corley, Executive Director, Public Defender Council
- ☒ Jada Cuttriss, Youth Representative
- ☒ Aleanya Moore (non-voting member for 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
- ☒ Brooke Huntington (non-voting member for 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
- ☒ Eric Miller (non-voting member for 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
- ☒ Jamie Smith (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.

### 2. Consent Agenda

**Action:** To approve the minutes from the April 2026 meeting, took by consent and approved unanimously 9-0.

### 3. KIDS Count Indiana Data

**Ashley Haynes, Indiana Youth Institute**

The presentation can be found on slides 5-43 of the [meeting slides](#). Ashley Haynes shared the Indiana Youth Institutes organizational mission and goal. Ashley reviewed the Kids Count Data Book and how it is utilized to track trends and compare outcomes nationally. Ashley shared that the data in the Kid Count report can be found on the data dashboard of the IYI website.

**Discussion:** Discussed accessibility of mental health resources in rural communities. Judge Kenworthy asked for clarification on the definition of “drop out” as it pertains to the overall graduation rate, specifically students who withdraw to homeschool or alternative education.

#### 4. 2027 Legislative Engagement Preparation Discussion

**Mark Fairchild, Executive Director**

The presentation can be found on slides 44-51 of the [meeting slides](#). Mark Fairchild reviewed legislation regarding reintroduction of visitation for youth in secure detention, GAL/CASA Interim Fiscal Policy and extension and revision to CISC legislative charge.

**Discussion:** Mark addressed membership of the Interim Fiscal Policy Committee is still actively being solidified. Rep. Vanessa Summers asked for clarification on the Voices Committees role in reviewing and providing recommendations on vulnerable youth language in code.

#### 5. Executive Director Report

**Mark Fairchild, Executive Director**

The presentation can be found on slides 52-54 of the [meeting slides](#). Mark reviewed Safe Baby Court teams progress report, YJOC integration update and CISC Staffing Updates. This Commission recognized and expressed its sincere appreciation for CISC Coordinator Blane Cooks’ years of dedicated service and contributions to the Commission, wishing him continued success in his future endeavors. The Commission welcomed Alayna (Aly) Leonard as the new CISC Coordinator.

#### 6. Commission Member Announcements & Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.