

Child Service Oversight Committee Task Force
Approved Minutes

Wednesday, January 11 at 10:30am in Conference Rm. A

Child Support Bureau 40th Anniversary- Cynthia Longest, DCS Deputy Director of Child Support

Since 1976, Indiana's IV-D Child Support Program has worked to ensure every Hoosier child has the financial support of both parents, regardless of whether the parents live together or apart. In Indiana, one in six Hoosier children are impacted by the Title IV-D program, which distributes more than \$575 million in child support payments annually.

To commemorate the program's 40th Anniversary, the DCS Child Support Bureau (CSB) has launched two initiatives:

1. Introducing more convenient ways for non-custodial parents to make a child support payment. For more information about child support payment options, visit childsupport.in.gov/pay
2. Eliminating the \$25 fee for applicants. For more information about available services and how to apply, visit childsupport.in.gov/apply

DCS Legislative Agenda – Parvonay Stover, DCS Legislative Director

1. Duty to Report Child Abuse & Neglect • Amend statute to prohibit schools from setting internal policies that restrict or delay any employee's duty to immediately report suspected abuse/neglect to DCS • Require mandatory child abuse/neglect training for school employees • Add language clarifying that infants born drug-positive must be reported to DCS
2. Safe Haven Clarification • Amend Indiana's Safe Haven law (IC 31-34-2.5) to explicitly state that surrenders of unwanted infants must be made to a person – not a place (ex. parking lot, doorstep, or "baby box") • Amend IC 35-46-1-4(c)(1) (defense to criminal liability) to state that surrendering an infant in a "baby box" does not provide the person with Safe Haven immunity to child abandonment charges
3. Driver's Licenses for Foster Youth • Amend statute to waive the fee for foster youth to obtain driver's licenses or learner's permits
4. Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Statute Regarding Drug-Positive Newborns • Update statute to explicitly state that infants born with controlled substances in their bodies, including positive tests of the blood, meconium, and urine, are considered CHINS
5. Parental Drug Screens • Amend statute to allow judges to compel parents of DCS-involved children to submit to drug tests
6. Fee for Fingerprint Checks for Prospective Adoptive Parents • Amend IC 31-19-2-7.5 to allow DCS to pay the fingerprinting fee for adopting a child under DCS care
7. Restore CHINS 3 Statute (sexual/other offenses against children) • Legislation was passed in the 2016 session that inadvertently removed language under the CHINS 3 statute (IC 31-34-1-3) that allowed DCS and the court to intervene in cases where a child is the perpetrator and other children are living in the home – this proposal would restore that language

8. Voluntary Termination of Parental Rights by a Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA) • Amend statute so that when LCPAs file petitions to voluntarily terminate parental rights, they must do so in furtherance of an adoption or other appropriate permanency plan
9. Concurrent Permanency Planning • Add statutory definition of “concurrent planning” to allow DCS to make diligent efforts in furtherance of two different permanency plans. This will align statute with current practice.
10. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) • Amend statute to allow DCS to share information on missing children with NCMEC
11. Assessment Information for Children of Military Parents • Amend language added in HEA 1271 (2016) to say that if a parent of a child who is the subject of a substantiated investigation of abuse or neglect is an active duty military member, DCS shall notify the U.S. Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program of the assessment upon request
12. Restricted Driver’s License Statute (Child Support) • Title 9 (the BMV statute) was amended in 2015 to replace “restricted licenses” with “court ordered specialized driving privileges.” This proposal amends Title 31 (the DCS statute) to conform to these changes.

Quarterly Data Update – Doris Tolliver, DCS Chief of Staff

Child support performance data has gone up in all four areas from FFY 2015 to FFY 2016. There has been an increase in turnover for family case managers from SFY 2015 to SFY 2016. DCS is trying to implement programs that will help with retention, such as a distinguished employee for each month and other positive reinforcement things such as that. Part of the issue is that caseloads for these employees are at an all-time high as of November 2016.

The latest data available for Agency Performance Data is from 2014, but all of those indicators seem to be improving. Percentages of children placed with relatives have increased by 10% from SFY 2012 to SFY 2016 and percentages of children placed in residential facilities has declined by 1.8%. As for CHINS cases, in 2010, only 35% of those children were placed in relatives’ homes, whereas in 2016, 49% were.

The DCS Hotline has received an increase of calls in 2016 as well. The total number of calls received in December of 2016 was 14,387 compared to 13,351 the previous year. In 2016 alone, there were 225,152 reports made through the DCS hotline.

General Agency Update – Mary Beth Bonaventura, DCS Director

Mary spoke to the federal performance ranking for Indiana compared to other states. For FFY 2015, Indiana was ranked 7th overall. This ranking took into account Paternity Establishment, Support Order Establishment, Current Support, Cases Paying on Arrears, and Cost Effectiveness. DCS has increasingly improved going from 12th in FFY 2012 to 10th in FFY 2013 to 9th in FFY 2014 to its current 7th position.