



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana Committee/Task Force Minutes

Committee/Task Force:	Child Services Oversight Committee		
Date of Meeting: (MM/DD/YYYY)	10/24/2018	Time:	1:00pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Victoria Szczechowski	Location:	Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 29
4. Updates/Old Business			
Topic	Main Points	Recommendations/Decisions	
Approval of minutes from previous meeting	N/A	Minutes unanimously approved	
5. New Business/Presentations			
Topic	Main Points	Recommendations/Decisions	
Progress Report on DCS Implementation of the CWG Assessment	To improve employee retention, DCS recently spent \$22M on employee salary increases, which impacted over 87% of all agency employees. DCS has also created a workgroup to decentralize agency decision making; 25 DCS employees from across the state make up the group. To reduce the supervisor to family case manager ratio, DCS will hire 40 additional supervisors this year. DCS is also going to hire a Medicaid expert as an DCS/FSSA liaison to maximize the use of Medicaid for services. DCS also plans to engage more families voluntarily by working with courts. Although not recommended by CWG, DCS will hire a Foster Parent Support and Communication Liaison by the end of 2018.		
Recommendations from the Interim Study Committee on Courts and the Judiciary	The Study Committee adopted DCS' recommendation to redefine the neglect statute to exclude situations in which poverty is the only issue. Although DCS recommended increasing the 1 hour initiation response time to 4 hours, the Study Committee recommended extending the time to 2 hours.		
Discussion of the Oversight Committee's charge to evaluate whether DCS should contract a third party to provide attorneys or if DCS should hire attorneys directly	The Interim Study Committee on Courts and the Judiciary urged the Oversight Committee to analyze the change from DCS contracting with outside attorneys to hiring in house attorneys to serve as legal representation for DCS. The Oversight Committee identified key stakeholders best suited to analyze this issue.	The Oversight Committee extended offers to participate on the DCS Attorney Subcommittee to judicial officers, representatives of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney Council, Indiana Public Defender Council, the Indiana Bar Association, Child Advocates of Marion County, and State Court Appointed Special Advocates.	
State CASA Update	There are CASA programs in 84 of Indiana's 92 counties, with further plans to extend the program to every county. CASA's case management system has also been completely digitized.		



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6. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)			
Action	Responsibility		Due Date
Submit a report analyzing the best attorney hiring approach for DCS	Child Services Oversight Committee DCS Attorney Work Group		January 15, 2019
7. Adjournment			
Action			Time
Chairwoman McNamara adjourned the meeting.			3:15pm
8. Next Meeting			
Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)	TBD	Time:	Location:
Topics/Objective(s):	Topics: Progress report from DCS on their implementation of the CWG recommendations; legislative update; report from the subcommittee analyzing the best attorney hiring approach for DCS		