

Child Welfare Task Force

MEETING AGENDA

April 22, 2026 / 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Indiana Statehouse, Conference Room 156-A

1. Welcome and Meeting Purpose (10 minutes- Chairman DeVon)

- Introductions and role acknowledgment
- Review of meeting objectives and agenda

2. Overview of Entry into the Child Welfare System (15 minutes-Harmony Gist)

- Trends and changes over time
- How child safety is currently assessed at intake and investigation
- Consistency and quality of safety decision making
- Use of risk and safety assessment tools
- Workforce capacity, training, and supervision challenges
- Safety concerns in various areas of the state

3. Pathways into the System: Drivers, Root Causes, Intervention (30 minutes- Prevention Specialist Jill Kelly)

- Family stressors (e.g., substance use, mental health, housing instability)
- System gaps that escalate families into formal involvement
- Current prevention and diversion efforts
- Use of community-based supports and differential response
- Cross system coordination (education, healthcare, courts, behavioral health)
- Opportunities to strengthen upstream safety supports
- Recent policy impacts of FFPSA

4. Group Discussion and Next Steps:

- Where do safety assessments work well?
- Where are children most vulnerable to be missed or receive delayed intervention?
- What are the top 2–3 barriers to ensuring child safety before removal?
- Where can policy, practice, or resource changes reduce unnecessary entry?
- Short term action items (next 30–90 days)
- Data or analysis needed before next meeting
- Assigned leads and timelines

5. Other matters (30mins-Mark Fairchild):

- Legislative Update from 2026
 - SB171
 - Safe Baby Courts

2026 Meeting Dates:

- April 22nd @ 1:30PM, Indiana Statehouse, Conference Room 156-A
- June 17th @ 1:00PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C
- August 19th @1:00PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room B
- October 21st @1:00PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C
- December 9th @1:00PM, Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C