**Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force – 2017 Legislative Initiatives**

**Presented to: Commission on Improving the Status of Children**

**December 7, 2016**

Suicide Prevention Legislation:

* The task force began talking about youth suicide prevention over a year ago
* Seven parts to legislation – 1) teacher and staff training; 2) school policies and student education; 3) creating of a state suicide prevention coordinator; 4) public and private higher education institutions; 5) medical and behavioral health professional training; behavioral health workforce expansion; and 7) crisis intervention.

Telehealth:

* The task force believes that providing telehealth services would greatly benefit those who lack access to nearby services or who encounter transportation issues.
* The legislation would create a two year pilot program within at least two Community Mental Health Centers. At least one of those Centers must be in a county containing a first or second class city and at least one in a county with a third class city or no city at all
* Doctors need not establish a physician/patient relationship to use telehealth. Current law requires at least one face-to-face meeting before telehealth can proceed.
* Applies only for child and adolescent mental health and/or counseling telehealth services.
* Participating physicians will be allowed to prescribe any substance and all doctors shall use INSPECT. A state employee will monitor all prescriptions given as part of the program. All participating physicians and patients must consent to participating in this program.
* The Department of Health will present a report to the General Assembly annually. The report shall contain information on case progress and results, number and amount of prescriptions, patient and doctor satisfaction, number of patients served, and number of doctors in the program.

Reciprocity:

* The legislation would reduce the barriers to certain health care professionals that have practiced in one state and wish to practice in Indiana.
* Licenses to be included: psychologists, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, and Addiction Counselors.
* Allows any of the above professional who apply for a license in Indiana to be granted a temporary license to practice while their application is being considered. This is only available to people that have practiced in a different state for 5 or more years without a verified or pending disciplinary complaint.
* During this temporary licensing stage, the professional must be supervised by a duly licensed Indiana practitioner.
* Finally, anyone who has practiced for five or more years out of state without a pending or verified disciplinary complaint shall not be denied their license on the basis of not having their practicum hours.