



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Committee/Task Force:	Juvenile Justice & Cross System Youth Task Force		
Date of Meeting:	9/6/2024	Time:	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EDT
Minutes Prepared By:		Location:	Held Virtually via Zoom
1. Meeting Objective(s)			
Learn about activities of sub-committees and needs for support from the Task Force.			
2. Standing Members			
Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)	
Steve Balko	Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)		
Amber Becker	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)		
Honorable Vicki Carmichael (Co-Chair)	Clark Circuit Court #4	X	
Kate Collins	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X	
Alison Cox	Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA)		
Ann Davis	Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)		
Chris Dixon	Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC)	X	
Hon. Kimberly Dowling	Delaware Circuit Court #2		
Suzanne Draper	Vanderburgh County CASA, Inc.		
Tracy Fitz	Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC)	X	
James (Mike) Goodwin	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), Sullivan County		
JauNae Hanger	Children’s Policy and Law Initiative	X	
Rebecca Humphrey	Tippecanoe County Government		
Jill Johnson	Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division	X	
Samantha Lewis	Wayne County Probation		
Kiarra Pearson	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)		
Leah Pezzarossi	Open Door Youth Services	X	
Kaylee Price	Youth Representative		
Colleen Saylor	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	X	
Don Travis	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)		
Nancy Wever (Co-Chair)	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	X	
Renee White	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (CJI)		
Joel Wieneke	Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC)	X	
3. Staff/Guests			
Name	Organization		
Blane Cook	Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC)		
Payton Bowling	Intern, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC)		

Judge Harvey	Co-Chair, CSEC Sub-Committee	
Jenny Brown	Community Member	
Calvin Roberson	Indiana University	
4. Introduction and Check-In		
Result: attendees learn names and roles of those present. Nancy advised that Alison Cox resigned at President of IJDA. Nancy will connect with Josh Nichols, the new president, to invite him to join the task force as a member. Similarly, Renee White is no longer with ICJI. Nancy will connect with ICJI to determine if there is a replacement.		
5. Review and Approve Minutes		
Minutes from 7/12/2024 were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously by consent.		
6. Action Items from Last Meeting		
Action	Person/Group Responsible	Status
Prepare and distribute meeting minutes	Nancy Wever	Completed
Connect Rachel Patterson with Status Offense Sub-Committee re: Clark County’s work with YAP	Judge Carmichael	Completed
Coach up Rae Feller re: Task Force	Nancy Wever	Incomplete
7. Sub-Committee Reports		
Topic	Main Points	Recommendations/Decisions
Objective #1- CSEC	Judge Harvey reported that the sub-committee met in July and is continuing to work on legislation. Judge Dowling has been in contact with Senator Crider who will likely sponsor the legislation related to 31-34-1-3.5 and Senator Donato who may sponsor the legislation related to training for nurses. The sub-committee is developing a strategic plan, including reviewing results from the Shared Hope International survey. Judge Harvey explained that the survey compares the policy goals with the status of each state. For example, one policy goal is that there is mandated training for all child welfare employees about human trafficking and Indiana is a “no” on that. While there is training happening, there are not requirements for such. Judge Harvey advised that the sub-committee does not need anything from the task force at this time. Blane reminded that both of those legislative recommendations were vetted by the task force last year so do not need to go back through that process.	N/A

Objective #2- Status Offense	Tracy reported that the sub-committee did not meet in August due to scheduling conflicts. The September meeting will include a presentation from IDOE's State Attendance Office regarding how chronic absenteeism is addressed and another presentation from a local probation department about their truancy program. Nancy asked if anyone attended the webinar from MCCOY about SB 282 in layman's terms. She will send a recording if she can locate it. JauNae asked if the task force is monitoring the interim study committee that is convened about truancy. Blane advised Mark will be at that meeting on September 28. He added that the Forum for Youth Investment will be in Indiana to do interviews September 23-25 related to the BEST Youth Initiative which is focusing on chronic absenteeism and truancy.	
Objective #3- Children with an Incarcerated Parent	Jill Johnson reported that Joel has been gathering information about visitation in county jails.	

Objective #4- Child and Adolescent Development into the Justice System	JauNae reported that the sub-committee is focusing on two areas: • Guaranteeing access for families to visit youth in detention centers • Establishing a minimum age for juvenile court jurisdiction In the past two legislative sessions, there have been proposals about access for families through visitation in detention centers, but they have not gotten much traction. Jill provided context – importance of maintaining connections for youth who are detained, costs associated with phone calls, barriers to transportation for in-person visitation. Additionally, the minimum requirements for contact cannot be tied to behavior or used as an incentive. Judge Carmichael advised that the proposed legislation aligns with current practice in the Clark County detention center. She suggested that support be solicited from juvenile court judges and IJDA. Nancy volunteered to connect JauNae with Josh Nichols, president of IJDA and Judge Carmichael volunteered to liaise with the judicial officers through ICJFCJ. Nancy asked if the legislation needs to be paralleled with the detention center standards that are in the Administrative Code and are audited by DOC. If so, DOC may need to be considered as a supporting agency. Jill advised that there was a discussion about this and it was not clear. JauNae advised that the sub-committee reviewed publicly available reports from IOCS that include probation data about ages of youth coming into the system. There are a lot of questions and they would like to discuss with someone at IOCS. Dr. Ann Lagges is a member of the sub-committee. She has completed many competency evaluations and is of the opinion that until a child is 13, competency cannot be assumed. JauNae thinks they should present to the CISC to determine a path forward. She suggested having Dr. Lagges present to the task force and to the CISC. Judge Carmichael stated that the task force needs to have consensus before presenting to the CISC. JauNae advised concern that there is not consensus that this is an issue and feels like “we are going in circles”. She stated that there was a presentation a couple of years ago that she can circulate and requested that Dr. Lagges present to the task force. JauNae expressed need for agency decision-makers to work toward a solution and direct their staff. Blane clarified that the task force needs to determine if it is policy, concept, or legislation that is supported which can be presented to the CISC.	Dr. Lagges to present at November meeting.
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8. Executive Director Update					
Topic		Main Points			Recommendations/Decisions
Updates		Blane advised that invitations will go out for interviews about the BEST Youth Initiative. The CISC just created a new task force on Bullying and Suicide Prevention. If anyone has ideas about membership, please pass on Blane’s contact information.			
9. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)					
Action		Person/Group Responsible			Due Date
Prepare and distribute minutes		Nancy Wever			Before November meeting
Invite Josh Nichols (IJDA President) to join as replacement for Alison Cox		Nancy Wever			Before November meeting
Connect with ICJI regarding replacement for Renee White		Nancy Wever			Before November meeting
Share recording of MCCOY webinar about SB 282		Nancy Wever			Before November meeting
Connect JauNae with IOCS staff regarding data		Nancy Wever			Before November meeting
7. Adjournment					
Action					Time
Meeting Adjourned					10:40 a.m.
8. Next Meeting					
Date:	11/1/2024	Time:	9:30-11:00 EDT	Location:	Online via Zoom
Topics/Objective(s):	Sub-committee activities				