



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Committee/Task Force:	Juvenile Justice & Cross System Youth Task Force		
Date of Meeting:	5/3/2024	Time:	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EDT
Minutes Prepared By:	Blane Cook	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)	X
Amber Becker	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
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)	X
Chris Dixon	Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC)	X
Hon. Kimberly Dowling	Delaware Circuit Court #2	
Suzanne Draper	Vanderburgh County CASA, Inc.	X
Tracy Fitz	Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC)	X
James (Mike) Goodwin	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), Sullivan County	X
JauNae Hanger	Children's Policy and Law Initiative	
Rebecca Humphrey	Tippecanoe County Government	
Jill Johnson	Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division	X
Samantha Lewis	Wayne County Probation	X
Kiarra Pearson	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
Leah Pezzarossi	Open Door Youth Services	X
Kaylee Price	Youth Representative	X
Colleen Saylor	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	
Don Travis	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X
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)
Mark Fairchild	Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC)

Ariel Mason		Krieg DeVault
4. Introduction and Check-In		
Result: attendees learn names and roles of those present and shared their goals for today's meeting.		
5. Review and Approve Minutes		
Minutes from 3/1/2024 were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously on motion by Suzanne Draper and seconded by Tracy Fitz.		
6. Action Items from Last Meeting		
Action	Person/Group Responsible	Status
Prepare and distribute meeting minutes	Nancy Wever	Completed
IOCS Education re: CSEC	Nancy Wever	Completed/ongoing
Legislative Contact re: Truancy	Judge Carmichael and Mark Fairchild	Completed
7. Sub-Committee Reports		
Topic	Main Points	Recommendations/Decisions
Objective #1- CSEC	N/A	
Objective #2- Status Offense	Tracy Fitz shared that the group last met on April 19th and discussed what changes were made in SB282. Tracy suggested that while the legislature understands that truancy is a problem, they might not fully understand how cases start and referral processes. She shared that the group is brainstorming and looking other states' models and other resources around truancy prevention. She mentioned members of the group have encountered different practices and structures by county, suggesting that a more uniform awareness or approach would be helpful. For the diversion workgroup of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee (YJOC), Tracy mentioned the diversion resource guide is on the website. Judge Carmichael mentioned that any education for legislators that judges could provide would likely be helpful, asking the group to think about putting something together to share.	
Objective #3- Children with an Incarcerated Parent	Joel shared that the group plans to meet on May 6 th and that they have someone coming from the adult side of DOC. Joel explained this involvement was missing but desperately needed.	
Objective #4- Child and Adolescent Development into the Justice System	Nancy shared that JauNae could not make the meeting and did not have a report because they are waiting to hear back on a data request. Nancy mentioned that she and Mark discussed some ways that they could continue to work while waiting.	

8. Executive Director Update

Topic	Main Points	Recommendations/Decisions
Legislation	Judge Carmichael recapped some of her interactions with Senator Donato and asked Mark if he had an update on the status of truancy legislation. Mark described the path of SB282, summarizing that its final version did not make substantial change. He shared that Senator Donato and other legislators are cooperating with the Children's Commission to address this issue. Mark shared that the Children's Commission is working on a technical assistance grant from the Forum for Youth Investment. If chosen, the Commission will use this national model of collaboration of state systems with folks with lived experience to address chronic absenteeism/truancy. Judge Carmichael echoed the importance and difficulty of this topic. Nancy asked if the project has outlined an age scope and if so, how that would interact with this task force's work on status offenses. Mark shared that it does not specify age and will likely sort itself out as they address the spectrum of school grades. Tracy Fitz shared that numerous people from various systems with efforts on this will be helpful as long as everyone is on the same page. Nancy mentioned that the Task Force would be willing to vet any recommendations before they go to the Commission, to which Mark agreed. Nancy shared information about an attendance conference happening in the near future and encouraged any and all interested to go. Mark shared that the Commission's first session diving deeper into specific legislative issues was a success, mentioning serving as a resource for information on GAL/CASA, legal representation for youth, and YJOC grant support. Mark mentioned bringing CSEC supported legislation again next session and discussing the idea of piloting support for GAL/CASA volunteers with attorney connections for consultation or questions. HB1194 successfully allowed grants from YJOC to be advanceable. Mark also mentioned there was lots of discussion on CHINS, saying the Commission weighed in on SB 171, which allowed for cases to skip the reunification process in a few egregious cases/multiple removals and HB1051, which established policy to establish communication between parents and caregivers. Mark asked Don and the group for thoughts on DCS process around time to placement and its geographic relationship. Don shared that the statute states placements should be close to the parent's home, but kids often have needs that are not met in their county, so it usually occurs case by case. Judge Carmichael and Joel Wieneke echoed this. Joel mentioned that he struggles advocating for kids to remain in detention while a placement is available just to wait for a closer placement. Judge Carmichael mentioned transportation access should be involved in this discussion. Mark and the group agreed that there is not a simple formula or fix to this issue. Nancy mentioned this could be another opportunity to educate legislators on the topic's complexity.	Mark to report on technical assistance grant if selected.

9. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)						
Action			Person/Group Responsible		Due Date	
Prepare and distribute minutes			Nancy Wever		Before July meeting	
Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center on Juvenile Justice: Dual Status Speaker, September 27 th			Joel Wieneke		When available	
Change July 5 th meeting date to July 12 th			Nancy Wever		Before July meeting	
7. Adjournment						
Action					Time	
Meeting Adjourned					10:35a.m.	
8. Next Meeting						
Date:	7/ /2024	Time:	9:30-11:00 EDT	Location:	Online via Zoom	
Topics/Objective(s):	Sub-committee activities; BEST Youth Initiative (grant application update)					