



Multi-System Youth Task Force

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Minutes

The Multi-System Youth Task Force met on March 27, 2026, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Minutes were prepared by Nancy Wever and Sierra Suozzi.

Members Present:

The following members of the Committee were present via Zoom:

- ☒ Judge Holly Harvey, **Co-Chair**, Monroe Circuit Court, Division 7
- ☒ Nancy Wever, **Co-Chair**, Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)
- ☒ Steve Balko, Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)
- ☒ Bradford, Lewis (Addison), Peace Learning Center
- ☐ Jenny Brown, IU Health – Riley Children’s Health
- ☒ Ann Davis, Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)
- ☒ Terrie Decker, Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC)
- ☐ Hon. Kimberly Dowling, Delaware Circuit Court #2
- ☒ Tracy Fitz, Indiana Prosecuting Attorney’s Council (IPAC)
- ☒ James (Mike) Goodwin, Indiana Department of Child Service (DCS) Sullivan County
- ☒ JauNae Hanger, Waples & Hanger
- ☒ Amber Holland, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)
- ☒ Liz Houdek, Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC)
- ☐ Waylon James, Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)
- ☒ Jill Johnson, Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division
- ☐ Josh Nichols, Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA)
- ☐ Kiarra Pearson, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)
- ☒ Leah Pezzarossi, Open Door Youth Services
- ☐ Kaylee Price, Youth Representative
- ☒ Katherine Province, State Public Defender
- ☒ Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)
- ☒ Ellen Sheets, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI)
- ☐ Rachel Vilensky, Child Advocates
- ☐ Joel Wieneke, Child Advocates

Staff/Guests Present:

Audrianna Lingren, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
Alexis Hatchard, Child Advocates
Shelby Price, Indiana Office of Court Services
Ericka Sanders, You Yes You
Mark Fairchild, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
Blane Cook, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Objectives:

- 23-25 Strategic Plan Wrap-Up
- Sub-Committee Organization (continued) and Updates
- Executive Director update
- Announcements and updates from membership

Welcome and Introductions:

Nancy Wever convened the meeting at 9:32 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes:

Motioned by Leah Pezzarossi and seconded by Tracy Fitz, the minutes from the February 2026 meeting were unanimously approved.

Action Items from Last Meeting:

1. Prepare and distribute February meeting minutes
Person/Group Responsible: Sierra Suozzi and Nancy Wever
Status: Completed
2. Objective #2 (from previous CISC strategic plan) Sub-Committee (Status Offenses): Follow-up with Tracy regarding expected completion date and distribution to the Task Force
Person/Group Responsible: Nancy
Status: Completed – The report was distributed to the TF. Tracy reviewed the report with the group. Mark Fairchild agreed that a one-pager or infographic would be an appropriate way to present the report to the CISC, highlighting the recommendation to repeal the status offense related to fireworks.
3. SB 111: Family access for youth in detention – Nancy to talk to Mark about meeting with the task force about ways to engage with legislation.
Status: Completed – Mark attended the Objective #3 Sub-Committee meeting, and this was discussed there.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Objective #1 – Improving identification, referral, system responses, and appropriate services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC): Judge Harvey advised there is a new co-chair working with Judge Dowling. The sub-committee continues to work on implementation of their strategic plan. Nancy advised that Dr. Matt Aalsma's team at the IU School of Medicine has trained 28 therapists in several counties to provide therapy specific to those who are victims of human trafficking and those about whom there are concerns they may have been

trafficked. Amber Holland added that she participated in the training, as DMHA provided the funding for this through a grant. She shared positive impressions of the training.

Objective #2 – Identifying gaps and potential solutions for dual status youth and those involved with multiple systems: Colleen Saylor reminded the TF that this sub-committee is merging with a group that was working on the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). She plans to share the work that has been done so far with the new sub-committee for review by a larger group. The documents help counties identify where they are in implementing the dual status legislation, link to resources, and how to request training. She advised that the trainings have not included the perspective of those with lived experience because they focus on process but welcomes input from Audrianna about how that could look. Related to the sub-committee, Colleen plans to share information via email rather than convening meetings, as this could be the most efficient way to get feedback on the materials. Ann Davis asked what, if any, data is collected about youth identified as dual status. Colleen advised that this is likely going to be part of the data project through the YJOC.

Objective #3 – Integrating the science of child and adolescent development into system responses: JauNae Hanger reported the group met and talked about the legislation the previous sub-committee produced and ways to support it next session. She added that the work group wants to have a recommendation on the minimum age for juvenile court jurisdiction by the fall. JauNae advised that another topic has been brought up that the group may want to focus on: youth and guns. Additional members for consideration are a youth and someone from DOE. Stephen Balko agreed to serve as the DOE representative.

Objective #4 – Promoting family and caregiver engagement at all stages of system involvement: Judge Harvey reported that she and Nancy met with Ericka Sanders and will leave it to Ericka to decide if she wants to co-chair the work group and who she would want to co-chair with her. Ericka introduced herself and explained the work that her organization does to help build relationships between incarcerated fathers and their children.

Objective #5 – Improving how systems transition children and youth, including both when they are transitioning between systems and when they are exiting systems: Nancy gave some background on the work the YJOC did on transitional services. Nancy reported Shelby Price agreed to co-chair the sub-committee and asked Rachel McCaffrey to be her co-chair. Shelby planned to reach out to the members of the YJOC transitional services work group to find out who may want to continue their membership in this new sub-committee.

Executive Director Update:

Mark Fairchild reported the session was short and busy, but he was glad that SB 111 was written and introduced so the Commission can continue working on it next session. He highlighted the work done during the session on social media. Mark explained how SB 140: Public Safety, which addressed doxing, did not make any distinction for youthful offenders. He went on to explain that the Commission was able to get the bill amended and moved the language to the intimidation section of code, which cleaned up the issue of youth potentially getting felonies for doxing. Mark explained “Haley’s Law” which expanded the use of Amber Alerts to include missing children. He highlighted the discussion of father engagement at the previous Commission meeting.

Announcements:

Audrianna Lingren reminded members to reach out to her if sub-committees include youth with lived experience to ensure they are being supported by the Commission.

JauNae asked Stephen Balko if there was anyone from DOE he would recommend joining her workgroup.

Action Items:

1. Prepare and distribute minutes: Sierra Suozzi and Nancy Wever.
2. Objective #2 – Colleen will check availability to present information on the work being done to refresh the dual status process at the JDAI State Steering Committee meeting in May.
3. Nancy/Judge Harvey will follow up with Ericka to determine her interest in chairing/co-chairing the Objective #4 sub-committee and with Shelby to determine her interest in becoming a member of the Task Force.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

2026 Meeting Schedule:

Friday, June 5, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Friday, August 7, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Friday, October 2, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Friday, December 4, 2026 @ 9:30 am