



Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth Task Force

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2025

The Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth Task Force met on October 3, 2025, from 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Minutes were prepared by Nancy Wever.

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)
- ☐ Amber Becker, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)
- ☒ 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
- ☒ Liz Houdek, Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC)
- ☐ Waylon James, Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)
- ☒ Jill Johnson, Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division
- ☐ Samantha Lewis, Wayne County Probation
- ☒ 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
- ☒ Colleen Saylor, Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)
- ☐ Ellen Sheets, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI)
- ☐ Joel Wieneke, Child Advocates

Staff/Guests Present:

Blane Cook, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
Calvin Roberson – Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana
Kate Province – State Public Defender's Office

Meeting Objectives:

- Subcommittee reports
- Strategic Plan update
- Executive Director update
- Announcements and updates from membership

Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Harvey convened the meeting at 9:33 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes:

Minutes from the August 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved by majority on motion by Liz Houdek and Leah Pezzarossi.

Action Items from Last Meeting:

- Prepare and distribute August meeting minutes
Person/Group Responsible: Nancy Wever
Status: Completed

Sub-Committee Reports:

Objective #1 - CSEC: Judge Harvey reported the subcommittee is working on strategic planning and is working to create a survey that will help guide them in their next steps. She mentioned not having specific legislation to report out on, but that they have been working through obstacles on legislation requiring human trafficking education for nurses. Judge Harvey reported the subcommittee has acquired quick indicator cards for law enforcement and have begun distributing them.

Objective #2 - Status Offenses: Leah Pezzarossi advised that she and Tracy are drafting the report. They have been exchanging the document with edits and expect to have a draft for this Task Force to review at or before the December meeting.

Objective #3 – Children with Incarcerated Parents: Stephen Balko apologized, noting that he has missed the last few subcommittee meetings, so he did not have updates to report on. He noted that the subcommittee would send updates to the group after the meeting. Judge Harvey noted that Joel Wieneke has been working with JauNae on their legislation proposal.

Objective #4 – Child and Adolescent Development into the Justice System: JauNae Hanger reviewed the subcommittee's presentation on family access in juvenile detention facilities at the Commission's August meeting and were charged with reaching out to the detention centers to inquire about the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation. JauNae highlighted Nancy Wever, who was very helpful in developing questions for the detention centers and Joshua Nichols, who contacted the centers. JauNae reported that Joshua has prepared short presentation to give at the next Commission meeting in October. She mentioned Mark Fairchild attended their subcommittee meeting the previous day to learn about the results of the inquiries. JauNae noted many of the detention centers felt that they were already complying with their proposed legislation, felt that family access was critical, and reported no fiscal impact. She noted there might be some pushback from detention centers but stressed that they were currently working on the concept, not language.

JauNae recommended that Judge Harvey reintroduce the task force and reiterate the request and then Joshua would present the updated information. Judge Harvey added she feels there is a lot of support for the idea from Commission members, and the next step would be to find legislator(s) to sponsor the bill. JauNae reported that Mark said he would try to get the bill sponsored at the Commission meeting and JauNae suggested they make the bill bipartisan by adding a Republican and Democrat. Mark would try to get commission members to pick it up, but if not, would start reaching out to other legislators. Judge Harvey gave her appreciation for the work the subcommittee has done and opened the floor to any questions. JauNae closed by thanking the State Public Defender's office for gathering information and Joshua for speaking with the detention directors.

Regarding the presentation to the CISC, Nancy Wever confirmed with Blane Cook that Joshua would be able to present remotely, if not able to come to the meeting in person. Nancy mentioned Judge Harvey will not be able to attend the meeting that day so she would introduce the presentation. Nancy encouraged the group to watch the livestream of the next Commission meeting.

Nancy mentioned that there is a DOC standard that references providing physical space for in-person visits which reads as an assumption that it is happening. Terrie Decker commented that detention centers were invited to comment on the standards before they were adopted. Nancy thanked everyone who had been working on this legislation and gave her excitement that the taskforce had come very close, if not completed, the objectives within their three-year plan.

CISC Strategic Planning Session

Judge Harvey gave updates to the taskforce from the CISC strategic planning session. She noted the session opened by highlighting success and accomplishments from the last few years and moved into laying a foundation for the Commission's goals and objective moving forward. Judge Harvey highlighted some of the themes of the strategic planning session. She mentioned going into the session wanting to push dual-status youth to the forefront. Blane reported the Commission got the initial write up from the session that morning and Mark would turn it into a presentation to give at the next commission meeting for members to discuss and then Blane would circulate their feedback to the task force. Blane highlighted the emphasis of CSEC and cross-system youth from the strategic planning session. Judge Harvey added that there was some discussion about sunseting some of the task forces as their objectives have been met. Nancy mentioned wanting to send out a survey to taskforce and subcommittee members about their interest in continuing their involvement with the taskforce for the next three years. Holly opened the floor to questions about the strategic planning session.

Executive Director Update:

Blane reported that the Commission would be able to give the task force more information about the strategic planning session after the next Commission meeting to get a better idea of potential objectives for the group. He mentioned having about 25 people at the strategic planning session including a mix of co-chairs and commission members. Judge Harvey clarified that redefining the goals of the Commission will be the highest priority at this point. Blane brought up that he and Mark inherited the current strategic plan, which was created using a top-down approach, but they wanted to hear feedback and input from the people who are doing the work to create the next strategic plan. Nancy noted, due to the creation of the Youth Justice Oversight Committee, she

feels the taskforce could shift more of their attention to dual-status and cross-system youth. Judge Harvey agreed with Nancy and mentioned she feels that is where there is room for upstream solutions.

Announcements:

Colleen Saylor highlighted the close work she has been doing with DCS on the Program Improvement Plan and noted that she and Waylon James are on a workgroup and one of their areas of focus is regarding training about dual-status youth. They have decided to use a collaborative approach in training local stakeholders.

Action Items:

1. Prepare and distribute minutes
2. Objective #2 Sub-Committee (Status Offenses) – Continue working on report, possible presentation to the Task Force in December
3. Objective #4 Sub-Committee (Child and Adolescent Development into the Justice System) – Report on results from follow-up presentation at the October Commission meeting
4. Review draft of strategic plan

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting will be on December 5, 2025.