



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

<b>Task Force:</b>	<b>Child Health &amp; Safety</b>		
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>5/23/2022</b>	<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>10:00 am – 12:00 pm ET</b>
<b>Minutes By:</b>	<b>Kate Schedel</b> <i>MCH Programs Director, IDOH</i>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Government South, Rm 17</b>

<b>Committee Members</b>		
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Attendance:</b> (where x is present)
Sarah Sailors: <i>outgoing co-chair</i>	DCS	
Kate Schedel: <i>co-chair</i>	IDOH	X
Sonya Rush: <i>incoming co-chair</i>	DCS	X
Angela Reid-Brown	IOCS	X
Sandy Runkle	Prevent Child Abuse	X
Carey Michels	FSSA	
Elizabeth Wahl	FSSA	
Hannah Robinson	FSSA	
Mark Fairchild	Covering Kids & Families	
Rachael Fisher	Community Health Network	
Kristen Dauss	DOC	
Christina Commons	FSSA	
Chris Daly	IARCA	
Susan Elsworth	INOFAS	
Maureen Greer	IPQIC	X
Terri Lee	IDOH	
Brittany Winebar	Prevail, INC.	
Angela Smith-Grossman	DCS	
Deanna Szyndrowski	SCAN, Inc.	
Julie Whitman	CISC	X
Shannon Schumacher	The Villages	
Timike Jones		
Jack Turman	Grassroots MCH Leaders	
Ashley Mager	Grassroots MCH Leaders	X
Stephany Knight	Youth Board Member	X
Maggie Stevens	Foster Success	X

## Agenda & Notes

### 1. Welcome

### 2. New Co-Chair Introduction: Sonya Rush

- Sonya is the Assistant Deputy Director of Strategic Solutions and Agency Transformation for the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). She has over 20 years of Child Welfare experience with 17 of the most recent years with DCS. Sonya has served in several roles such as Family Case Manager (FCM), Performance and Quality Improvement Analyst, and State Policy Director. She has been in her current role as an Assistant Deputy Director since 2018. Sonya currently oversees the Policy, Permanency Initiatives, and Focus Needs Teams, as well as the Birth Parent and Shared Parenting Advisory Boards. She is a member of the DCS Critical Incident Stress Management Team and the DCS Racial Justice Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council, where she co-leads the Culture and Climate workgroup. Sonya is also a member of the Child Welfare Improvement Committee.

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

#### 1.1 Increase access to and use of community-based collaborative efforts that promote wellness in the first year of life, especially in Black communities.

*Team Lead: Jack Turman and Ashley Mager*

- Applied for the Catalyst for Health Equity grant through HRSA. Proposed a Healthy Beginnings at Home program to address housing and other social determinants of health as ways to prevent infant mortality.
- They are continuing to have success with Mothers of the Rise (MOTR) – a transition from the women's prison mom/baby nursery for dyads when released. The Grassroots Leaders are assisting with the needs of the dyad including housing, jobs, education, baby needs, breastfeeding, and more.
- They are currently creating a sex education program that will assist faith-based programs build their capacity to discuss and assist youth.

#### 1.2 Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Indiana (primary prevention)

*Team Co-Lead: Sandy Runkle and Hannah Robinson*

- Continuing Implementation of the toolkit and framework.
- The full toolkit is posted on the DCS website and many other websites – people can download and begin to use it. DCS is collecting information on who is downloading and using the toolkit.
- In addition, they will have a structured pilot implementation with communities funded by DCS. Looking for 8 communities this year and 4 communities next year. A week ago, communities were hesitant to volunteer due to capacity. This week, things really started to move: meeting with Delaware County, forming agreement from Randolph County, and will likely work with SCAN in Allen County, and there is potential to partner with Lake County (suggestion to connect with Dunebrook), Bartholomew County (suggestion to connect with Heather Carson and Council for Youth Development), Vanderburgh, and Howard. Working with Dee Szyndrowski on this since day 1!
  - Will be providing technical support for partners. Was asked if they will consider working with communities with Family Resource Centers as a good place to start and bring people together.
  - Will conduct surveys and focus groups county-wide for those in the pilot
- A quick note was brought up here to introduce The Upstream Project. This is via the Indiana Office of Court Services – National Center for State Courts to pilot UPSTREAM. LaPorte and Tippecanoe County will work to get communities thinking upstream within child welfare to better assist families **before** they are involved in child welfare system.
  - Indiana did outreach to juvenile courts to pilot this framework and they applied to be a part of this.

#### 1.3 Reduce the number of substantiated reports of abuse of children in state care.

*Team Lead: Stephaney & Dejuna*

- This is a proposal to restart this objective with a new mission brought forward by the youth CISC board members. Stephany discussed the importance of a shared registry to track allegations and departures of childcare staff in Indiana.
- Overview:
  - Track reasons for termination of direct care staff at res/group homes/other licensed child placing agencies (LCPAs)
  - Document reasons employee was terminated and any allegations or safety concerns
  - Has seen and experienced employees getting jobs at other agencies after terminated
  - Putting children and youth at risk and causing trauma
- Workplan:
  - Will work with DCS and take to Youth Engagement Taskforce and work to develop recommendation
  - The YET will present recommendations to the Indiana YAB
  - After approval from the YAB, representatives from the YET will present to the Child Health and Safety Task Force.
  - Once approved, they will present to commission for endorsement and support.
  - Finally, they will work with key stakeholders to work on creating legislation.
- Other comments and thoughts:
  - Look at other models who might have something like this in place:
    - Healthcare?
    - Schools?
    - Senior living facilities? Connect Stephaney with Amy Kent.
  - It is important to recognize the shortage of care providers – are agencies skipping background checks or overlooking things to get staff in the door?
  - Reference Checks – even if doing these, employer often cannot legally share information as to why they left.
  - Look into 1006 from last year – created something for law enforcement officers – required to share information with each other.

#### 1.4 Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising models for reducing the sexual victimization of adolescents.

*Team Leads: Brittany Winebar, Director of Mission Achievement at Prevail, INC. & Terri Lee, Director of Women's Health at IDOH*

- Have identified a full cohort for the group
- Will be having first meeting and providing current data only July 1
- YRBS data – will be shared

#### 1.5 Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising ways to support adults caring for vulnerable children.

*Team Lead: Shannon Schumacher/Angela Smith Gross (they were not present, update given by Angela Reid-Brown, who sits on the subcommittee)*

- *Advisory Committee for Kinship Caregivers – set meeting with DOE about enrollment of children.*
  - *Will create form to send to all schools that clarifies children CANNOT be prevented from enrolling in schools without documents*
  - *Workgroup has been meeting*
  - *Legal documentation of kinship caregivers – this is an equity issue. More common in African American families.*
  - *Rep. Summers will join Kinship Caregiver Committee – passionate*

#### 1.6 Increase access to healthcare and developmental screens by decreasing the child uninsured rate.

*Access to healthcare Team Lead: Mark Fairchild*

- *No update here – Mark was not in attendance*

*Development Screening Team Leads: Christina Commons and Kristi Linson*

- *Written update below from Christina:*

*We need to meet to discuss next steps for the developmental screening workgroup. I am chairing the Infant Wellbeing Taskforce for IPQIC and we also have a developmental screening and follow-up workgroup that is getting off the ground. I am hoping we can connect the work between the two groups and not duplicate efforts. Kristi and I were very involved in other projects and therefore had to pause the work of the workgroup.*

## **IPQIC – Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative Updates – Maureen Greer**

*Updated structure – New strategic plan to be proactive instead of reactive*

- All focused on prenatal through age 1.
- Continue to grow – 7 task forces and 30 subgroups
- Perinatal transport, Perinatal Centers/Perinatal Levels Of Care, Women’s Health, Infant Wellbeing, Perinatal Substance Use, Access to Care, Genetics and Genomics
- Trauma Informed Care: Looking at Domestic Violence & Substance Use
  - 5Ps screening tool – Can find whole Perinatal Substance Use Bundle [here](#).

## **Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Youth Advisory Board**

- YRBS 2021 data will be presented at the next Commission meeting (data directly from youth)
- It will also be shared alongside School Health Profile Survey data (data from school administration)
- IDOH/DMHA are forming a joint Youth Advisory Board. We had 229 applications and have narrowed it down to a final 45 from around the state, ages 13 – 23. We are really excited to get this up and running.

### **4. Review of Subcommittee Process and Recommendation Templates**

- Division of task forces between Sonya (2/3/5) & Kate (1/4/6)
  - We will divide and conquer, so please reach out if you need any support or assistance
  - We are also happy to attend subcommittee meetings if you want to add us to your calendar invites
- Additional committee members?
  - Please think about increased diversity in our task force and subcommittees, include those with lived experiences, and continue to think about the work we are doing and the impact (refer to CISC website for great equity checklist)

### **5. Executive Director Updates from Julie Whitman**

- June 22 (10 – 12) – Next Commission Meeting
  - Kate – YRBS
  - Jay Chaudhary – strategic initiatives in youth mental health
  - Foster Youth Education Report
- Will add people to Teams - Stephaney & Sonya
- Wants to hire someone eventually
- Juvenile Justice taking a lot on around HEA 1359. Oversight group, data group, BH committee (statewide plan for broader behavioral health to justice involved youth, alleged delinquency for assessment, grant programs), diversion, reentry
- Evaluation: Transform Consulting – to keep doing better. Implementation phase is big focus – by statute make recs – none of it matters if not implemented. Meeting statutory commitment but nothing beyond that. End of calendar year will produce report and CQI. Taskforce members will be asked to take a survey at some point but will get heads up from Julie first.
- Strategic Plan: expires in December. Do not have a plan in mind for updating– don’t quite know how yet without the evaluation. Send JW an email if interested in strategic plan work.

### **6. 2022 Meeting Times**

- Last Monday of every other month, 10am – 12pm ET
- 7/25, 9/26, 11/28
- Kate will send out invites with Teams link for now to hold all dates, all meetings are now back in-person.
- All held in Government South Building, Room 17

### **7. CISC Teams Channel**

- Please join the Teams Channel to find all updates and documents
- We can also monitor the strategic plan progress there and view work of other task forces
- Julie will send invites if you do not have a way to access the site.