



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Task Force:	Child Health & Safety Task Force		
Meeting Date:	5/20/2024	Meeting Time:	10:00 am – 11:00 am ET
Minutes By:	Kate Schedel <i>MCH Program Director, IDOH</i>	Location:	Microsoft Teams

Committee Members		
Name:	Organization:	Attendance: (where x is present)
Kate Schedel: <i>co-chair</i>	IDOH	X
Sonya Rush: <i>co-chair</i>	DCS	
Mark Fairchild	CISC	X
Blane Cook	CISC	X
Angela Smith-Grossman	DCS	X
Jack Turman	IU/Grassroots MCH Leaders	X
Hannah Milner	Foster Success	X
Tammie Carter	LifeSmart Youth	X
Christina Commons	FSSA	X
Kristi Linson	IDOH	X
Jeffery Whittman	Prevent Child Abuse IN	
Willie Taylor	DCS	X
Angela Reid-Brown	ISC	
Ashley Mager	Grassroots MCH Leaders	
Brittany Winebar	Prevail	
Carey Michels	FSSA	X
Derika Parris	Goodwill CSI NFP	
Elizabeth Wahl	FSSA & Trauma Informed Care Rep.	X
Katie Goodwell	FSSA – First Steps	
Maureen Greer	IPQIC	
Olivia Clark	IDOH	X
Rachael Fisher	Community Health Network	
Sam Mundt	IDOH	X
Shannon Schumacher	The Villages	
Stephany Knight	Youth Board Member	
Sue McKinney	OECOSL	
Erin Reynolds	MSW INTERN – CISC	
Audrianna Lingren	MSW at IU - CISC	X

Agenda & Notes

1. Welcome

1. New Members: Welcome to Audrianna Lingren – new intern for CISC!

2. New Strategic Objectives for Task Force – Recap of January team lead discussion and new updates

1. Increase community-based social and concrete support for families with children, including those being cared for informally by relatives.

- **Angela Smith-Grossman – DCS**

1. *Big Update: DCS will be licensing families for kinship caregivers. Based on federal updates on this, Indiana is currently writing changes into the code. There will now be two licensing tracks: formal caregivers under DCS custody and **informal kinship caregivers**.*
 - a. *DCS custody families become licensed as foster parents and they get a per diem to support youth. Now, adding a second pathway for informal caregivers using TANF, WIC, and more as a benefit.*
 - b. *These changes will help make the process easier (license of kinship instead of license of foster care) – the process will take about six months because it must be legislatively approved. There are still some barriers to work through as this will have a fiscal impact.*
2. *The Kinship Advisory Board is helping map out what this support might look like and what will be most important in getting licenses to these families. They are pruning the current licensing process and determining when/how to modify/target new training.*
3. *Impact of CCDF and childcare will have positive effect on this, but still need more childcare spots. NOTE: DCS youth in kinship are not traditionally littles – usually over the early Head Start age.*

2. Increase housing stability for families with children.

- **Jack Turman – IU Pediatrics**

1. *Healthy Beginnings at Home provides housing for pregnant individuals who are housing insecure. Now have 25 moms enrolled: 20 are housed and 5 are finalizing housing. We are keeping up with our goal of housing – our average time from enrollment to moving in is 33 days! Twelve enrollees have had their babies – now they will access case/control data from Medicaid now that they have reached 25 to understand efficacy of intervention. Of note:*
 - a. *Rent is extremely high in Indianapolis: Basic 3BR is \$3200!*
 - b. *IDOH is helping fund rental assistance for moms*
 - c. *Moms are working but monthly income is often not enough to support housing on their own. HBAH holds monthly focus groups to convene and share input from moms in the program.*
 - d. *Now have better data to understand the need to pregnant and unsecure housing from end of Jan to now – 200 have reached out for housing and support in Marion County alone! Partnered with 211 and every housing court is referred to us.*
2. *Health Justice Intervention (housing is a human right): Have held two eviction sealing clinics this year. April 19 was the last one and the next one is July 19. Over 100 families have shown up to each clinic so far – have sealed up to 100 evictions from mycase.gov. Cannot seal evictions with existing damages. Must address damages before sealing eviction. So many pro bono legal workers are helping do this.*
 - a. *Legal analysis: there are two pending rule changes to court to help diminish number of evictions across the state of Indiana.*
 - b. *Aug 29 – all day housing conference. (Jack will send flyer).*
 - c. *Sustainability planning next*

3. Recommend ways to increase the power and voice of children in state care.
 - **Hannah Milner – Foster Success**
 1. DCS YAB is interested in having a youth serve on this Task Force for the Commission. One of our youths currently leads the Health and Wellbeing workgroup for Foster Success. They presented at the Adolescent Health Initiative Conference about Mental Health Care needs in Foster Youth.
 - a. Foster Success is reapplying for the contract to administer the DCS IYAB. If awarded, this contract will be in place by Sept/Oct. Hopefully the new IYAB will reach out to younger youth in FC (14 - 17-year-olds). Trying to give them more opportunity to engage with advocacy.
 2. FS administered a survey for youth in foster care and as they exit care. It tracks services and outcomes of care. Results of the survey are directly connected to the amount of funding.
 3. DCS IYAB is also planning their annual conference. Planned by youth for youth in Indianapolis in June. The resource fair at this event will be open to all.
 4. In addition, FS is hosting webinars for youth in care to understand what is expected in court and how to know what is going to happen.

4. Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising models for promoting healthy teen relationships, preventing unplanned pregnancy, and reducing the sexual victimization of adolescents.
 - **Tammie Carter - LifeSmart Youth**
 1. Currently exploring best options for Indiana:
 - a. Cataloging across the state for best practices.
 - b. Was able to connect with Arizona at the beginning of the month. They have a five-year state plan (mental health, adolescent well visits, bullying, etc). They are doing Mental Health First Aid training, charging forward with the Adolescent Champion Model, and implementing a Mental Health curriculum.
 2. Child sexual abuse training – SEA355 mandates that all schools teach sexual abuse education and should happen by Dec 15 each year. A lot of schools stopped doing this but will work with Dr. Jenner this summer to think about opportunities for organizations to come in and do this training. Need funding to sustain this line of work.

5. Increase access to early intervention for vulnerable young children.
 - **Kristi Linson (IDOH) /Christina Commons (First Steps)**
 1. Focusing on a repository for screening data. We know that kids are getting screened but want to find a way to have a place to collect this data (exploring CHIRP still within IDOH). Most states are doing developmental screening in different spaces/places.
 2. Looking at the August agenda!
 - **Willie Taylor (DCS) and Jeffrey Whittman (PCAIN)**
 1. Decided to focus on transportation in rural areas for pregnant women in accessing pre- and post-natal care. Panel discussion in Lawrence County. Starting to figure out what the needs/barriers are. This was recorded. See below to view:
 - a. **Panel Discussion for Navigating Transportation Barriers in Lawrence County. If you were unable to attend the panel, here is the link:**
https://centerstone.zoom.us/rec/share/w_W3l5fhc-saw2PhblHqMVQimZLAF1aAOE-2_NFnBjGSfD565T2rFdfroTJzSrv.ofSG4BDhtxN5HBOJ
 2. Safe Place presentation to Commission was done on April 17 by David. Westenberger. Still want to get CPCS in front of Commission.

3. Other Updates

1. Covering Kids and Families – School Health Network Conference
 - DCS Prevention will be presenting “Fostering Protective Factors...”
 - IDOH/DMAH IYAB will be presenting with BC2M
 - IDOH 2023 YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) data will be shared for first time!
2. Lt. Governor’s Mental Health Roundtable
3. Labor of Love Conference
4. IYAB @ IDOH + DMHA
5. Early Intervention Conference – sold out for In-person event but still virtual (send link).

- Indiana Early Intervention Conference, June 14 - virtual conference registration is still open \$50.
<https://earlyintervention.iu.edu/index.html>

4. Executive Director Updates: Mark Fairchild

1. Last Commission Meeting: Presentation on suicide and bullying. Based on this information, the Commission will form task force (searching for co-chairs now)
 - Wants participation from youth and parents
2. BEST Youth Initiative: Quick turnaround for a grant submission!
 - National Technical Support Grant from Forum for Youth Investment.
 - Created a group of 5 state incubators that deal with issues that cross multiple state agencies. This is exactly what CISC is doing.
 - Proposal from CISC, IDOE, IDOH, and DMHA. Will be working on chronic absenteeism (biggest absence of voices) – probably will be a top priority in the next session. Approved as a grantee for a three-year project!!

5. Reminders:

1. Next Commission Meetings: 6/18, 8/21, 10/16, 12/11
 - Next Commission will have YRBS data shared!
2. Next Committee Meetings: 7/29, 9/30, 11/25 (10am – 12pm, virtual)