



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Committee/Task Force:	Education Outcomes Task Force		
Date of Meeting: (MM/DD/YYYY)	9/18/2020	Time:	10.00-12.00
Minutes Prepared By:	Nicola Singleton Administrative Assistant for Permanency & Practice Support, DCS	Location:	Microsoft Teams

1. Meeting Objective(s)

1. Review and approval of minutes from July 2020, meeting – a copy of the draft minutes are uploaded into TEAMS files.

2. Status update of action items from last meeting

Action	Responsibility
Review minutes from July	all
Subcommittees who have not yet please try to get something scheduled before our next EOTF	Bethany/Bart/Kwalfle/Brianna
Bethany to share the “Change the Frequency” mental health supports for families once completed so it can be shared	Bethany

3. ELAC presentation

4. Subcommittee reports – To be conscientious of time, all co-chairs should be prepared to present their updates in less than 10 minutes.

a. Education Passport Model Update:

1. Update from Gina Woodward

b. School Discipline and Climate Update:

1. Update from August 28 meeting

c. Mental Health Support in Schools Update:

1. Update on proposed activities

d. Post-secondary education options

1. Update from first meeting

e. Christy’s presentation from August CISC meeting:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NGSOKTNfypa0skdlcmurZ6I2LvMqUnwW_W34-NT1kEk/edit?usp=sharing

5. Executive Director Update – Julie will share out annual report and any other topics.

6. Communications (items CISC would like you to communicate out to your stakeholders, and items you would like communicated out to others)

7. Next meeting date, time, location-

8. Review action items identified in today’s meeting

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2. Standing Members			
Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)	
Melaina Gant	Education Services Director, DCS	X	
Christy Berger	DOE, Assistant Director, Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness	X	
Dr. Anita Silverman	Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Options Charter Schools	X	
Jau Nae Hanger	President of Children’s Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana (CPLI)		
Mary Beth Buzzard	Education Support Logansport Corrections	x	
Susan Lightfoot	Henry County Probation		
William Colteryahn	Vocational Rehabilitation Services		
Sabrina Suggs	Independent Mental Health Educator		
Dr. Theresa Ochoa	Indiana University		
Dr. Terri Miller	Systems of Care		
Allison Slatter	IAHE, Dept. of Government Affairs		
Brianna Morse	Indiana Department of Workforce Development	X	
Bethany Ecklor	DMHA, School and Community Based Programs Director	X	
Janet Martinez	Marion County Public Defender Agency	X	
Julie Whitman	Commission on Improving the Status of Children, Executive Director	X	
Derek Grubbs	DOC, Director of Juvenile Education	X	
Todd Bess	Indiana Association of Public School Principals		
Rebekah Gorrell	Executive Assistant to President of Mental Health America of Indiana		
Sarah Midura	Riley Hospital for Children		
Gil Smith	DCS, Assistant Deputy Director of Field Operations	X	
Bart Doan	Associate Director of Youth Initiatives, JAG	x	
Gina Woodward	DOE Homeless Education Specialist	x	
Lisa Truitt	DOE Attendance Officer	X	
Michael Coleman	DWD	x	
Dr. Susan Roberts	Nexus Point Consulting	x	
Shannon Chambers	Juvenile Probation Officer, Johnson Co. Probation		
3. Staff/Guests			
Name	Organization		
Nicole Norvell	Director, Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning, Nicole.Norvell@fssa.in.gov		
4. Updates/Old Business			
Topic	Main Points	Recommendations/Decisions	
1. Review and approval of minutes	July, 2020	Approved with completed correction requested by Julie Whitman.	
2. Status update of action items from last meeting	Subcommittees who have not yet please try to get something scheduled before our next EOTF	Complete.	
	Bethany to share the “Change the Frequency” mental health supports for families once completed so it can be shared	Complete.	

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5. New Business			
Topic	Main Points		
3. ELAC Presentation	<p>Nicole Norvell, FSSA</p> <p>Share with EOTF the work being done on Early Childhood/Early learning – Will help us focus on goal finding early learning and childcare for vulnerable youth. Supporting younger students and families.</p> <p>This office oversees: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - voucher program supporting children age 0-12, support accessing childcare, before and after school and school-age programming. Targeted to low income families (under 127% poverty line). Caregivers must be working or going to school. Income is ignored if Youth living with licensed foster parents. On My Way Pre-K – State funded Pre-K for kids age four. Some requirement around working and going to school or income. Some caveats exist for this program too. They recommend parents with age 4 kids should apply. Available statewide. Enrollment usually begins in March. This year’s enrollment was impacted by Covid so spots are still available. Licensing for childcares and school age programs – staff based locally not- Indy only. Paths to Quality – Rating 0-4. Staff observe programs in order to deliver ratings. Technical assistance and support offered to help programs grow.</p> <p>Serve ~45,000 children in subsidy program. There is usually a waitlist for care. Fed gov grant money lasts a couple years and is budgeted to cover 2-year period. They try to release slots every 30 days depending on budget standings. Last enrollment saw about 3500 families brought on.</p> <p>Partnerships: DCS – Focus on youth in Foster care. Priority on waitlist. E.g. students with disabilities, youth from families experiencing homelessness, youth in foster care. Sadly, these families can still be on a waitlist despite these priorities. Workgroups were created several years ago – reserved \$5m of CCDF money to start this partnership. FCMs can make a referral to their eligibility office and the family is put into service. Spent \$4.3m so far across 76 counties covering 1400 children. Successful partnership so far. Not restricted to licensed foster parents, it is up to the FCM to make the referral. IDOC – Women’s prison program, pregnant women are able to keep their babies. Conditional upon release that they had childcare at their placement/home and some</p>		

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		<p>suffered difficulties, so now those women receive a CCDF voucher immediately upon release. Childcare can be a barrier in lots of ways and we don't want these women who have worked hard to keep their children to lose them after release.</p> <p>TANF – TANF recipients must be working, they can get a referral from their impact caseworker and can go directly into services. TANF pays for childcare voucher for first 16 weeks and CCDF picks that up if they continue.</p> <p>SNAP – SNAP recipients have no requirement to work, but they can volunteer for a program to help them find or improve employment. Same process as TANF in that they can receive a referral from the caseworker to go directly into childcare rather than onto the waitlist.</p> <p>Agreement Centers – Submit out to the field the opportunity for them to apply to be agreement centers. They are guaranteed a certain number of CCDF slots. There is limited access to infant and toddler care across the state. They mandate a 3-4 level quality environment for these childcares. Agreement Centers may have open slots available to prevent families getting put on a waitlist.</p> <p>Submitting an application to the Office of Head Start to be an early head start childcare partnership grantee. Program targets pregnant moms and children up to 3yo. Important opportunity for Indiana as 20 counties currently have zero head start seats and almost no access to care. It means prioritizing the most vulnerable and at risk youth. Early head start is a high quality, comprehensive service for families and can help us build the supply of care across the state.</p> <p>A lot of opportunities exist for us to address our Taskforce Goal of Improve access to high quality early care and education for vulnerable children and families, we just need to perhaps be better about sharing those with families. Many K-12 families could apply and qualify, but school counselors, for example, may not have this information to share. Can we get a one-pager, include it in DOE newsletter, etc.? Would be a useful resource tool for DCS FCMS to have as they often may be preoccupied and not thinking specifically about the little ones.</p> <p>>> Families can always refer to https://www.in.gov/fssa/childcarefinder/ to help locate childcare in their area.</p> <p><i>What would it take to treat kinship placements like licensed foster parents?</i></p> <p>They often face many barriers and unfairly do not qualify for subsidies or assistance for various reasons. The number of age-eligible children in kinship is so big that it would take a massive increase in appropriation to solve</p>	

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		<p>this. CCDF was charged with serving low income working families with their block grant and they will always try to access as many funding sources as they can to serve as many families as possible.</p> <p><i>How do we address lack of childcare available outside of regular working hours?</i> State plan was recently amended to allow flexibility for ‘nanny care’. A CCDF family can find a caregiver for the child in the home and CCDF pays them to accommodate for unusual work hours, work on weekends, etc. CCDF can walk them through how to do that. Childcare centers may not be able to stay open outside of regular hours as it’s not financially viable for them due to low demand, but CCDF continues to work on finding non-traditional solutions. There are parameters to meet: the nanny cannot be a relative, they must complete background checks, have a CCDF home checkup, etc.</p>	
4. Subcommittee Updates	a. Education Passport Model	<p>Gina - The sub-committee attended a virtual meeting on July 24th with Debbie Dailey from the Indiana Department of Education to review the LINK IDOE’s LINK initiative that will help to streamline the collection and sharing of education data statewide school to school and school to DOE. Initially the intent is to improve how we share statewide information (EX: demographic; achievement) in a way that is more transparent and accessible. Debbie did confirm that this should ultimately be usable to improve the sharing of individual student level data as well. We discussed 1) which collaborative agencies who should be considered in a “need to know” capacity – how do we build a system that will provide real-time access to student information for partner agencies like DCS, DOC 2) are there ways that we can improve info sharing between agencies to eliminate multiple collections and/or multiple reports by families and 3) timeline – this resource should be operations for school wide / building and district level within the year...when can we dig in to the potential for individual / student level data sharing? We also discussed the idea of working with the three primary SIS providers for the state (Harmony, Skyward, Powerschool) to help consider ways to build capacity for appropriate and relevant info sharing in the student record that could be accessible upon enrollment / transfer. Eighty-five percent of Indiana schools use one of these three SIS providers.</p> <p>The IDOE Div of Title and Supports has a draft version of the virtual student planning tool available for limited review – Anyone interested in sitting in on a call to review this tool, share feedback and ask questions please let me know. We will schedule a preview during the last week of Sept. We will be looking at the format and some content to take back to the developers as we finalize this</p>	

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		<p>tool to be used at the practitioner level allowing the collection and sharing of critical student level data.</p> <p>Melaina updated the taskforce on changes occurring at DCS currently. Lean transformation ongoing. BID form now a one-pager, and Education Consultants taking on responsibility for sending these out to relieve Field of this workload. Placement Change data report being built by MaGIK I.T.</p> <p>A suggestion was made by Dr. Silverman that DOE/DCS should add training about School Notifications and Best Interest Determination (BID) processes to the end of the Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect training schools are required to attend.</p>	
	b. School Discipline and Climate	<p>Bart – Last meeting Oct 2019, Rescheduled to March 2020 but impacted by Covid. Met Aug 28 to cover focus of subcommittee, remaining interested members, what gaps need to be filled, etc.</p> <p>Goals: Stemming the tide of bullying; Providing positive practices for school climate; Connecting students with workforce opportunities. (Julie noted the updated tracker language was changed in December.)</p> <p>Some things look different in the current learning environment - How do we address the new ways bullying is being conducted (e.g. Zoom screenshots) and how does that change the focus of what we are doing? How do we revamp the guidance to include this new digital learning?</p> <p>Increase in numbers of students choosing eLearning and homeschooling. Looking to fill some gaps in these areas.</p> <p>Currently meeting monthly, rather than quarterly. Introducing new members and bringing youth into the group to incorporate student voices as the subcommittee expands.</p> <p>Christie spoke with DOE Director of school safety and Michael Ross of CJI – They are looking to create resources around cyber bullying, possible funding from safe haven dollars. Christie will connect them to Bart.</p> <p>Digital learning has thrown up many new challenges: Kids not being where they're supposed to be digitally and finding it easier to skip or not attend; Parents not understanding the technology (Parents need to be onboard and upskilled in some cases); Other impacting factors such as lack of space/apparatus in the home.</p> <p>Melaina suggested including someone from Indiana Connections on the subcommittee as they do eLearning</p>	

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		all the time. Alternatively, get someone to present to the subcommittee. Brianna will share a contact with Bart.	
	c. Mental Health Support in Schools	<p>Bethany – Still trying to reset the subcommittee due to lack of availability. Very excited to utilize the IN School Mental Health Initiative as this subcommittee with their CMHC partners. That group has been looking for a project, and this is something they could take on. Working with their leadership group, will meet with them next week.</p> <p>Tracker is ongoing, some remaining subcommittee members are ready to go. We will have a larger group of people to work on this prior to the reset.</p> <p>‘Change the Frequency’ campaign – We adapted a mental health awareness campaign that was worked on with a marketing agency as part of the Project Aware grant, to utilize it as an ‘at home’ branch to support students and parents.</p> <p>>> ChangeTheFrequency.today</p> <p>Resources are available on the website: Activity Guide, At Home checklist, Community Mental Health Center list, Text for weekly Mental Wellness Tips, Social Media kit, etc.</p> <p>>> Please share with anyone you think can use this!</p>	
	d. Post-Secondary Education Options	<p>Brianna/Michael - First meeting spent providing subcommittee members an overview of CISC, EOTF, other subcommittee’s focus, etc. Spoke about 21st Century Scholars. Second meeting was used to try and get some perspective on back to school for post-secondary students and this will be followed up on at the next meeting.</p> <p>One specific area covered about breaking pledge within 21st Century Scholars.</p> <p>Looking to have a youth involved in this subcommittee.</p> <p>Anthem is offering help for students to purchase Chromebooks for college - we need to look into the details of this.</p> <p>An idea was shared by Brianna Morse that state agencies in the midst of computer refreshes to look into potentially donating the old computers (of course after the hard drive has been wiped clean) to our youth in care who may need them to attend school virtually, but cannot afford to purchase it. Christy will reach out to DOE I.T. and ask about this.</p> <p>CHE providing waivers for 21st Century Scholars applicants. No mention of extending deadline. Appeals process is still an option for any kids requiring reconsideration.</p>	

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		<p>Will be pulling some pledge violation data. The section that refers to “delinquent acts, drugs, and alcohol” is often what eliminates vulnerable youth from the program. A pledge violation requires a reporter and in Brianna’s experience this doesn’t happen often at all. Potential for creating a pathway to recovery if a violation is reported or change the language to reflect the times. Any changes do have a potential fiscal impact as demonstrated by the attempted application by unaccompanied youth, which was agreed upon last year, but retracted this year.</p> <p>Next task is to take a look at the tracker and figure out what the deliverables should be for this subcommittee.</p>	
5. Executive Director Update		<p>Julie posted links in Teams three items she shared with Communications Committee that are to be disseminated: Tools for improving equity and inclusion; Juvenile Justice Review process announcement; Annual Report. Please take a look at it. There will be no printed copy this year.</p> <p>https://www.in.gov/children/files/Infographic_Understanding%20equity%20inclusion%20and%20cultural%20competence.pdf</p> <p>https://www.in.gov/children/files/Commission%20Equity%20Guide.final.pdf</p> <p>https://www.in.gov/children/files/Announcement%20to%20Counties%20and%20Stakeholders.pdf</p> <p>https://www.in.gov/children/files/2020-ciscar.pdf</p> <p>Next Commission meeting is via Zoom livestream on Oct 21st.</p>	
6. Communications		None.	
7. Set or remind next meeting date, time, location		11/20/2020, 10.00-12.00, via Teams	
8. Review action items identified in today’s meeting		Complete.	
6. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)			
Action	Responsibility	Due Date	
Share Child Care finder website and Nanny Care info with colleagues/stakeholders/CISC	Christy/Melaina	11/20/2020	
Connect Bart with DOE School Safety and CJJ for cyber bullying resources	Christy	11/20/2020	

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Share "Change the Frequency" mental health resources from Bethany	All		11/20/2020
Share a contact for Indiana Connections with Bart to include on his subcommittee or to provide a presentation to the subcommittee	Brianna		11/20/2020
Review the Annual Report and other resources provided by Julie	All		11/20/2020
7. Adjournment			
Action			Time
8. Next Meeting			
Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)	11/20/2020	Time:	10.00-12.00
		Location:	Teams
Topics/Objective(s):	Agenda TBC		