



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Committee/Task Force: Educational Outcomes

Date of Meeting: March 22, 2024

Time: 10am-noon

Location: Microsoft Teams

Minutes Prepared By: Erin Reynolds

Meeting Objectives:

- Foster Success: Pathways Program Updates, Jarod Wilson
- JAG Program Expansion Assistance, Brianna Morse,
- CISC Updates & Legislative Outcomes, Mark Fairchild
- Strategic Plan & Goal Setting, Mark Fairchild, Co-Chairs, Sub-Committee Leads.

Standing Members:

Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)
Michelle Clarke (co-chair)	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
Brianna Morse (co-chair)	Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD)	X
Tiffany Powell	Foster Success	
Hilary Deardorf	Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE)	X
Leslie Caliz	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
JauNae Hanger	Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana (CPLI)	X
Bryan Varner	Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE)	
Mary Beth Buzzard	Indiana Department of Correction (DOC)	
Shannon Chambers	Johnson County Government	
Bart Doan	Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD)	
Kristine Eaton	Indiana University (IU)	
Bethany Goetz	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
Rebekah Frazer	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X

Melaina Gant	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	
Janet Martinez	Marion County Public Defender Agency	
Jarod Wilson	Foster Succes	X
Koyauna Jones	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
Jonathan Kraeszig	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)	
Jason Murrey	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
Kelsey Peaper	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
Rebecca Shelter-Fast	Child and Parent Services (CAPS)	
Sarah Allison	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
Gilbert Smith	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	
Christopher Stillwell	Indiana Department of Correction (DOC)	X
Susan Lightfoot	Henry County Probation	
Jennah Mosley	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)	X

Staff/Guests:

Name	Organization	
Mark Fairchild	Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC)	X

Agenda and Notes:

Introduction and Check-In:

- Task force members and guests shared their name, agency, and their favorite spring flower.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

- N/A

Updates/Old Business:

- Mark shared that he is looking to get representation from the Early Learning Advisory Committee to convene and have a more direct conversation to identify areas of opportunity and support.
- Brianna noted that Objective 2 is very broad, and that DOE could already intervene in restorative practices. Brianna posed that the objective could be narrowed or reworded. Mark shared that there are opportunities to re-word the objectives to make them more measurable.
- Bethany shared that the school mental health dictionary project has evolved to now be incorporated into the Comprehensive School Mental Health Framework. Although the website is not public yet, the dictionary and terms will be found there. Brianna noted that although there is not a standalone subcommittee, Bethany is working on Objective 3.
- Christopher Stilwell shared that corrections facilities have been incorporating more graduation pathways for students to ensure they leave the facility with enough credits.
- Koyauna noted that she has observed Objectives 4 and 5 overlap when foster children who have IEPs go to residential facilities and are not receiving their support.
- Brianna mentioned rejuvenating Objective 5 in areas where it is needed. This can involve more outreach to inform schools about what is available to them.

- Mark shared that in the next strategic plan, he would like to incorporate more language that prompts task forces to promote policies and procedures that create positive connections with the schools and education system.

New Business/Presentations:

- Jarod, Senior Director of Impact in Programs for Foster Success, shared information about Foster Success' updates to the Pathways Program. Jarod shared that the program will be administered in a 3-session format via zoom, with each grade level having their own curriculum. Seniors will receive 1:1 coaching and can collect a stipend. Jarod noted that Foster Success wants to administer this program with other organizations in the state and make as many connections as possible.
- Brianna mentioned the JAG Program is tasked with expanding into 125 schools across the state. JAG's goal of having 85 committed programs by the end of the 24-25 school year is being, with 58 currently committed programs. Brianna explained the JAG program has multiple implementation modes, but schools want to involve their students earlier than middle and high school. Brianna requested that any task force members that have a connection to a school of any kind reach out to her to help the JAG program move the needle on achieving their partnering goals.
- Mark noted that the Commission had a more direct presence in this year's legislative session with the help of more staff. Mark highlighted the ongoing conversation about truancy prevention, suicide, and bullying. Mark said that in future legislative sessions, issues such as suicide and bullying prevention can potentially be assigned to the Commission where attention can be dedicated to producing recommendations. Mark also noted that there is potential for a suicide and bullying prevention task force to be voted into reality in the next Commission meeting. Mark said that while they are distinct but overlapping issues, this is a great opportunity to convene and better organize the efforts among agencies and task forces subcommittees. Online safety will also be interwoven within this potential task force. Mark then moved to discuss the Children's Commission's intention of including individuals, either parents or young adults with lived experience, on each of the task forces so that anything going to the Commission has been vetted by the people the policy will directly impact. Lastly, Mark shared that the Children's Commission, in partnership with MCCOY and IYI, will be expanding the Day of the Child event to a two-day conference at the Indiana Government Center. The conference intends to convene groups with lived experience together as well as agencies who want to start working with individuals with lived experience. The conference will be held on the 17th and 18th of February next year, where the first day will incorporate programming for youth and individuals on how to advocate, and the second day focusing on best practices for agencies wanting to involve individuals with lived experience.

Action Items:

- No action items.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am

Next Meeting:

Date: May 17th

Time: 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams