



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Committee/Task Force: Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Date of Meeting: January 24, 2024

Time: 9am-11am

Location: Microsoft Teams

Minutes Prepared By: Erin Reynolds

Meeting Objectives:

- Executive Director Update
- Subcommittee reports
- Data needs

Standing Members:

Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)
Karin Gilbert	Bring Change to Mind	X
Jeannie Bellman	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
Jason Murrey	Indiana Department of Education (DOE)	X
David Reed (co-chair)	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X
Bridget McIntyre	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X
Tanya Merritt-Mulamba (co-chair)	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
Sirilla Blackmon	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	
Ty Rowison	Choices Coordinated Care Solutions	
Jay Chaudhary	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	
Stephanie Lyons	IUPUI	

Gabriela Rodriguez	Indiana University School of Medicine	
Cathy Boggs	Community Health Network	
Steve McCaffrey	Mental Health America of Indiana	
Jennifer Tackitt-Dorfmeier	Choices Coordinated Care Solutions	
Julianne-Marie Guist	Indiana University School of Medicine	

Staff/Guests:

Name	Organization	
Blane Cook	Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC)	X

Agenda and Notes:

Introduction and Check-In:

- David started the meeting and requested a motion to approve the minutes from November’s meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

- Jason Murrey motioned to approve the minutes and Jeannie Bellman seconded the motion.

Updates/Old Business:

- Blane shared that future meetings will not have to be in person but may have to be streamed or uploaded to the CISC website. While that is not anticipated to be enforced until next year, Blane will communicate updates as he hears them.
- Blane shared that on January 11th, the Commission presented to both children and family services committees from each chamber about what the Commission’s task forces and committees are working on, which had good engagement. There may be opportunities in the future for subgroups to help with pertinent research or fact-finding. Blane also mentioned CISC’s legislative tracking sheet updated weekly on the CISC website. Lastly, Blane noted that a legislator on the commission would like to see the Commission do more about suicide. Blane asked the MHSA Task Force about who would like to be a part of the conversation or if anyone had any thoughts about if/how suicide can be addressed by the Commission. Jason Murrey volunteered and mentioned that Michelle Bulington, DMHA’s suicide prevention director would be happy to participate in the conversation. Karin Gilbert mentioned two names from the American Federation for Suicide Prevention could be points of contact.
- Blane mentioned that CISC and MCCOY will be hosting a joint Day of the Child at the Statehouse on February 19th. Also happening that day will be IYI’s State of the Child presentation.
- In prevention realm, David mentioned that DCS is also looking at removal disparities in addition to their focus on trying to remove fewer children. David shared the disparities of removal between white, Black, and multiracial children since 2012. With new efforts and programs, disparities have gone down to all-time lows.
- Jason shared that his group has formed but has yet to set monthly meetings.
- David mentioned that Senate Bill 161 attempts to change workforce requirements that emphasize relevant experience over higher education degrees without relevant experience.
- Blane shared that the data group is working on a dashboard that shows all kids that are served by the state. They are available to help with any data request task force members may have.

New Business/Presentations:

- No new business

Action Items:

- No action items.

Adjournment:

- Jason motioned to adjourn, which David seconded.

Next Meeting:

Date: March 20th.

Time: 9 am-11 am

Location: Microsoft Teams

Topics/Objectives: