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Commission on  
Improving the  
Status of Children

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# Commission on Improving the Status of Children

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DECEMBER 6, 2023

# Agenda

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes from the October 2023 meeting

# Agenda

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## 3. Legislative Affairs and Engagement

Issues for Monitoring and Potential Legislative Action- Mark Fairchild

### **Strategic plan objectives**

### **Additional issues suggested by Commission members:**

1. Early childhood mental health
2. Suicide prevention
3. Bullying prevention
4. Improving YRBS participation rates
5. Supporting the Youth Justice Oversight Committee
6. Increasing access to quality childcare
7. Other issues for consideration?

# Agenda

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## 3. Legislative Affairs and Engagement

**Action: Approve Issues for Potential Legislative Action**

# Agenda

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## 3. Legislative Affairs and Engagement

### b. Proposed Legislative Engagement Agenda

- Note of introduction to all legislators w/ meeting invite
- Follow-up with all legislators at mid-session
- Ensure all legislators are receiving Commission email updates
- Joint Family and Children Committee meeting w/ reception - 1/11/24 v. State of the Child Presentation / Youth Advocacy Day - 2/19/24 (pending)
- Other opportunities?

# Agenda

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## 3. Legislative Affairs and Engagement

**Action: Approve Legislative Affairs Guiding Principles**

# Agenda

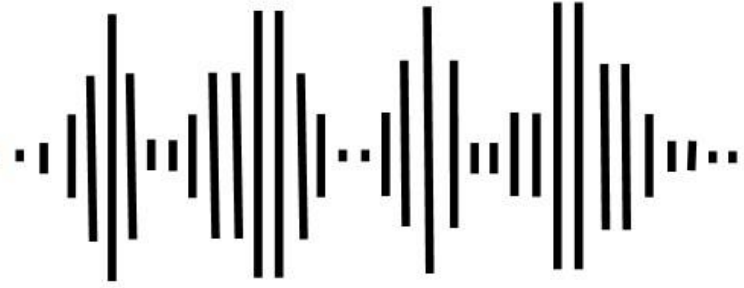
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## 4. Family and Youth Engagement Summit Recap

Blane Cook

Aly Leonard

Julia Stumler



# Unmuting Your

# *Authenticity*





# Registration/Attendance Stats

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- Total registration: 127
- Joined live event: 105
- *State Employee*
  - Judicial – 20
  - Executive – 24
  - Legislative - 4
- *Non-Profit* - 33
- *Volunteer / Advocate* -22
- *Student* - 5
- *Parent* - 12
- *Person w/ Lived Experience* – 17

# Day 1 Recap

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, the meeting title is "2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit" and the current session is "Opening Remarks and Keynote Speaker Kayla Powell" by "Children's Commission". The video player shows a slide with the following text:

**Two small things daily:**

1. One thing where you speak up for yourself, where you shine your brilliance, or show up authentically and
2. One thing to empower a youth to do the same.

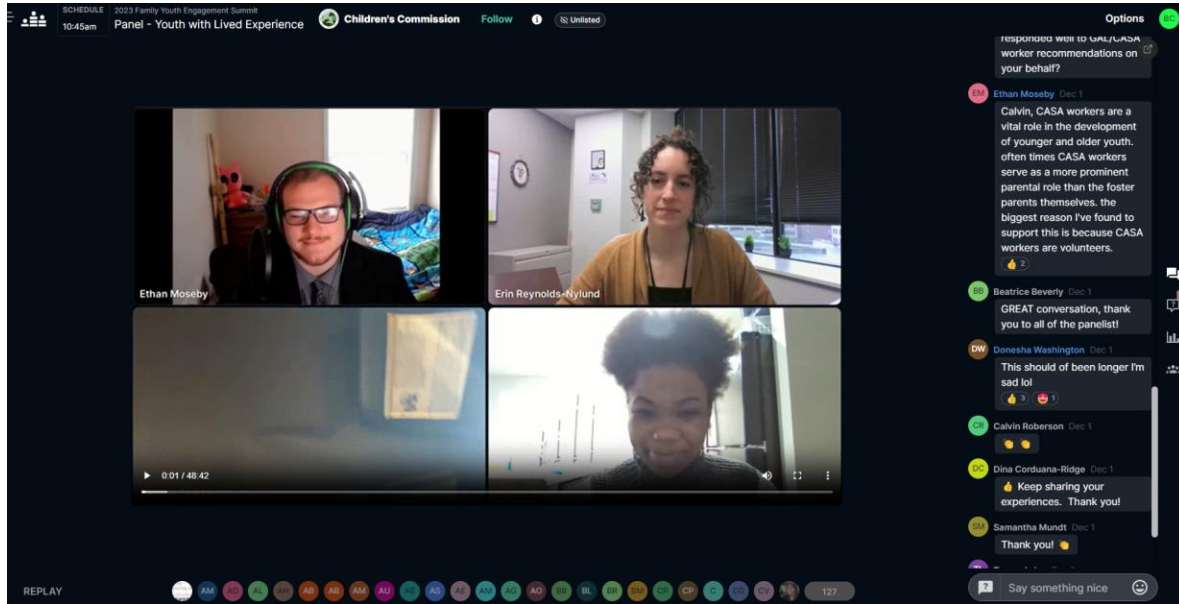
The chat window on the right contains the following messages:

- Janie Ames: Thats Amazing!
- Cathy Parks: That's Amazing!
- Tara Rochford: [Reaction]
- Nancy Wever: "Do not become what you are trying to change" - so right
- Kristen Ludeker-Seibert: I am definitely placing 'adulthood' into my vocabulary! I didn't know there was a word for that!
- Dina Corduana-Ridge: Yes!
- Sarah Kumfer: [Reaction]
- Tara Rochford: Never underestimate the power of a sticky note!
- Nancy Wever: Kayla - you create an amazing space - being able to show up authentically and name your

The participant list at the bottom shows 127 participants, with the first few initials visible: AM, AD, AL, AH, AB, AB, AM, AU, AB, AS, AE, AM, AG, AO, BB, BL, BR, BM, CR, CP, C, CG, CV.

# Day 1 Recap

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
10:45am Panel - Youth with Lived Experience Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options



responded will to CAL/CASA worker recommendations on your behalf?

Ethan Moseby Dec 1  
Calvin, CASA workers are a vital role in the development of younger and older youth. often times CASA workers serve as a more prominent parental role than the foster parents themselves. the biggest reason I've found to support this is because CASA workers are volunteers.

Beatrice Beverly Dec 1  
GREAT conversation, thank you to all of the panelist!

Danasha Washington Dec 1  
This should of been longer I'm sad lol

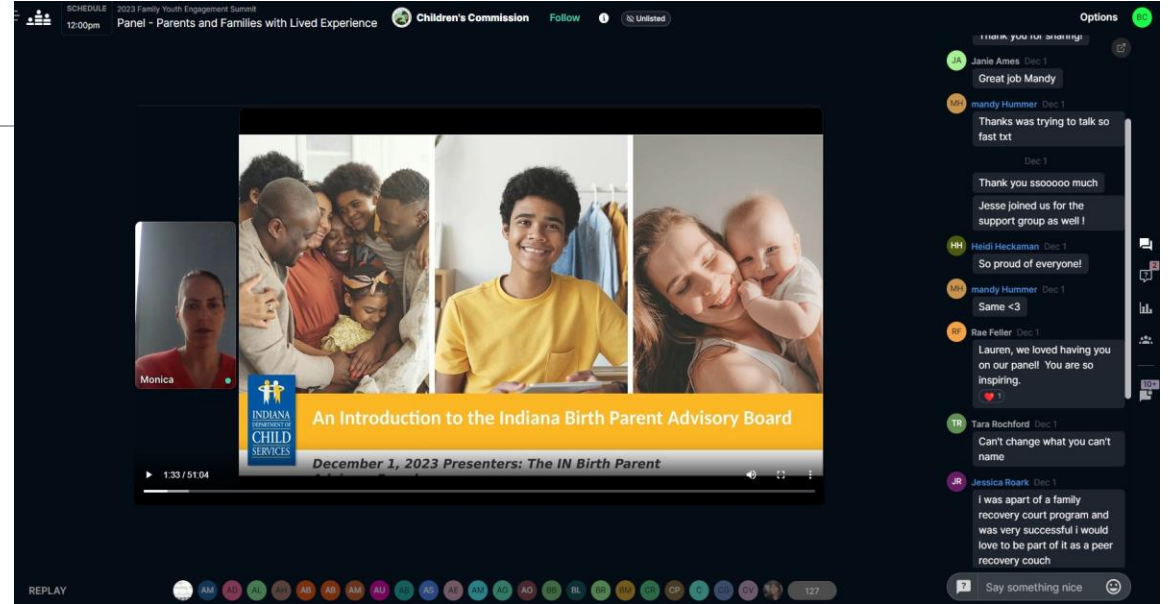
Calvin Roberson Dec 1

Dina Corduana-Ridge Dec 1  
Keep sharing your experiences. Thank you!

Samantha Mundt Dec 1  
Thank you!

REPLAY

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
12:00pm Panel - Parents and Families with Lived Experience Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options



Thank you soooooo much

Jessie joined us for the support group as well!

Heidi Heckman Dec 1  
So proud of everyone!

mandy Hummer Dec 1  
Same <3

Rae Feller Dec 1  
Lauren, we loved having you on our panel! You are so inspiring.

Tara Rochford Dec 1  
Can't change what you can't name

Jessica Roark Dec 1  
I was apart of a family recovery court program and was very successful I would love to be part of it as a peer recovery coach

REPLAY

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
12:45pm Panel - Being an Authentic Professional Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options



beatrice beverly Dec 1  
Actionable plan

Kristen Ludeker-Selbert Dec 1  
Youth Panels are one of my favorite ways to share youth voice. Hamilton County Systems of Care is planning one for May 1, 2024, to kick off Mental Health Awareness Month.

Blane Cook Dec 1  
Brandon will also talk about this opportunity more tomorrow, so if you know someone who may be interested in hearing about TruDialogue, tell them to join!

Willie Taylor Dec 1  
Thank you all so much. Very informative. Keep inspiring hope!

Calvin Roberson Dec 1


Beatrice Beverly Dec 1  
Thank you!

Children's Commission Dec 1  
Recordings are available now using the schedule tab for any sessions you may have missed.

REPLAY

# Day 2 Recap

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
10:00am Opening Remarks and Keynote Speaker Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options



Indiana. Doing great! Excited to be here

Beatrice Beverly Dec 2  
Indiana

Willie Taylor Dec 2  
That was a great explanation of why to be your authentic self with political leaders. Very informative. Thank you.

Mark Fairchild Dec 2  
There are definitely some stereotypes about legislators and how approachable they are. Did anything surprise you about the reality of working with them?


Beatrice Beverly Dec 2  
Thank you!

Mark Fairchild Dec 2  
Is there a time you felt treated like a "token" by professionals or lawmakers and not truly respected as an advocate? What could they have done better / different?

Dec 2  
Is there a specific moment that you would call your "Unmuting" moment?

REPLAY

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
10:45am Panel - Unmuted Advocates Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options



Mayda Berrios Dec 2  
Here is my link to all my socials. Thank you again for having me keynote the opening session. <https://linktr.ee/maydaberrios>

Pratik F. Dec 2  
My phones loading really slow. Sorry in advance

Dec 2  
You Think About What You've Been Through And You Think How Much Worse It Can Get With Time, & You Find Strength In The Realization Of "I Now Have The Power To Make A Change"

or Qultong  
Quitting Your Job Wouldnt Offend Anyone At That Point

Beatrice Beverly Dec 2  
Thank you Ash and Aly, for sharing your voice. Several nuggets were dropped and I picked them up!!!!

REPLAY

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
12:00pm Panel - Unmuting with Legislators Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options




Mark Fairchild

Julia Stumler

Say hello  
Introduce yourself in the chat

REPLAY

SCHEDULE 2023 Family Youth Engagement Summit  
12:45pm Panel - Opportunities to Unmute Children's Commission Follow Unlisted Options



Beatrice Beverly

Brandon Randall

continue to be involved in the Children's Commission, Brandon! I was so glad to see you both days!

Brandon Randall Dec 2  
Absolutely, Kristen! And likewise...so glad that you are able to join the conversation today!!

cheryl Dec 2  
You are all doing such awesome advocacy!

Kristen Luddeker-Selbert Dec 2  
Hamilton County Systems of Care partners with the Purdue Extension ACTS Program to have youth representation. I recommend everyone check and see if there is a Purdue Extension and ACTS in your county!

Willie Taylor Dec 2  
Thank you for this summit. So much great information. Gratefully,

Beatrice Beverly Dec 2  
Thank you for the invite, excellent summit!! See you on Jan 11th!

Children's Commission

REPLAY

# Agenda

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## 4. Family and Youth Engagement Summit Recap

Aly Leonard

Julia Stumler

# Agenda

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## 5. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

*Presentation:* Dr. Weaver and Kate Schedel



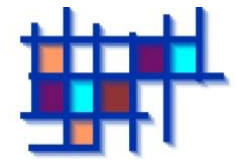
**Indiana**  
**Department**  
**of**  
**Health**

# THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

**LINDSAY WEAVER, M.D., FACEP**  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

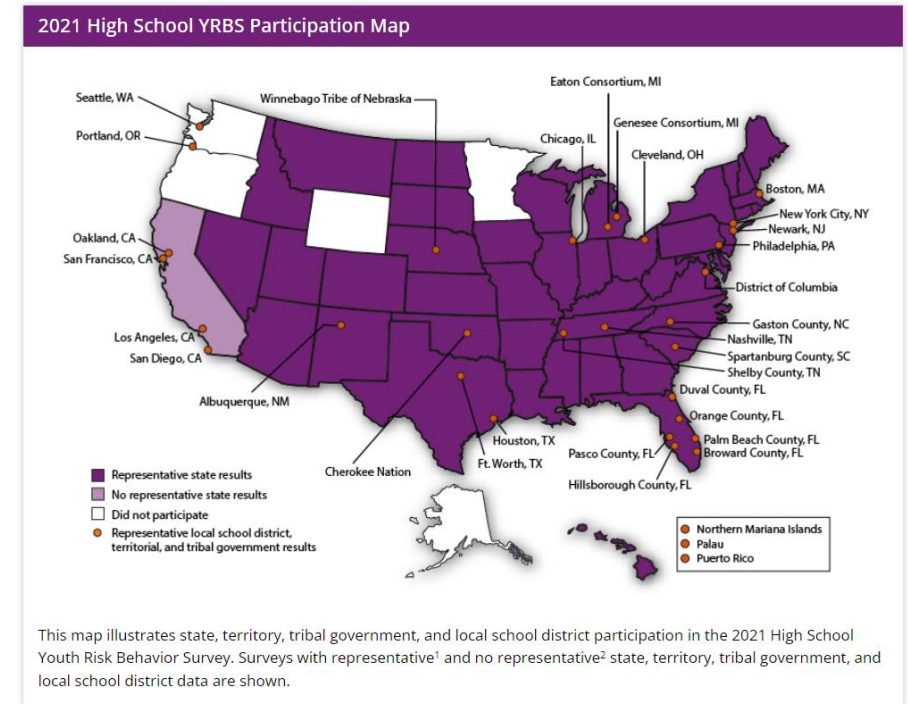
**KATE SCHEDEL, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS  
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

2023

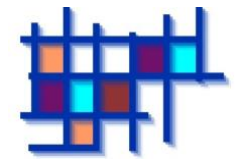


# Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

- A CDC-sponsored survey (started in 1990) conducted in collaboration with states nationwide
  - Partners with the Indiana Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Team
- Tracks behaviors that can lead to poor health in students, grades 9 – 12.
- It collects:
  - **Student demographics**
  - **Youth health behaviors and conditions**
  - **Substance use behaviors**
  - **Student experiences**







# Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

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The survey is designed to:

- Determine how often unhealthy behaviors happen and see how they change over time
- Provide data at the national and state level and compare different groups of adolescents
- Help monitor adolescent health over time – identify emerging issues and plan programs to support the health of youth

# Data Usage

- Data from 2021 has been of interest and used widely across the state by:
  - Schools and universities
  - Healthcare organizations
  - Local health departments
  - Non-profits
  - Coalitions
  - State agencies
- Presentations/Conferences
  - IDOH has presented data more than 40 times in the past year

Nearly half of Indiana high schoolers are sad or hopeless

## HEALTH & WELLNESS Indiana Survey Data Shows Increase in Teen Suicide Attempts

By Demarco Moore      DECEMBER 2, 2022



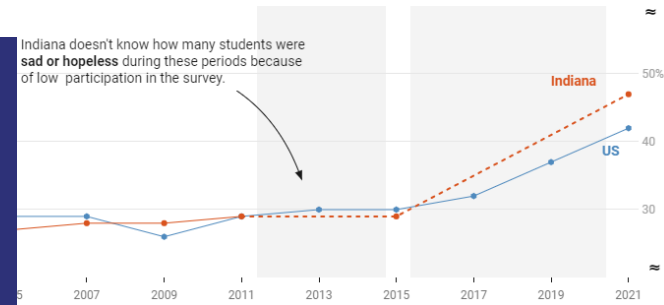
### New youth risk behavior survey reveals shocking trends of mental health problems among Indiana youth

For young people still developing physically and socially, poor mental health can often lead to risky behaviors like early drug or alcohol use and experiencing violence. New survey data out of Indiana shows an increase in teen suicide attempts, as well as the need for expanded mental health support in Indiana schools.

### THE PREVALENCE, CONSUMPTION, AND CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA, OPIOIDS, STIMULANTS, AND MENTAL HEALTH IN INDIANA

#### A STATE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE

Developed by Indiana State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup



Watters McCoy/WFYI - Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1991-2021 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Created with Datawrapper

Local News

### Youth suicide webinar planned for next month

By Lori McDonald - August 26, 2023



September is National Suicide Prevention Month.

According to the Indiana Youth Institute's Kids Count Data Book, 27.7% of Indiana students reported seriously considering attempting suicide.

Data on the iyi.org website show in Indiana, suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death for youth ages 5 to 14.

Experts and teens list several reasons for the increase, including insufficient mental health screening, poor access to mental health services and resistance to seeking care.

### Condom and Birth Control Use

**Definition:** Condom and birth control use is a measure of sexual activity rates of teenagers while engaging in sexual activity.

**Significance:** According to comprehensive data among teens, greater insight into their knowledge and understanding of contraceptive usage and benefits, while many states do not teach about contraception use, instead opting for abstinence-only teaching, the combination of condoms and birth control is an important step to take in sexual health. Youth who engage in sexual activity and use condoms and birth control together are most likely to prevent sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant compared to sexually active youth who don't employ condoms and birth control use.

**Indiana News Item:**

- In 2020, among sexually active students, condoms were the most prevalent primary pregnancy prevention method (68.8%) - an increase from 65.8% since the last survey year, 2016.
- 68.8% of sexually active students used both condoms, or birth or regular, or oral pills, or birth control (ring) before their last sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy - a significant difference from 70.3% in 2016.
- 62.8% of sexually active students used both a condom during their last sexual intercourse and birth control (pill, or IUD or implant, or a shot, patch, or birth control ring) to prevent pregnancy.
- 65.2% of sexually active students did not use any pregnancy prevention method the last time they had sex - a decrease from 68.8% in 2016.

### Sexually Transmitted Infections

**Definition:** Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are called sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are diseases and infections caused by engaging in sexual activity with an individual or individuals who carry a disease or infection.

**Significance:** The presence of STIs among teens can be indicative of factors like engaging in unprotected sex or having multiple sexual partners. The rate of STIs among adolescents provides greater context surrounding their sexual knowledge, activity practices, and overall health outcomes.

**Indiana News Item:**

- In 2020, among sexually active students, 6.8% report they were tested for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) other than HIV, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea.
- 6.8% of sexually active students were tested for herpes (herpesvirus) and (HPV) - a decrease from 8.8% since the last survey year, 2016.

Service	Percentage
Condom	68.8%
Birth Control (ring)	62.8%
Both	65.2%

Age Group	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	HPV Testing
6-11	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
12-17	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
18-24	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
25-34	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
35-44	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
45-54	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
55-64	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
65-74	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
75+	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%

2023 INDIANA KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

20th Edition of a Profile of Hoosier Youth

Topics: Family & Community, Health, Economic Well-Being, Education

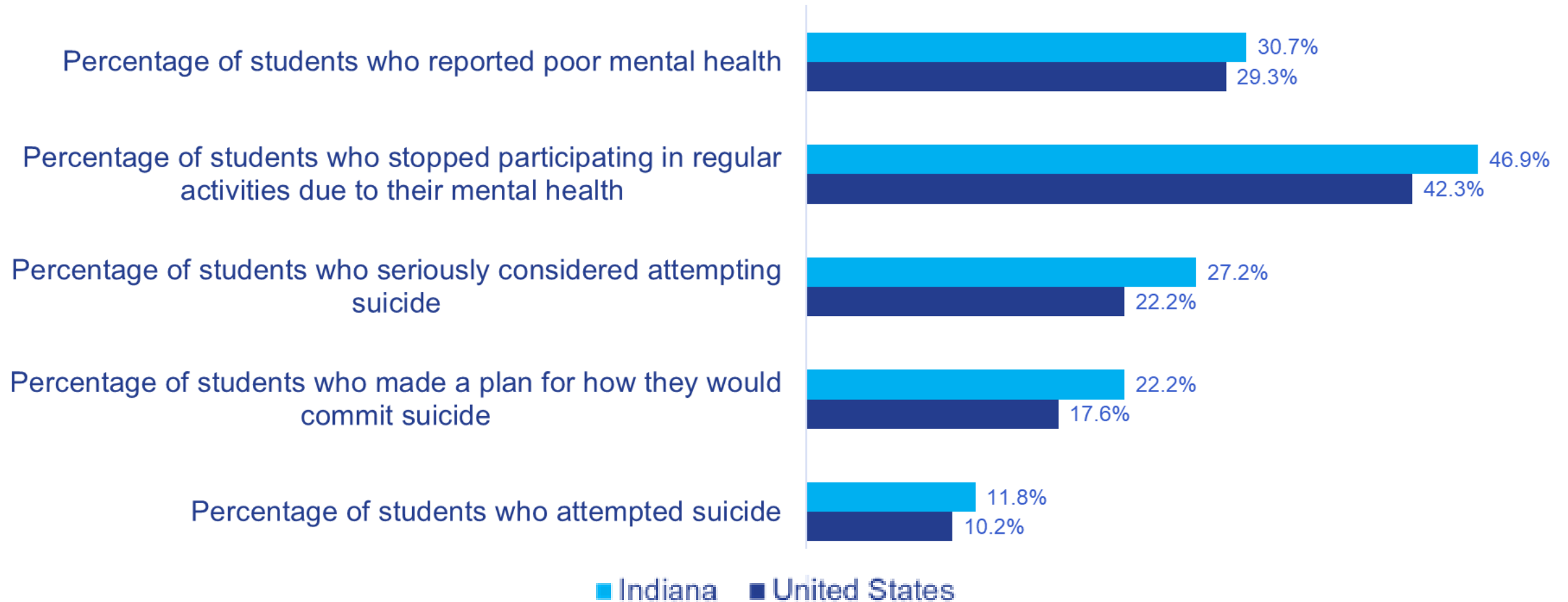


<https://landmarkrecovery.com/indiana-survey-data-shows-increase-in-teen-suicide-attempts>

<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/half-of-indiana-high-schoolers-feel-hopeless-why-is-mental-healthcare-controversial>

<https://tribtown.com/2023/08/26/youth-suicide-webinar-planned-for-next-month/>

# Mental Health and Suicide

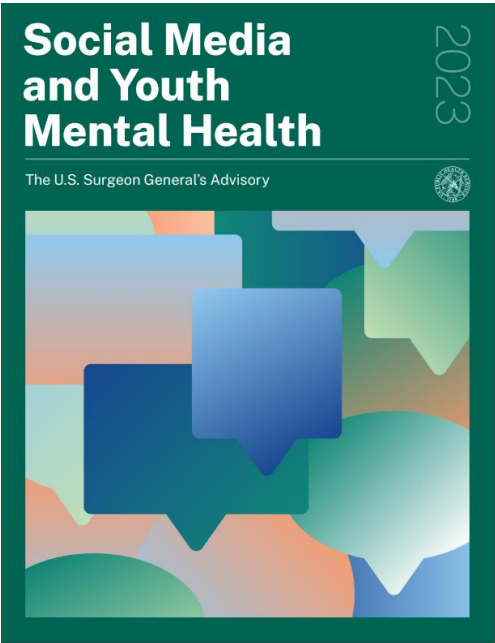
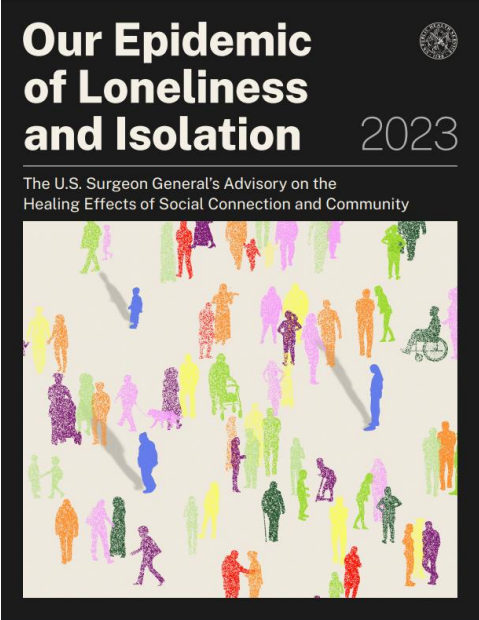


# Social Connectedness and Social Media

Percentage of students who strongly agree or agree that they feel close to people at their school



Percentage of students who most of the time or always feel that they are able to talk to a friend about their feelings



Percentage of students who spent 3 or more hours per day on screen time (not counting time spent doing schoolwork, on an average school day)



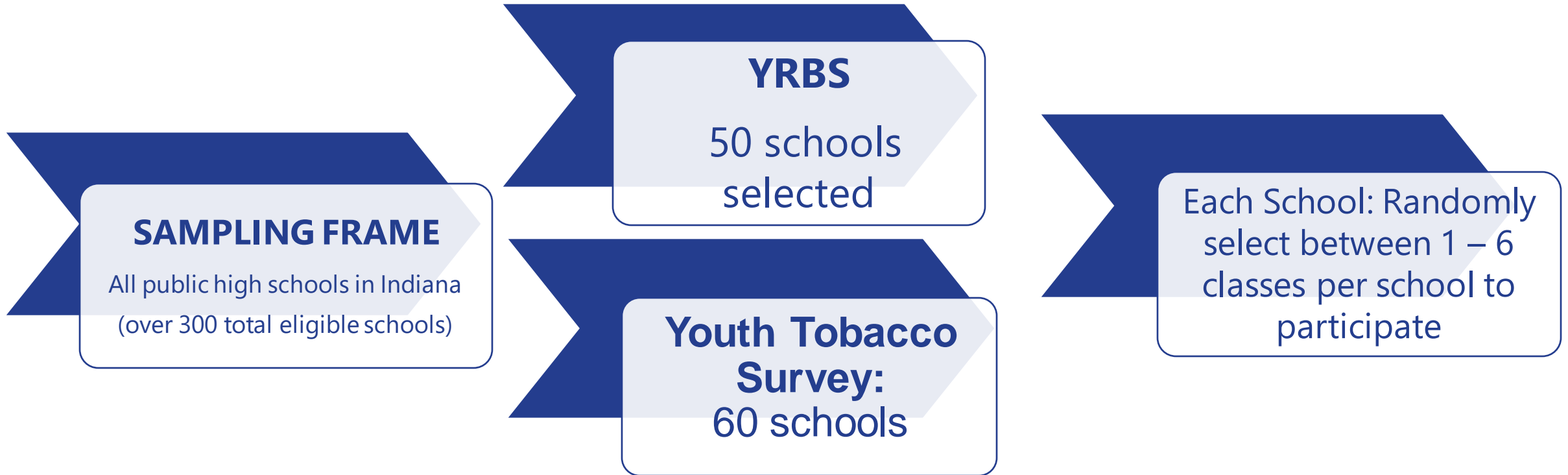
# YRBS Administration

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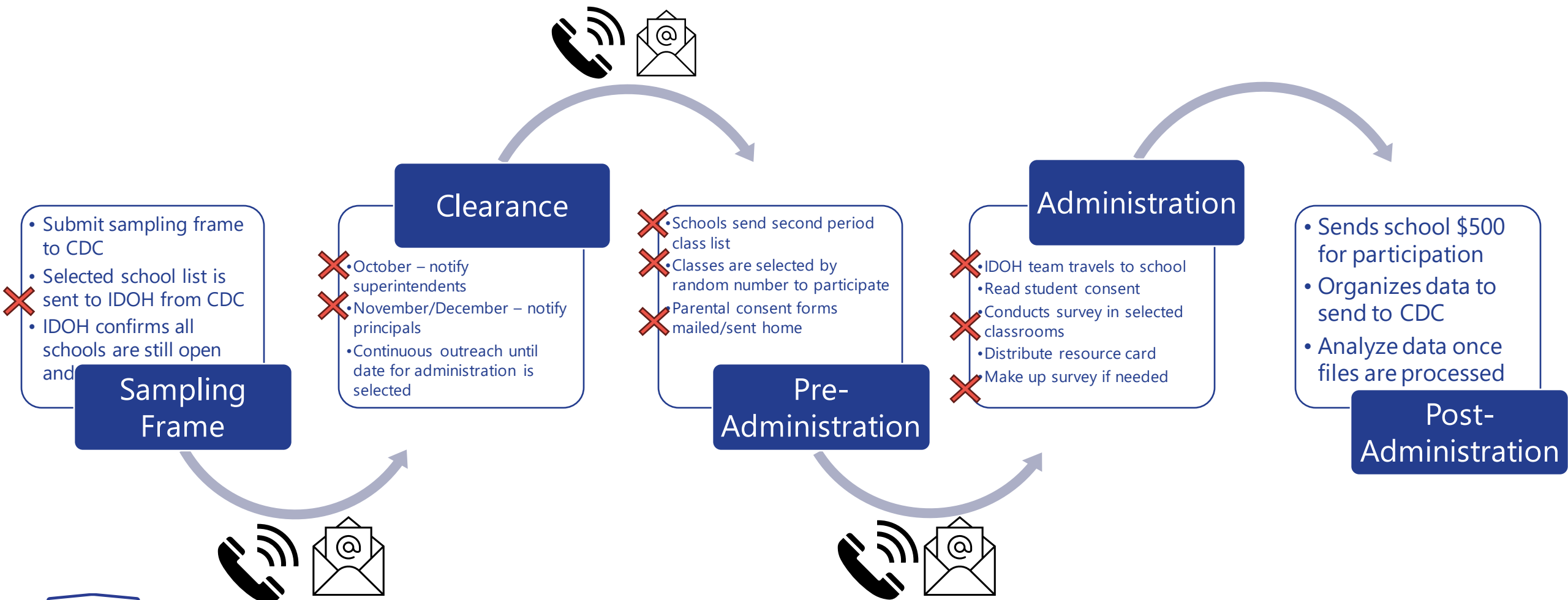
- Conducted by the Indiana Department of Health
- Administered every other year (odd years) from January – April
- Next YRBS will be in January 2025
  - Schools will be selected in the fall of 2024
- All public Indiana high schools are included in our sampling frame
  - 110 total schools around the state are selected by the CDC (50 for the YRBS and 60 for the Youth Tobacco Survey)
  - Schools are not currently required to participate, but will receive an incentive if they do
  - In each school, only 1 – 6 classrooms take the survey
- The survey is 99 questions - 2/3 of the questions are already selected by the CDC.
  - Completed in one class period (~40 minutes)
  - Answers are completely anonymous

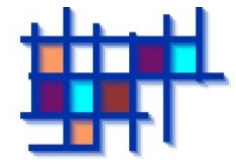
# School Selection by CDC

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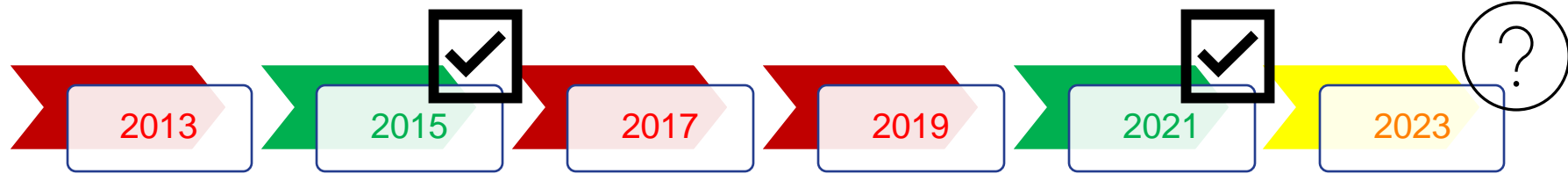
# The Process





# Getting to Weighted Data

- YRBS data is only available if enough schools and enough students participate in the survey
- Weighting means the data is representative of the adolescent population in grades 9 – 12 across Indiana
- Indiana had weighted data just twice in the last decade. We are still waiting to hear about 2023 data.



- Participation varies by year, both by number of schools and number of students
- We use every means to connect with schools and make it easy to integrate into schedules early
- If a school says “no,” **we do not get a new replacement school**
- Reasons to not take the survey vary: missing class time, concerns about survey questions, school policies, and more



# Questions?



# Agenda

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5. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Commission Member Discussion

# Agenda

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## 6. Task Force Updates

Child Health and Safety: Kate Schedel

# Health & Safety Task Force

Co-Chairs: Kate Schedel (IDOH) & Sonya Rush (DCS)

Commission on Improving the Status of Children

December 6, 2023





# Membership

Tammie Carter: **lifesmart youth**

Olivia Clark: **idoh**

Christina Commons: **fssa**

Katie Goodwell: **fssa**

Maureen Greer: **ipqic**

Rachael Fisher: **community health  
network**

Stephaney Knight: **cisc**

Kristi Linson: **idoh**

Ashley Mager: **mch grassroots  
leaders**

Sue McKinney: **oecosl**

Carey Michels: **fssa**

Hannah Milner: **foster success**

Samantha Mundt: **idoh**

Derika Parris: **goodwill nfp**

Angela Reid-Brown: **dcs**

Angela Smith-Grossman: **dcs**

Shannon Schumacher: **the villages**

Willie Taylor: **dcs**

Jack Turman Jr: **mch grassroots  
leaders**

Elizabeth Wahl: **fssa**

Jeffrey Whittman: **pcain**

Brittany Winebar: **prevail**

# Strategic Goal 1: Improve the health and safety of vulnerable children and youth



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



Increase housing stability for families with children.



Recommend ways to increase the power and voice of children in state care.



Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising models for promoting healthy teen relationships, preventing unplanned pregnancy, and reducing the sexual victimization of adolescents.



Increase access to early intervention for vulnerable young children.



# 2023 Highlights



Summary of Indiana Early Childhood Needs Assessments

- IDOH and Data AIMS



Piloted Child Abuse & Neglect Toolkit - PCAIN



Infant Mortality and Housing

- MCH Grassroots Leaders and IU SOM



Supports for Kinship Caregivers - The Villages



Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data - IDOH



# What's Next:



Shifting and adapting to new strategic plan



Continuing some work and starting new in other objectives



Recruiting new members and subject matter experts



Looking at creating long-term impact



Continuing to increase awareness of current situation





# Agenda

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## 6. Task Force Updates

Educational Outcomes: Brianna Morse

The background features a dark green chalkboard with a 3D effect. The board is decorated with white chalk drawings: a sun with rays in the top right, two fluffy clouds, a pencil with a yellow eraser on the right, a paper airplane with a dashed path in the bottom right, a flower with yellow petals and a green stem in the bottom left, and a string of colorful triangular flags in the top left. The text is centered on the board in white.

Commission on Improving the Status of  
Children in Indiana

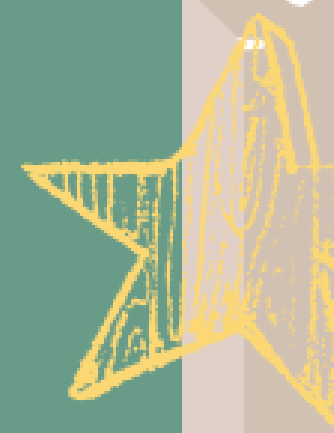
EDUCATION  
OUTCOMES  
TASKFORCE

Brianna Morse (DWD) &  
Michelle Clark (DOE), Co-  
Chairs



# OTF GOALS (2023-25):

1. IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY **EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION** FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
2. INCREASE USE OF **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES** IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE
3. IDENTIFY AND ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE AND PROMISING PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE **TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS**
4. IMPROVE ACCESS TO **QUALITY EDUCATION FOR YOUTH IN RESIDENTIAL, DETENTION, AND CORRECTIONS FACILITIES**
5. IDENTIFY AND ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OF **EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS** AND ARE INVOLVED WITH ONE OF THE OTHER STATE SYSTEMS (DCS, FSSA, JUVENILE JUSTICE)
6. IDENTIFY AND ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE AND PROMISING PRACTICES TO **PROMOTE ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE READINESS** FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH, INCLUDING BUILDING A PIPELINE TO FUTURE WORK IN YOUTH-SERVING PROFESSIONS.



# 2023 Highlights

01 Dept. of Corrections  
Juvenile Transition Process

02 Commission for Higher  
Education  
21CS Auto-Enrollment (2023  
Legislative item)

03 Dept. of Education  
Resiliency through Strengths  
2023 Legislative Items





04 Foster Success  
Pathways and Catalyst  
programs

05 Jobs for America's  
Graduates  
Program Expansion





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 
- 
- 
- 01 Early Childhood Membership & Voice
  - 02 Spread the word re: Foster Success programming
  - 03 Spread the word re: JAG program expansion
  - 04 Support mental health/trauma-informed programming
  - 05 Share other promising practices w/ co-chairs for future discussion
- 

# Agenda

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## 6. Task Force Updates

Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth:

Judge Carmichael and Nancy Wever



# **Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth Task Force**

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**A Task Force of the Commission on Improving the  
Status of Children in Indiana**

December 6, 2023

# Members



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## **Judge Vicki Carmichael – Co-Chair**

*Clark Circuit Court 4*

## **Nancy Wever – Co-Chair**

*Indiana Office of Court Services*

## **Steve Balko**

*Indiana Department of Education*

## **Amber Becker**

*Division of Mental Health and Addiction*

## **Kate Collins**

*Department of Child Services*

## **Alison Cox**

*Indiana Juvenile Detention Association*

## **Ann Davis**

*Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)*

## **Terrie Decker**

*Indiana Department of Correction, DYS*

## **Judge Kim Dowling**

*Delaware Circuit Court 2*

## **Suzanne Draper**

*Vanderburgh County CASA, Inc.*

## **Tracy Fitz**

*Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council*

## **Mike Goodwin**

*Department of Child Services*

## **JauNae Hanger**

*Children's Policy and Law Initiative*

## **Rebecca Humphre**

*Tippecanoe County Government*

## **Jill Johnson**

*Marion County Public Defender Agency,  
Juvenile Division*

## **Samantha Lewis**

*Wayne County Probation*

## **Kiarra Pearson**

*Division of Mental Health and Addiction*

## **Leah Pezzarossi**

*Open Door Youth Services*

## **Kaylee Price**

*Lived-Experience Community*

## **Colleen Saylor**

*Indiana Office of Court Services*

## **Don Travis**

*Department of Child Services*

## **Renee White**

*Indiana Criminal Justice Institute*

## **Joel Wieneke**

*Indiana Public Defender Council*



# **Strategic Goal: Improve safety and outcomes of youth who come in contact with the justice system**

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## **Objective #1**

**Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices for identification, referral, and appropriate services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)**

## **Objective #2**

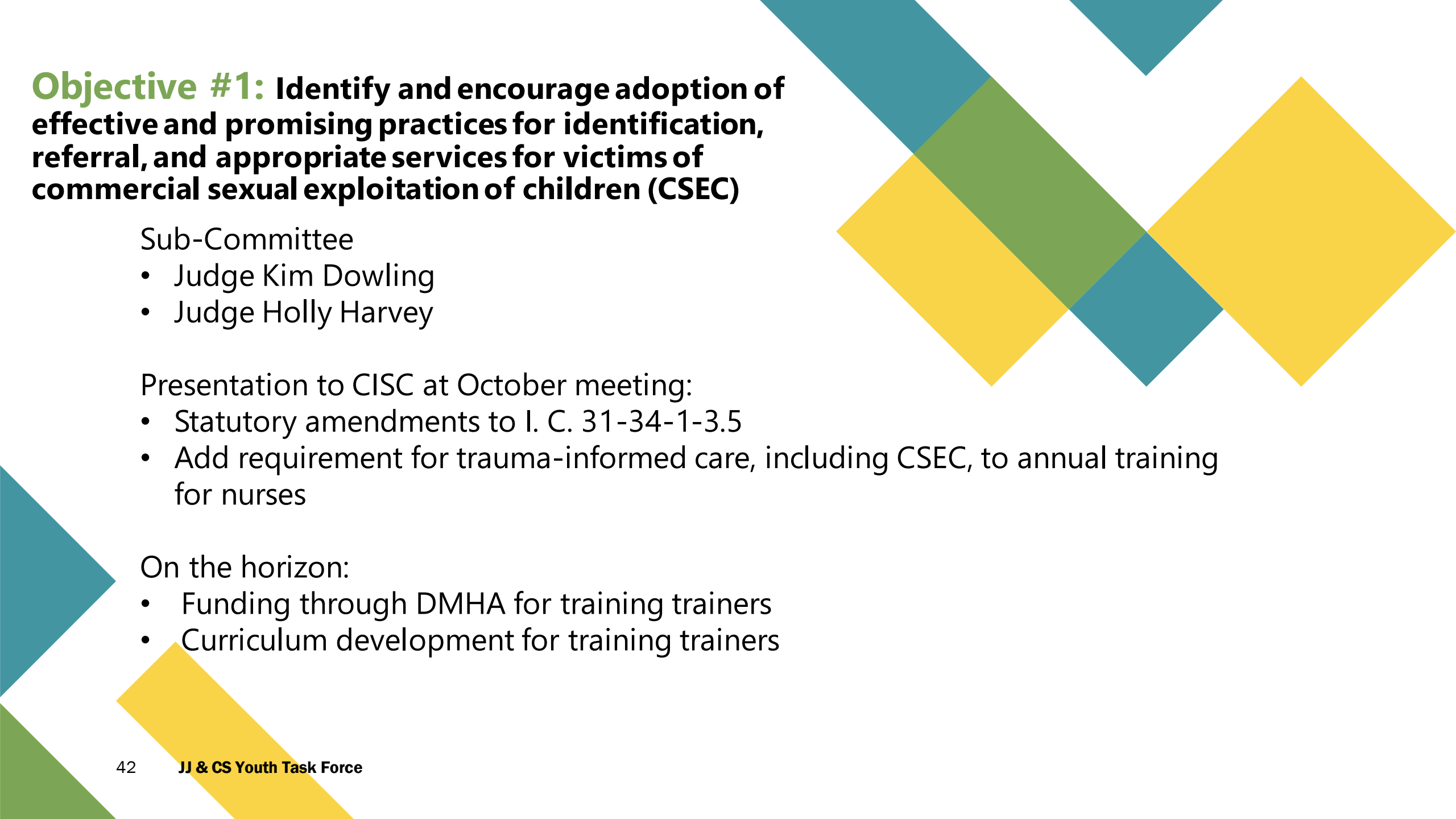
**Identify and encourage adoption of effective policies and practices that promote family engagement, healing, and growth in juvenile status offense cases**

## **Objective #3**

**Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising programs and practices to support the healthy development of children with an incarcerated parent**

## **Objective #4**

**Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices and policies that integrate the science of child and adolescent development into the justice system's response to children and youth**



## **Objective #1: Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices for identification, referral, and appropriate services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)**

### Sub-Committee

- Judge Kim Dowling
- Judge Holly Harvey

### Presentation to CISC at October meeting:

- Statutory amendments to I. C. 31-34-1-3.5
- Add requirement for trauma-informed care, including CSEC, to annual training for nurses

### On the horizon:

- Funding through DMHA for training trainers
- Curriculum development for training trainers



**Objective #2: Identify and encourage adoption of effective policies and practices that promote family engagement, healing, and growth in juvenile status offense cases**

Sub-Committee

- Tracy Fitz
- Leah Pezzarossi

Current Activities:

- Forming sub-committee
- Defining “status offenses” for understanding
- Learning how other states address
- Current services/interventions used in Indiana



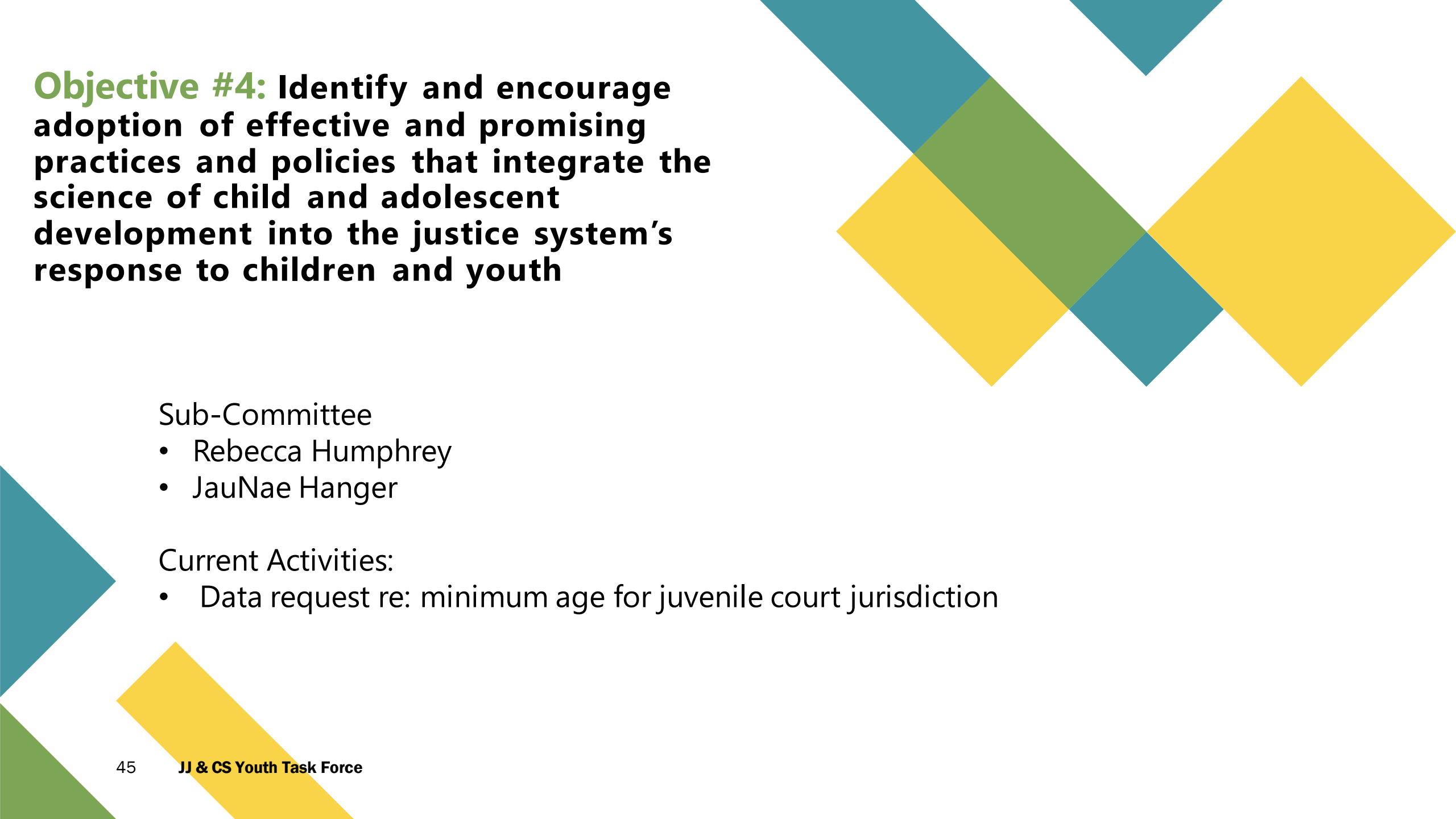
**Objective #3: Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising programs and practices to support the healthy development of children with an incarcerated parent**

Sub-Committee

- Steve Balko
- Joel Wieneke

Current Activities:

- Adding members (youth whose parents are/were incarcerated, formerly incarcerated fathers)
- Learning (housing decisions at DOC, programs)
- Connecting (role of state agencies, organizations, schools, county jails; support upon reintegration)



**Objective #4: Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices and policies that integrate the science of child and adolescent development into the justice system's response to children and youth**

Sub-Committee

- Rebecca Humphrey
- JauNae Hanger

Current Activities:

- Data request re: minimum age for juvenile court jurisdiction

# Additional Activities

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Implementation Committee  
Integrate lived experience





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**Thank you for the  
opportunity to do  
this work!**

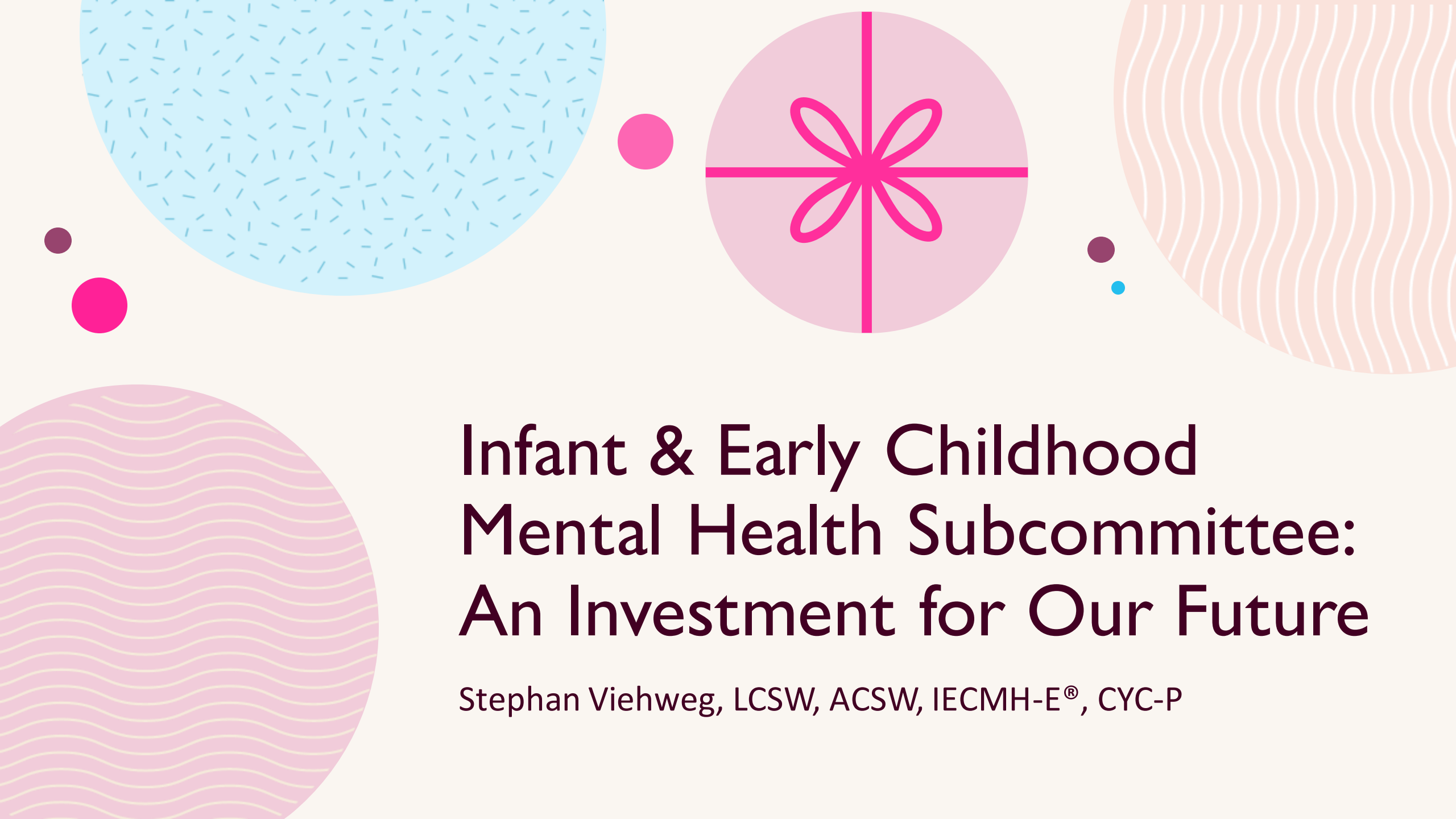
# Agenda

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## 6. Task Force Updates

Mental Health and Substance Abuse: Stephan Viehweg



The background features several large, overlapping circles with different patterns and colors. A light blue circle with a dashed pattern is in the top left. A pink circle with a floral pattern is in the top center. A light pink circle with a wavy pattern is in the top right. A larger pink circle with a wavy pattern is in the bottom left. There are also several small solid circles in various colors (pink, purple, blue) scattered around the larger ones.

# Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Subcommittee: An Investment for Our Future

Stephan Viehweg, LCSW, ACSW, IECMH-E<sup>®</sup>, CYC-P

It's about the  
kids



# There's a lot of them

- Half a million children from birth to age five in Indiana (6.3% of total state population)
- 239,636 infants/toddlers (3.5% of total state population)
- 80,000 babies born each year in the state





# I/ECMH

“Directs our attention to the well-being of all infants and toddlers within the context of secure and nurturing relationships”

(Fitzgerald, Weatherston & Mann, 2011)

# Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Definition ZERO TO THREE (2002)

The child's developing capacity to:

- Form close and secure interpersonal relationships
- Experience, regulate and express emotions
- Explore the environment and learn
- All within the context of family, community, and cultural expectations





# Centering relationships

There is no such thing as a  
baby;

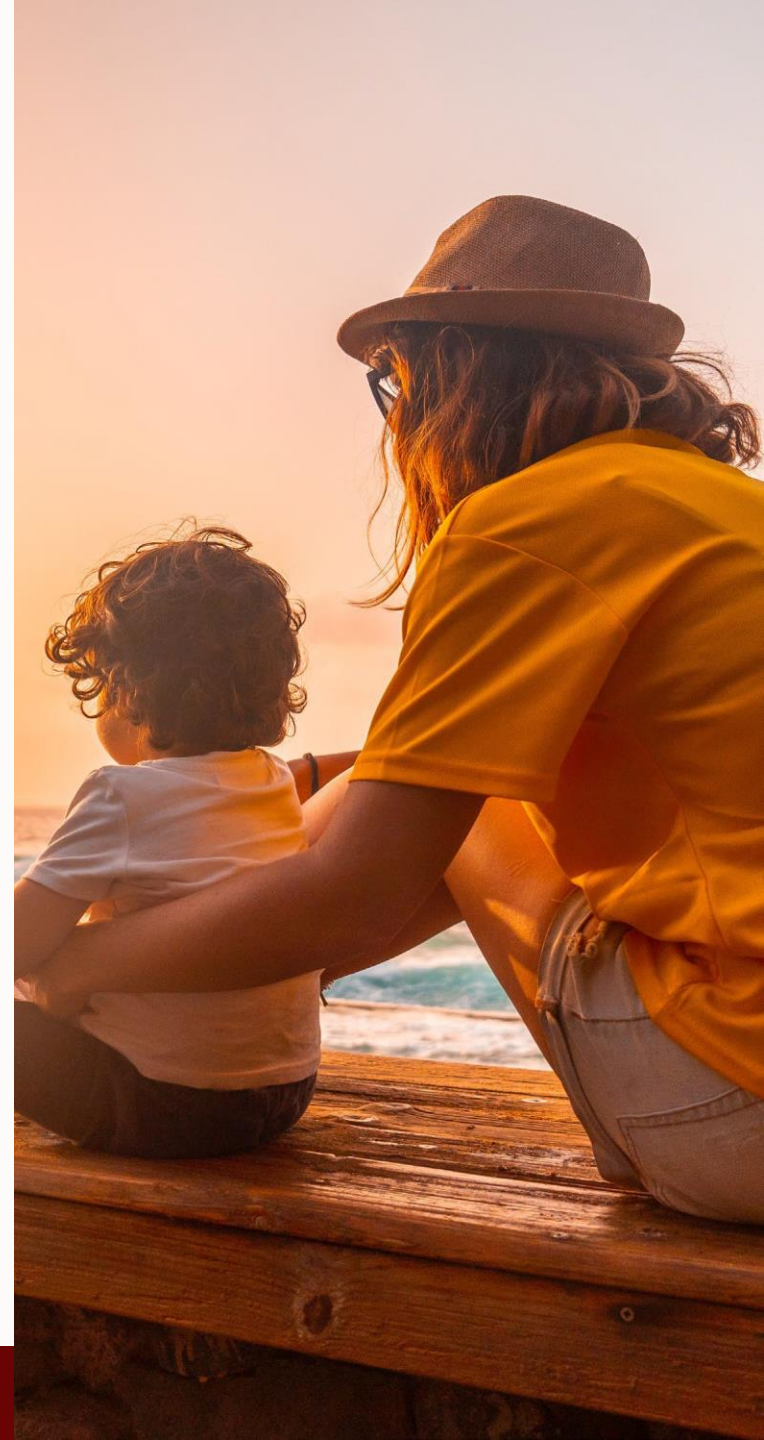
There is always a baby and  
someone else.

Donald Winnicott, MD, 1960



# When a young child is mentally healthy, we would expect that they can:

- Learn to identify and begin to understand their feelings
- Begin to manage strong feelings and express them in appropriate ways
- Begin to manage impulses and behavior
- Learn to recognize feelings and cues in others
- Make friends
- Develop confidence, cooperativeness and curiosity



## Potential Barriers to Children Forming Close Relationships: It Starts with the Adults

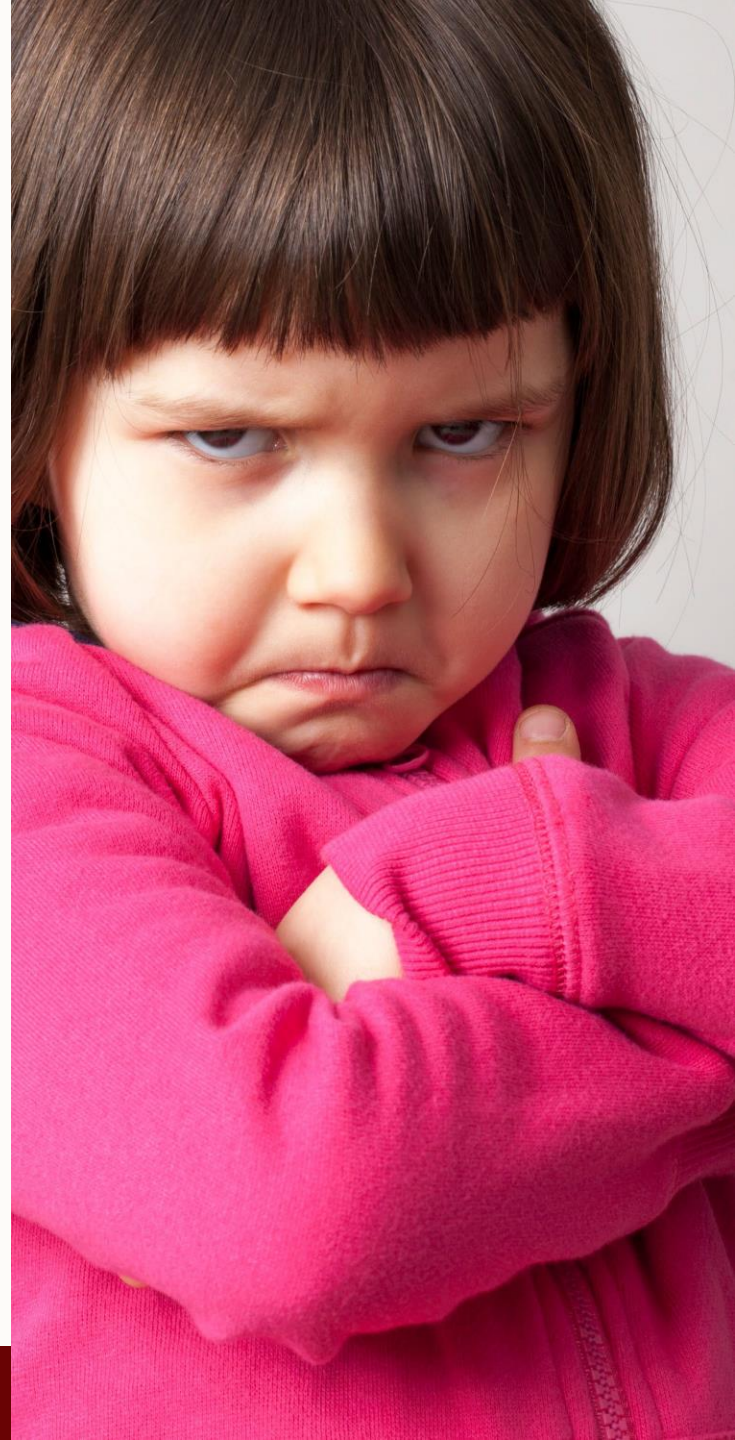
- 30% of adults in IN households with children reported having little interest or pleasure in doing things more than half the days<sup>2</sup>
- 24% of adults in IN households with children reported feeling down, depressed, or hopeless<sup>2</sup>
- 32% of IN adults with children in the household report feeling nervous, anxious or on edge more than half the days<sup>2</sup>
- Only 16.8% of IN adults with children received mental health services in the past year<sup>2</sup>
- More than 1.1 million adult Hoosiers experience mental illness every year and 56% of adult Hoosiers with mental illness did not receive treatment in 2022.<sup>18</sup> Untreated mental illness costs IN at least 4.15 billion annually.<sup>18</sup>
- Mental health is a particular concern for infants and young children in low-income households. More than half of infants in low-income households live with a mother experiencing some form of depression.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 239,636 infants/toddlers in Indiana, 40.2% live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level (in 2021-about 55,000 for a family of four)<sup>23</sup>



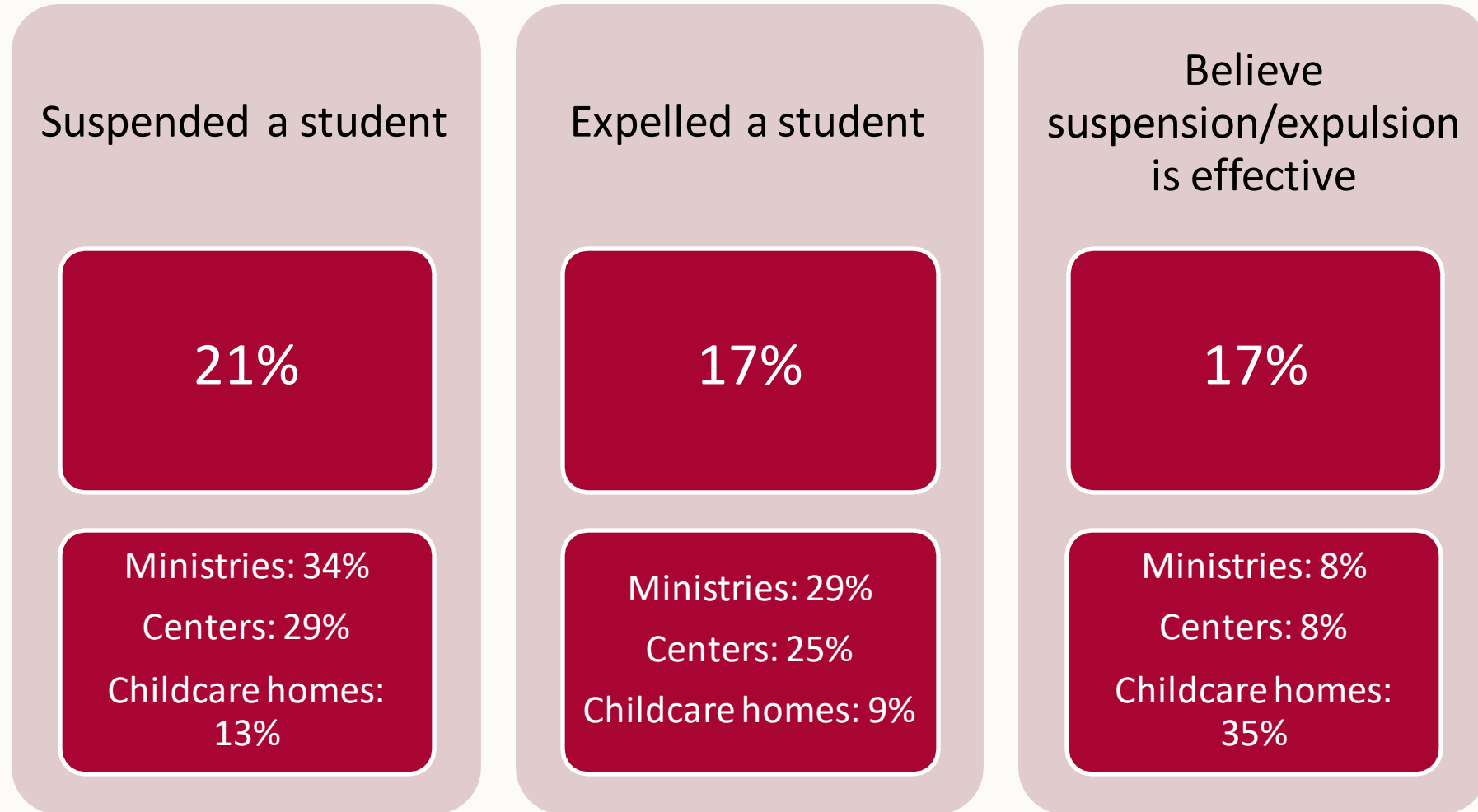


# Children must learn to experience, manage, and express a full range of emotions.

- 26% of IN children 3-17 have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions, compared to 22% nationally.<sup>6</sup>
- 17% of IN parents reported that their child was anxious/clingy<sup>2</sup>
- 12% reported that their child was sad/depressed<sup>2</sup>
- 13% reported a change in their child's ability to focus<sup>2</sup>
- 10% reported more anger/outbursts<sup>2</sup>
- 5% reported more problematic child behavior.<sup>2</sup>
- Behavior concerns from SPARK between 10/1/20 to 12/30/22 make up 24% of all referrals.<sup>7</sup>



# Children must learn to experience, manage, and express a full range of emotions



2022 SPARK Professional Development Needs Assessment (n=1242)

# Children need opportunities to explore their environment and learn

- Young children are not always in safe and secure environments.
  - The rate of referrals made to the child welfare agency in Indiana is 110.1 out of 1000 compared to 45.2 out of 1000 for the United States as a whole. Infants and toddlers (0-3) are more likely to be referred than other age groups (40% of Indiana referrals compared to 34% of U.S. referrals).<sup>20</sup>
  - 20% of IN households with children who rent are very or somewhat likely to be evicted in the next 2 months<sup>2</sup>
  - IN had 1523 people in families with children experiencing homelessness.<sup>10</sup>
  - 5,950 children were removed from their homes in 2022.<sup>12</sup>
    - Infants remain the highest age category for removals.<sup>12</sup>
    - Neglect remains the most frequent reason for removal.<sup>12</sup>
  - 60 child deaths due to maltreatment in 2021.<sup>12</sup>
  - 35.2% of children ages 4 months to 5 years old slept less than the recommended age-appropriate hours during 2020-2021.<sup>12</sup> While lack of sleep may not always indicate lack of safety, it suggests that the environment may not be meeting the child's developmental needs.

# Children need opportunities to explore their environment and learn

- 70% of children in IN have all available parents working.<sup>14</sup> Only 23% of children 0-5 are enrolled in some form of childcare.<sup>14</sup> 39% of 3- and 4-year-olds are not in preschool.<sup>14</sup>
- Of children in care, only 47% are in programs rated Paths to Quality level 3 or 4<sup>4</sup>
- 55% of IN families reside in a childcare desert.<sup>14</sup>
- 72% of families in rural communities have little or no access to licensed childcare.<sup>14</sup>
- 79% of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) needs assessment respondents expressed a need for childcare.<sup>13</sup>
- Some high poverty counties have less than 40% of children in funded care (receiving CCDF vouchers) (e.g., Rush, Sullivan, Blackford). Most counties with high poverty and low % of children receiving funded care are rural.<sup>3</sup>




Young children's well-being  
depends on  
caregiver well-being

# Our big dream!

- Young children and families can readily access mental health support in their own back yards--no matter where they live in Indiana!





How do we  
get from here  
to there?

# Think broadly, think big!


- Promotion
- Prevention
- Intervention







# IECMH Subcommittee

- Annual IECMH Summit
    - Recently held October 16, 2023
  - Analyze the data we have, Share the results, Ask more questions to find out more
  - Expand and build on the current initiatives
    - Professional development to build a ready workforce
      - Infancy Onward – IECMH Endorsement
      - SPARK – Training and Technical Assistance to ECE providers
      - The Irsay Institute
    - Evidence based treatment approaches
    - CDC Mental Health Champion project
      - Emphasis on IECMH for next year's project
  - Partner with legislators to enact laws and policies that support IECMH
  - Speaking for the babies
- 

*Do or do not.*

*There is no try.*



Thank you for your support!



# Resources

- <https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/ecc/resources/mental-health/index.html>
- <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/deep-dives/> (overview video)
- <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/news-and-events/webinars/>
- [Brief from Harvard on mental health in childhood](#)
- [Short videos on trauma/resilience](#)
- [Factsheet on mental health in children from NIMH](#) (not specific to ECE)
- Dr. Lori Desautels: <https://revelationsineducation.com/>



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4. Zero to Three, 2017
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6. Personal communication, FSSA
7. 2022 Spark Professional Development Needs Assessment Analysis: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/spark.learning.lab/viz/2022SPARKPDNeedsAssessmentAnalysis/Demographics?publish=yes>
8. First Steps Annual Report 2022: <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/files/FirstStepsICC-2022AnnualReport.pdf>
9. 2022 Continuums of Care to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development: [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf\\_pg\\_40](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf_pg_40)
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21. CANS Manual: [https://dmha.fssa.in.gov/darmha/Documents/CANS5-17ManualSFY2019\\_06222018.pdf](https://dmha.fssa.in.gov/darmha/Documents/CANS5-17ManualSFY2019_06222018.pdf)
22. CANS Data from DARMHA database shared with permission from DCS and DMHA.
23. State of Babies Yearbook 2023: <https://stateofbabies.org/state/indiana/>
24. <https://www.nccp.org/early-childhood/?state=IN>



# Agenda

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## 7. Announcements and Adjournment

Indiana Public Defender Council: Julia Stevens

# Agenda

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## 7. Announcements and Adjournment

Reception next-door in Conference Room