



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Meeting Minutes

**Committee/Task Force: Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth**

**Date of Meeting: 1/5/2024**

**Time: 9:30 A.M.**

**Location: Zoom**

**Minutes Prepared By: Nancy Wever**

### Meeting Objectives:

- Review presentation to CISC on 12/6.
- Learn about the progress of sub-committees toward meeting objectives.

### Standing Members:

Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)
Steve Balko	Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)	X
Amber Becker	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
Hon. Vicki Carmichael (co-chair)	Clark Circuit Court #4	
Kate Collins	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X
Alison Cox	Indiana Juvenile Detention Association	X
Ann Davis	Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)	X
Terrie Decker	Indiana Department of Correction	X
Hon. Kimberly Dowling	Delaware Circuit Court #2	
Suzanne Draper	Vanderburgh County CASA, Inc.	
Tracy Fitz	Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council (IPAC)	X
James (Mike) Goodwin	Indiana Department of Child Service (DCS) Sullivan County	X
JauNae Hanger	Children's Policy and Law Initiative (CPLI)	

Rebecca Humphrey	Tippecanoe County Government	
Jill Johnson	Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division	
Samantha Lewis	Wayne County Probation	
Kiarra Pearson	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	X
Leah Pezzarossi	Open Door Youth Services	
Kaylee Price	Youth Representative	X
Colleen Saylor	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	X
Don Travis	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	
Nancy Wever (co-chair)	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	X
Renee White	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI)	
Joel Wieneke	Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC)	

#### Staff/Guests:

Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)
Mark Fairchild	Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC)	X
Blane Cook	Commission on Improving the Status of Children (CISC)	X
Tim Nation	Peace Learning Center	X

#### Agenda and Notes:

##### Introduction and Check-In:

- Attendees learned the names and roles of those present.
- Attendees connected with purpose of meeting by sharing what they are looking forward to the TF accomplishing in 2024.

##### Review and Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from 11/3/23 were reviewed. Tracy Fitz motioned to approve the minutes; Terrie Decker seconded the motion; no discussion; minutes approved.

##### Updates/Old Business:

- Nancy Wever reported that she and Judge Carmichael presented to the CISC on the activities of the TF. She felt like it went well – the CISC was engaged and appeared interested in the work that the sub-committees had been doing. Ms. Wever advised that they learned some things too – Representative Summers and Senator Breaux recommended connecting with Kim Dodson from the Arc to bring the voice of the developmentally disabled to the TF. We have been unsuccessful in recruiting anyone

from the Bureau of Developmental and Disability Services (BDDS). Also, Dr. Weaver, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Health, expressed interest in learning more about the work of the CSEC sub-committee and Judge Carmichael made a connection with one of the young person's serving on the CISC, as she is from Clark County. Finally, there was discussion about a bill being filed following the CSEC recommendations of amendments to I. C. 31-34-1-3.5 that would remove the requirement of an admission or denial to the allegation that the child is a Child in Need of Services (CHINS), would require appointment of counsel for the alleged victim, and would make the standard of proof a preponderance of the evidence.

- Mark Fairchild advised that Senator Crider filed SB 45 requiring nurses to have annual training requirements on trauma-informed care, which would include components of CSEC. He shared that there would likely be considerations related to fiscal impact, as there is not currently a system to track training requirements for nurses.
- Mark Fairchild advised that the bill to amend 31-34-1-3.5 was just filed. He reminded the TF that the CISC has supported this and does not foresee barriers to passage. The only anticipated challenge might be the cost of appointment of counsel. Nancy Wever stated that Judge Dowling has said that there have only been a handful of cases filed under 3.5 so the fiscal impact may be negligible.
- Objective #1- CESC: Updates covered in the report on the presentation to the CISC.
- Objective #2- Status Offense: Tracy Fitz reported that the sub-committee has met a couple of times and has developed two sub-sub-committees. One of these is tasked with reviewing what Indiana is doing well in this area. The group is focused on policies and practices that divert youth who encounter the system, either completely or early in the process. The other group is focused on what is happening in other states. Nancy Wever asked if the group is considering all status offenses or if there is focus on specific offenses. Ms. Fitz responded that they are considering all but focusing on the most referred: Truancy and Runaway. She advised that no support from the TF is needed at this time but maybe when they consider data requests.
- Objective #3- Children with an Incarcerated Parent: Nancy Wever advised that Joel sent notes from the last meeting. The notes indicate the sub-committee appears to still be in the education phase. They have invited Jeff Whitman to their next meeting to discuss what he is doing with fatherhood programs in prisons. Terrie Decker advised that she is unfamiliar with what is happening in adult prisons, but it is difficult to get programming for the youth who are fathers – a little easier for youth who are mothers. Mike Goodwin shared that he went to Wabash Valley to connect with those running a fatherhood engagement program. He learned that they were selected as a pilot site for a program but did not yet have much information about it. Mr. Goodwin plans to follow up and see what intersections exist between DCS programs and what is happening there. Nancy Wever added that, according to the notes, the sub-committee is recruiting members with lived experience – parents who have been incarcerated and young people with parents who have been incarcerated.
- Objective #4- Child and Adolescent Development into the Justice System: Nancy Wever reported that JauNae asked her to report out. The group is focused on establishing a minimum age for juvenile court jurisdiction. The sub-committee has made a request to the data and mapping committee to find out how many youth under the age of 12 are referred to the system, for what are they being referred, what is happening with them (outcome of referrals).

#### New Business/Presentations:

- Mark Fairchild advised that he is scheduled to do a joint presentation to the Family and Children's services Committees at the Statehouse on January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Mark Fairchild reported that the CISC will be co-hosting the Youth Day at the Statehouse with MCCOY. This will provide an opportunity for youth to learn about the legislative process, meet legislators, etc. This will be coupled with the Day of the Child – Indiana Youth Institute's (IYI) annual event during

which the Kids Count Data Book is released. This will allow a child/youth focused day when young people are out of school and more likely able to attend. Blane Cook shared the registration information. TF members are encouraged to attend.

Action Items:

- Nancy Wever will prepare and distribute meeting minutes before the March meeting.
- Co-Chairs will send meeting information and invitations before sub-committees/and or small groups meet.
- Before the next meeting, Co-Chairs and Sub Committees will identify any support or needs from the TF.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Next Meeting:

Date: 3/1/2024

Time: 9:30 am – 11 AM

Location: Online via Zoom

Topics/Objectives: Sub-committee activities; legislative activities