



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force met virtually via ZOOM platform on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. (EDT) The meeting recording is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVVvNG3e1fW4gf8ZZYoZNVg>

I. Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch Called the Meeting to Order (10:00 AM)

II. Introduction of Task Force Members (10:05 AM)

Members Present: Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Senator Vaneta Becker, Representative Ed Clere, Representative Carey Hamilton, Kim Opsahl, Brian Gilbert (Allison Taylor), Jay Chaudhary, Christine Dahlberg, Dr. Nancy Holsapple, Jan Kulik, Elizabeth Peyton (Sarah Renner), David Reed (Terry Stigdon), Kim Dodson, John Barth, Kathleen McAllen, Joe Langerak, Shawn Fulton, Danie’l Mize, Jason Meyer, Jonathan Burlison **Member(s) Not Present:** Senator Eddie Melton

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 2, 2020 (10:10 AM)

Minutes from the September 2, 2020 minutes were approved.

IV. DDRS Updates (10:15 AM)

a. Leadership Transition

- Kim Opsahl introduced herself as the new DDRS Director effective June 4, 2020. Kelly Mitchell will begin July 12th as the Associate Director. Currently, she is the President/CEO of SIRS.
- Ms. Opsahl shared that it was her intent to continue the transformational change started under prior Director Kylee Hope’s leadership. This includes advancing the recommendations of this Task Force and continued use of the LifeCourse Framework as a guiding principles and values for the service delivery system.

b. COVID-19 Response

- Through the pandemic, the Division focused on four key goals to guide their response efforts:
 - Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep people alive
 - Operationalize flexibilities
 - Provider network maintained
 - Empower person-centered decision-making for self-advocates, families, case managers, and providers



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

Within that context, DDRS Bureau updates were provided:

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):

- Through participant surveys, VR noted that 64% of program participants reported that COVID-19 impacted their employment.
- BRS held its first Mental Health Employment Summit in May in partnership with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction.
- Blind and Visually Impaired Services revamped training and provided relief funding to Business Enterprise Program vendors for lost wages/supplies.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services recently partnered with Walgreens to set up COVID Vaccine sites for Hoosiers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

The Lt. Governor asked for clarification on the total number of individuals in the state with ID/DD, what percentage are of working age, and what percentage are employed.

Bureau of Child Development Services - First Steps:

- Referrals from 2016 to present showed a 13% increase, though they fell to their lowest point in March through May 2020. Referrals are still down 5.6% as compared to February 2020.
- An Executive Order allowed for the use of telehealth services, and most intervention was completed virtually. During the summer months, many families asked for in-person visits to return however eligibility and service coordination continue to be mainly delivered remotely.
- With support from the Professional Development Committee of the Interagency Coordinating Council, First Steps is working toward system-wide implementation of Family Guided Routines Based Intervention (FGRBI), which is an evidence based coaching model.
- A new early intervention data system – EI Hub - continues to be a priority and provides for a modern system, greater transparency and better data. Implementation of the new system happened in March of this year. EI Hub is integrating six existing systems - provider enrollment and management, learning management system, case management, service log-in, billing and claiming, learning portal, and parent portal – into one.

Bureau of Developmental Disability Services – Bureau of Quality Improvement Services:

- Throughout the pandemic, BDDS and BQIS have developed and implemented critical program guidance, flexibilities, and service changes to ensure continuity of day-to-day service delivery to over 30,000 individuals with ID/DD. This included implementation of a continuous quality improvement model to evaluate and adjust that guidance and



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

flexibilities.

- Support provided to the provider network included:
- Up to weekly outreach to every HCBS Waiver Residential Providers to assess needs, assist with challenges, and connect them to resources.
- Access to COVID-19 testing materials.
- Providing one-time direct shipment of Personal Protective Equipment.
- Including residential providers for access to the COVID-19 workforce registry.
- Access to two grant opportunities:
- Day services sustainability grant targeted at providers who provide facility-based day services and provided assistance to cover business interruption expenses.
- HCBS providers and Group Home providers targeted to support providers with COVID related expenses associated with service provision during the public health emergency.
- Prioritized vaccine access to direct support professionals.
- For individuals and communities, we:
- Facilitated vaccine access for individuals in congregate settings and receiving HCBS services.
- Partnered with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to implement the Community Connection for People with Disabilities Grant
- In addition to COVID related activities, BDDS and BQIS
- Launched an online application system called BDDS Gateway.
- Continued development of a systems consolidation project to fully retire the current data system (Insite).
- Onboarded a new quality vendor for oversight activities.
- Launched pilots for a new Quality On-Site Provider Review and a new Provider Reverification process.
- Hosted on-going trainings related to topics identified through monitoring activities and current initiatives.

Comments provided by Task Force members:

- Daniel Mize sharing about her experience receiving her vaccination.
- Joe Langerak shared his personal experience with First Steps as being a very positive one and to not make changes that might change such a great program.

V. 1102 Final Report Recommendations (10:45 AM)

a. Update on 1102 Recommendations

- Six recommendations are complete or nearly complete, twenty-three recommendations are launched or on-going, and five recommendations



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

need action.

- Ms. Opsahl provide reviewed updates on recommendations including:
- One hundred and forty (140) individuals have accessed the Family Support Waiver through the military priority category. This is an increase of 52 individuals since September, 2020. (3.6)
- Employment First Plan was adopted in September, 2020. (1.6)
- Two Order of Selection releases in 2021 (4.4)
- Indiana 211 has fully transitioned to FSSA creating new opportunities for partnership. (2.1)
- Increase use of telehealth in BDDS and First Steps service delivery. (2.5, 3.8)
- Progress on Defining Choice to Promote Self-Advocacy (3.2)
- Indiana 988 represents an opportunity for progress on developing an effective crisis response system. (3.5)
- Task Force member John Barth asks about mobile crisis part and if there is funding to support. Task Force member and DMHA Director Jay Chaudhary responded that American Rescue Plan Act offers Medicaid funded services to help with this effort. In addition, one-time federal funding can help with this as it has been identified as a key priority. Ongoing funding conversations still need to continue.
- Thanks to many on the Task Force, including the Lt. Governor and legislative members, this year's budget included a 14% increase HCBS waiver services to increase the average wage of Direct Support Professionals to \$15/hour. (4.5)
- Task Force member Senator Becker thanked Lt. Governor Crouch for all her hard work on this issue.

b. Waiver Redesign Update

- BDDS Director Cathy Robinson provided an update, sharing how the project is adapting since the pandemic. In partnership with self-advocates, families, providers, INARF, the Arc, BDDS considered current system capacities and stakeholder comments. Through that work, it was determined that there were foundational issues that needed to be addressed in including improving the team process through shared outcomes and communication; enhancing the case management and system navigation; focusing on key supports to build independence.
- Within in those three areas, Ms. Robinson shared current and planned efforts to make improvements.
- One of the first, significant efforts emerging from this work tied to enhancing case management and system navigation is Case Management Innovation. On May 4, BDDS announced its entity to selectively contract for this service through a Request for Service process. The goal is to improve quality and consistency in the provision of case management.

e. Employment Array Workgroup final report was submitted by Shawn Fulton. These recommendations will be taken into consideration in future waiver redesign work.



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

- f. Institutional Modernization final report was submitted by the work group. The recommendations are prioritized for implementation purposes.

VI. Discussion and Business Items for Next Meeting (11:30 AM)

Task Force Members discussed the following issues to discuss during the next meeting:

- Employment data related to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Priority waiver categories under the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver
- Vocational rehabilitation service annual assessment
- 9-8-8 update and overview
- Waiver redesign / case management innovation update
- Waiver amendments

Task Force member and State Representative Carey Hamilton mentioned that she would like to see a response to the public comments from constituents.

VII. Adjourn Meeting (12:00 PM)