



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana



Annual Report
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



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Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

July 2020

Dear fellow Hoosier,

Your Children's Commission has been hard at work over the past year fostering collaboration and innovation for children and families.

The pandemic and racial justice protests did not slow down the Commission's work. These events highlighted the importance of paying close attention to our most vulnerable children and families before, during, and after moments of crisis. Our leaders, staff, and volunteers rose to the challenge. The Commission renewed its commitment to our kids and resolved to employ a lens of equity, inclusion, and cultural competence in all its work.

Fiscal year 2019-2020 included the adoption of a new strategic plan to guide the next three years and the honing of strategies and methods employed by more than 200 volunteers organized into task forces, committees, and subcommittees. By clarifying strategic objectives and communicating with one another, the Commission's various work groups seek to collaborate for children without reinventing the wheel.

The following pages provide a brief snapshot of a year's labor in the fields of justice and hope for Hoosier children. While state-level work in policy, programs, and data may seem slow and mundane, it is here that some of the greatest seeds of change can be planted and new opportunities for families can bloom. We are always looking for more volunteers ready to take up the work and keep cultivating the successes of the future. Reach out if you would like to get involved.



For the Children,

Julie L. Whitman, MSW
Executive Director



Commission

ACTIONS

Met during the fiscal year:

- ✓ Commission met in July, August, October, December, February, April, and June
- ✓ Executive Committee met in August, September, October, December, January, April, May, and June

Adopted:

- ✓ Strategic objective on increasing access to interventions that prevent suicide
- ✓ Strategic objective on supporting kinship caregivers
- ✓ Set of **definitions related to child trauma** and adversity
- ✓ Best practice **guide on the use of seclusion and restraint** in child-caring institutions
- ✓ **Strategic plan** covering 2020-2022
- ✓ Revised **roles and responsibilities** for all Commission participants
- ✓ Set of **definitions for equity, inclusion, cultural competence**, and related terms

Approved:

- ✓ Recommendation to develop a **coordinated campaign to encourage developmental screening** of young children
- ✓ Recommendations on the employment of a **human trafficking coordinator** by the Department of Child Services (per HEA 1075-2019)
- ✓ Recommendations on **changes to the CHINS 3.5 statute** removing the requirement for a child to admit or deny having been trafficked and ensuring every child alleged to be a victim of human trafficking is provided an attorney
- ✓ Recommendation to work with the Coalition for Court Access to develop and post **self-help legal forms for kinship caregivers** to request guardianship of the child(ren) in their care
- ✓ Creation of a new **Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force** to lead a review of Indiana's juvenile justice system and propose consensus- and research-based improvements

STATE FISCAL YEAR:
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020



TOP Mark Fairchild of Covering Kids and Families presents data and recommendations on early developmental screening for Indiana children served by Medicaid; BOTTOM Chief Justice Loretta Rush orients Rep. Dale DeVon to his new role as a Children's Commission member and future Chair.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Rep. Vanessa Summers and Dr. Kris Box have an animated discussion; Chris Naylor shares his point of view at a Commission meeting; Julie Whitman presents Serrilla Blackmon of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction with a certificate of appreciation for her service as a task force co-chair; Mike Poletika, Heather Kestian, and Melaina Gant, all of the Department of Child Services, gather at the volunteer reception; Rep. Vanessa Summers talks with Dr. Kristen Dauss of the Indiana Department of Correction

Endorsed:

- ✓ Indiana Department of Education's **Positive Discipline Guide**

Submitted:

- ✓ Report to the Legislative Council on the employment of a **human trafficking coordinator** by the Department of Child Services (per HEA 1075-2019)

Tracked and reported on:

- ✓ 317 bills filed in the Indiana General Assembly, which became **52 child-related laws passed in 2020**

Hosted or planned events with partners:

- ✓ “Resilience” film screening and panel discussion on childhood adversity with experts from state agencies represented on the Commission
- ✓ Volunteer reception to recognize the Commission’s 200+ volunteer task force, committee, and subcommittee members
- ✓ “State of the Child” release of the 2020 **Indiana KIDS COUNT Data Book** with Indiana Youth Institute
- ✓ Family and Youth Engagement Summit (to be held in 2021) with the support of Casey Family Programs

Heard presentations on:

- ✓ Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for youth
- ✓ Developmental screening for young children
- ✓ Indiana’s birth-to-five strategic plan
- ✓ Current state suicide prevention initiatives
- ✓ Department of Child Services kinship navigator program
- ✓ Allen County’s juvenile court trauma audit
- ✓ Family First Prevention and Services Act—federal legislation
- ✓ Family First Prevention and Services Act—Indiana’s implementation plans and progress
- ✓ Evidence-based interventions for mental health treatment and suicide prevention in youth
- ✓ The needs, challenges, and strengths of kinship care providers
- ✓ Youth vaping statistics and efforts toward education, prevention, and cessation
- ✓ Benefits of integrated medical and behavioral health care
- ✓ Indiana’s recent progress and ongoing efforts to reduce infant mortality
- ✓ The importance of broad participation in Census 2020 for children’s program funding
- ✓ Equity questions to guide decision-making for the short and long term
- ✓ Each Commission agency’s initial response to COVID-19
- ✓ Each Commission agency’s reopening strategies and learnings from COVID-19



TOP Judge Charles Pratt of Allen County, Don Travis of the Department of Child Services, and Christy Berger of the Indiana Department of Education observe Commission proceedings; MIDDLE John Hammond IV listens to a presentation at a Commission meeting; BOTTOM Tashi Teuschler of the Indiana Office of Court Services and Brenda Graves-Croom of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction present to the Commission on behalf of the Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence Committee.

Shifting

STRATEGIES

Fiscal year 2020 was one of growth and renewal for the Children’s Commission. Having adopted its first strategic plan in 2016, the Commission saw that plan end in December 2019. Therefore, an important task over the past fiscal year was to create a new strategic plan to guide the next three years (2020-2022).

While the Commission’s four task forces continued to make progress on the strategic objectives listed in the 2016 plan, the Executive Director worked with consultants from the Indiana Youth Institute to gather and analyze input from Commission members and volunteers, as well as child- and youth-serving professionals from various fields. A strategic planning committee comprised of Commission members and volunteers met for a half-day session to review survey data, evaluate child wellbeing indicators, and craft the framework for a new plan.

The 2020 strategic plan places a stronger emphasis on data to monitor outcomes for Indiana’s vulnerable youth. In addition, the new plan incorporates a set of overarching principles that inform all the Commission’s work. These are:

Equity

Historical inequities cannot be corrected by ignoring them. For statewide solutions to be effective, marginalized voices must be included, data must be disaggregated (by race, geography, gender, and other relevant variables), and policies and programs must be responsive to the particular needs and strengths of each community and group of children in Indiana.

Two generations

Parents are children’s first teachers and role models. Efforts to support the safety, health, wellbeing, and education of children and youth are more effective when those efforts also support the role of parents and extended family members in the child’s development.

Do no harm

The state should only intervene in the life of a child or family if the intervention can reasonably be expected to improve the status of the child and/or family. Government intervention should not cause harm.

Trauma-informed

An understanding of the impact of trauma and trauma-informed practice increases the effectiveness of all work with vulnerable children and families.

Youth & family voice

All solutions are more effective if those who are expected to benefit from them participate in the process of developing them.

The plan lays out the Commission’s methods and highlights the importance of collaboration to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Indiana’s response to vulnerable youth and families. All objectives are action-oriented and involve either increasing positive processes and outcomes or decreasing negative processes and outcomes. Several objectives relate to identifying and encouraging adoption of effective and promising practices, a core function of the Children’s Commission.

The [2020 Children’s Commission strategic plan](#) can be found on the Commission’s website.





Judges Kim Dowling and Holly Harvey present recommendations to improve Indiana's response to victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



Task

FORCES

With the adoption of a new strategic plan in December 2019, each task force spent the spring of 2020 reorganizing into new subcommittees and creating action plans related to the objectives in the strategic plan. During the fall of 2019, each task force accomplished the following items:

Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth

- ✓ Completed a study and provided recommendations for employment of a human trafficking coordinator at the Department of Child Services (DCS) per HEA 1075-2019. DCS incorporated recommendations of the Task Force into the job description and then hired for the position.
- ✓ Completed a study and provided recommendations related to the requirement that a child alleged to be a victim of human trafficking (known as CHINS 3.5) is currently required by law to admit or deny being a victim of trafficking. To make the law more trauma-informed, the Task Force recommended this requirement be eliminated and all youth alleged to be victims of trafficking be afforded an attorney, since the dynamics of trafficking often involved coerced participation in criminal or delinquent behavior. The Commission approved the recommendations at its October meeting, and Senator Erin Houchin filed SB 360, which incorporated the recommendations. The bill did not pass in 2020.

382

youth committed to Department of Correction in 2018

Down from 558 in 2014

Source: Indiana Department of Correction, [Juvenile New Admissions](#)

13.4%

of girls and 6.4% of boys report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

Source: [2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) (see detail graphs or detail tables)

Child Health & Safety

- ✓ Developed a resource guide for reducing use of seclusion and restraint in Indiana child-caring institutions. The guide was adopted by the Commission at its December meeting.
- ✓ Recommended the development of a coordinated campaign to encourage developmental screening of young children. The recommendation was approved by the Commission at its July meeting.
- ✓ Developed and implemented a provider survey to understand the barriers to increasing the use of developmental screenings in pediatric settings.
- ✓ Recommended the development and dissemination of self-help legal forms for requesting guardianship to assist kinship caregivers for whom guardianship is a step that is in the best interest of the child. The Commission approved this recommendation at its December meeting.
- ✓ After recommending the development of a statewide framework for the prevention of child maltreatment in FY2019, the Task Force saw a contract awarded for this project, and work began in 2020.



Mental Health & Substance Abuse

- ✓ Presented the benefits of integrated medical and behavioral health care and recommended continued collaboration between the Task Force and Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) on integrated care models moving forward. The recommendation was approved by the Commission at its February meeting.
- ✓ Presented twice to the Commission on Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) for youth, after studying the outcomes of this model in other states and examining Indiana data for a potential regional pilot. Indiana Medicaid data indicate that crisis episodes in youth have increased from 2014 to 2018, and nearly half of youth who had a crisis episode had more than one such episode.
- ✓ Launched several new subcommittees to work on different aspects of youth suicide prevention, after having that objective assigned to the Task Force in July 2019.
- ✓ Studied ways to increase utilization of evidence-based practices in Indiana, including both mental health and child welfare services, and the continuity of care between the child welfare system and the medical and behavioral health system after a Department of Child Services case is closed.

55%

of youth with a major depressive episode did not receive mental health services

Source: Mental Health America's "[State of Mental Health in America](#)" 

55.3%

of Indiana's foster youth graduated high school in 2019; the overall graduation rate for the state was 87.3%

Source: Indiana Department of Education & Indiana Department of Child Services [2019 Foster Care Data Report](#) 

Educational Outcomes

- ✓ Worked with the Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence Committee to review and recommend changes to the Indiana Department of Education's Comprehensive Positive School Discipline Guide. The revised guide was endorsed by the Commission at its December meeting.
- ✓ Collaborated with the Child Trauma and Resilience Committee, the ACES Indiana Coalition, and Franciscan Health to host a conference on Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- ✓ Worked with a group of stakeholders on a plan for meeting the educational needs of foster children.



LEFT TO RIGHT Julie Whitman, Bernice Corley, and Zac Jackson participate in a Commission meeting; the Commission gathers at the lovely and historic Indiana State Library; Dr. Jennifer McCormick and Terry Stigdon listen to a presentation

COMMITTEES

The [Communications](#); [Data-Sharing and Mapping](#); and [Child Trauma and Resilience](#) committees continue to meet and serve as a resource to the Commission, its task forces, and its executive director, toward the goals of ensuring clear and effective communications, data-informed recommendations, and trauma-responsive interventions for children and families.

In its first full year of existence, the [Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence Committee](#) worked to produce:

- ✓ A cultural competence review of the Indiana Department of Education’s (IDOE) Comprehensive Positive School Discipline Guide, with recommended revisions. Most of the revisions were accepted by IDOE, and the guide was endorsed by the Commission at its December meeting.
- ✓ A common language document containing agreed-upon definitions of the terms “equity,” “inclusion,” “cultural competence,” and other related terms. These definitions were approved by the Commission at its February meeting.

- ✓ A guide for equity consideration, consisting of questions for policy makers to ask themselves before making decisions that will impact children and families statewide. The intent of the questions is to ensure that the voices of disparate populations and the potential impacts of the decision—positive or negative—on those populations are taken into account, and that individuals are protected if they respond to issues of inequity after decisions are made. The guide was presented to the Commission in June 2020 and will be offered for adoption in FY2021.

The [Child Services Oversight Committee](#) had a change in leadership and met once during FY2020. The committee took public testimony and heard presentations from the Department of Child Services (DCS) Ombudsman, DCS, and the state office of Guardian ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocates (GAL/CASA).





Collaboration during a PANDEMIC

The novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 upended the plans and regular work of nearly every company and organization in 2020; state government was no exception. The Indiana General Assembly was able to complete its 2020 session just days before the Governor's first stay-at-home order was issued. For a period of three months or more, most employees of state agencies serving children worked remotely from home, bal-

ancing the need to keep essential services operating while also responding to the new and significant challenges presented by a highly contagious and sometimes deadly virus.

From mid-March until the end of the fiscal year, the Children's Commission continued its work with the aid of technology, holding both its April and June meetings virtually with public viewing access. Task forces and commit-

tees converted to online platforms to continue refinement of subcommittee structures and plans for making progress on the Commission's three-year strategic plan.

The Commission became a platform for state leaders to share with each other how their agencies were adapting to continue to serve children and families during the pandemic.



Some adaptations proved so successful that state leaders are planning to keep them as permanent features.

For example...

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction saw tremendous uptake of **treatment via telemedicine**, with many clients preferring virtual to in-office sessions.

Likewise, the Indiana State Department of Health's operation of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program transitioned seamlessly to **online appointments** and saw its attendance rate increase.

Juvenile courts around the state began holding **virtual hearings** to continue the critical progress for children in delinquency and dependency cases.

K-12 schools switched to **remote learning**, while they donated personal protective equipment from their science labs and career and technical education classrooms to health care providers on the front lines of treating patients with COVID-19.

The State of Indiana, always a fertile ground for collaboration and innovation, accelerated both to meet the needs of vulnerable Hoosiers, including children and families who were already struggling before the pandemic hit.

Looking AHEAD

As Indiana continues to manage its way through the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the Children's Commission will continue to work toward better outcomes for vulnerable youth in the areas of health, safety, education, mental health and addictions, and justice involvement. Guided by the 2020 strategic plan, Commission volunteers will gather and analyze data disaggregated by race, gender, and geography; study issues, and propose solutions that improve services and outcomes for Indiana children and families. In the midst of a global pandemic, Hoosiers have proven that they can rise to the occasion when the moment demands it. We will continue to demand the best of ourselves for our children and families, the lifeblood of our communities and our hope and promise for tomorrow.



Commission

MEMBERS



Christine Blessinger

Deputy Commissioner,
Re-entry and Youth Services,
Indiana Department of
Correction



Jay Chaudhary

Director, Division of Mental
Health and Addiction,
Family and Social Services
Administration



Justin Forkner

Chief Administrative Officer,
Indiana Supreme Court



Kristina Box, M.D.

Indiana State Health
Commissioner



Bernice Corley

Executive Director,
Indiana Public Defender
Council



**John R.
Hammond, IV**

Deputy Chief of Staff,
Office of the Governor

2018 Commission Chair
Member, Executive Committee



**Senator
Jean D. Breaux**

State Senator,
District 34



**Representative
Dale DeVon**

State Representative,
District 5

2020 Commission Chair
Member, Executive Committee



Curtis T. Hill, Jr.

Indiana Attorney General





Senator Erin Houchin

State Senator,
District 47

Member, Executive Committee



Chris Naylor

Executive Director,
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys
Council

(Member beginning October 2019)



Terry Stigdon

Director, Department of Child
Services

Member, Executive Committee



Zac Jackson

Indiana State Budget Director

(Member beginning October 2019)



David Powell

Executive Director,
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys
Council

(Member through September 2019)



Representative Vanessa Summers

State Representative,
District 99

Member, Executive Committee



Susan Lightfoot

Chief Probation Officer,
Henry County Probation
Department



Honorable Loretta Rush

Chief Justice of Indiana

2019 Commission Chair
Member, Executive Committee



Jennifer Sullivan, M.D.

Secretary, Family and Social
Services Administration



Jennifer McCormick, Ph.D.

Indiana Superintendent of
Public Instruction





Julie Whitman presents a copy of the Commission's 2019 annual report to Governor Eric Holcomb

Task Force & Committee

MEMBERS

Child Health & Safety Task Force

Sarah Sailors, Co-Chair
Indiana Department of Child Services

Sen. Jon Ford, Co-Chair
District 38

Zachary W. Adams, PhD, HSSP
Indiana University School of Medicine

Ben Brown
FSSA/Office of Medicaid Policy & Planning

Christina Commons
FSSA/Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

Chris Daley
Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)

Kristen Dauss, MD
Indiana Department of Correction

Susan Elsworth
Indiana NOFAS (National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)

Mark Fairchild
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana

Rachel Fisher
Lutherwood

Maureen Greer
Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative

Shirley Payne
Indiana State Department of Health

Sharon Pierce
The Villages

Angela Reid-Brown
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Sandy Runkle
Prevent Child Abuse Indiana

Angela Smith-Grossman
Indiana Department of Child Services

Deanna L. Szyndrowski
SCAN, Inc.

Child Services Oversight Committee

Representative Ed Clere, Co-Chair
District 72

Representative Melanie Wright, Co-Chair
District 35

Leslie Dunn
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Senator Jon Ford
District 38

Hon. Dana Kenworthy
Grant Superior Court

Sean McCrindle
Bashor Children's Home

Michael Moore
Indiana Public Defender Council

Senator Frank Mrvan
District 1

Jim Oliver
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Jeff Wittman
Indiana Department of Education

Child Trauma & Resilience Committee

Zachary Adams, Ph.D., HSSP, Co-Chair
Indiana University School of Medicine

Amber Becker, Co-Chair
FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Sirrilla Blackmon
FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Christy Gauss
Schools Communities Partnerships

Kory George
Wayne County Probation Department



Christy Berger of the Indiana Department of Education makes a presentation to the Commission.

JauNae Hanger
Children's Policy and Law Initiative

Kristi Linson
Indiana State Department of Health

Kelly McBride
Indiana Domestic Violence Network

Terri Miller, Ph.D.
Boone Hamilton Madison Special Services

Laura Mobley
Traders Point Christian Church

Heidi Monroe
Indiana Department of Child Services

Hon. Charles Pratt
Allen Superior Court





Jason Murrey of the Indiana Department of Education (formerly of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction) presents on youth suicide to the Commission while members of the media, Commission volunteers, and other stakeholders look on.

Lindsay Stawick
Domestic Violence Network

Karlin Tichenor, Ph.D, LLMFT
Indiana Youth Institute

David Westenberger
Indiana Youth Services Association

Jeff Wittman
Indiana Department of Education

Communications Committee

Kathryn Dolan, Co-Chair
Indiana Supreme Court

Zach Osowski, Co-Chair
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Courtney Arango
Office of the Governor

Dave Bursten
Indiana Department of Correction

Ron Galaviz
Indiana State Police

Jim Gavin
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

William McCleery
Office of the Indiana Attorney General

Erin Murphy
Indiana Department of Child Services

Jennifer O'Malley
Indiana State Department of Health

Holly Stachler
Indiana Department of Education

Will Wingfield
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Data-Sharing & Mapping Committee

Tamara Weaver, Co-Chair
Office of the Attorney General

Tyler Brown, Co-Chair
Management Performance Hub

Sirrilla Blackmon
FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Michael Commons
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Josie Fasoldt
Management Performance Hub

Nikki Ford
Indiana Department of Child Services

Corajeane Medina
Indiana Department of Child Services

Jeff Milkey
Indiana Department of Education

Austin Poynter
Indiana Department of Correction

Christine Reynolds
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Lisa Thompson
Office of Court Technology, Indiana Supreme Court

Chris Yirenkyi
Indiana Department of Correction

Equity, Inclusion & Cultural Competence Committee

Tashi Teuchsler, Co-Chair
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Jill English, Co-Chair
Child Advocates

Kenneth Allen
Indiana Youth Services Association

Rhonda Bayless
Center of Wellness for Urban Women

Tarrell Berry
Indiana Department of Education

Yalonda Brown
Indiana Youth Institute

Valerie Davidson
Meridian Diversity Consulting

Carol Franklin
Phoenix Family and Community Services

Brenda Graves-Croom
FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Timike Jones
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Esther Lewis
Holistic Evolution, Inc.

Chris Paulsen
Indiana Youth Group

Shirley Payne
Indiana State Department of Health

Lun Pieper
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Guadalupe Pimentel Solano
Central Indiana Community Foundation

Adam Pitt
Indiana Department of Education

Calvin Roberson
Indiana Minority Health Coalition

Mark Russell
Indianapolis Urban League

Jessica Strong
Hamilton Center

Latrece Thompson
Indiana Department of Child Services

Jessica Tomasino
Indiana Department of Education

Adrian Warren
Radio One

Juvenile Justice & Cross-System Youth Task Force

Hon. Steve Galvin, Co-Chair
Monroe Circuit Court

Don Travis, Co-Chair
Indiana Department of Child Services

Stephen Balko
Indiana Department of Education



Indiana Youth Institute consultants Lacy McNary and Kate Shufeldt, with Angela Smith-Grossman of the Department of Child Services, observe Commission discussion.

Ashley Barnett
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Jeffrey Bercovitz
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Sirrilla Blackmon
FSSA/Indiana Division of Mental Health and
Addiction

Christine Blessinger
Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth
Services

Coleen Connor
Tippecanoe County CASA

Ann Davis
Indiana Association of Resources and Child
Advocacy

Hon. Kimberly Dowling
Delaware Circuit Court

Tracy Fitz
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Kory George
Wayne County Probation

James (Mike) Goodwin
Indiana Department of Child Services

JauNae M. Hanger
Children's Policy and Law Initiative

Angie Hensley
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Jill Johnson
Marion County Public Defender

Hon. Charles Pratt
Allen Superior Court

Michael Ross
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Angela Reid-Brown
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Angela Sutton
Indiana Department of Correction

Nancy Wever
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Task Force

Leslie Hulvershorn, MD, Co-Chair
FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

David Reed, Co-Chair
Indiana Department of Child Services

**Sirrilla Blackmon, LCSW, LCAC,
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FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Matthew Aalsma, PhD, HSPP
Indiana University School of Medicine

Cathy J. Boggs
Community Health Network

Carrie Cadwell
Four-County Counseling Center

Chris Daley
Indiana Association of Resources and Child
Advocacy

Susan Elsworth
Indiana NOFAS (National Organization on Fetal
Alcohol Syndrome)

Cody Mullen, PhD
Indiana Rural Health Association

**Gabriela Marie Rodriguez, PhD,
HSPP**
Indiana University School of Medicine

Carol Satre
Indiana University School of Social Work

Gilbert Smith
Indiana Department of Child Services

**Jennifer Tackitt-Dorfmeier, LCSW,
CYC-P**
Choices Coordinated Care Solutions



Jennifer Vohs, PhD, HSPP
Indiana University School of Medicine

Nancy Wever
Office of Court Services, Indiana Supreme Court

Jeff Wittman
Indiana Department of Education

Educational Outcomes Task Force

Christy Berger, Co-Chair
Indiana Department of Education

Melaina Gant, Co-Chair
Indiana Department of Child Services

Melissa Ambre
Indiana Department of Education

Mary Beth Buzzard
Indiana Department of Correction

William Colteryahn
Family and Social Services Administration

Bethany Ecklor
FSSA/Division of Mental Health and Addiction

Rebekah Gorrell
Mental Health America of Indiana

Derek Grubbs
Indiana Department of Correction

JauNae Hanger
Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana

Jill Johnson
Marion County Public Defender Agency

Susan Lightfoot
Henry County Probation

Susan Lockwood
Nexus Point Consulting



The Commission holds its first virtual meeting in April 2020 thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kristen Martin
Marion County Prosecutor's Office

Sara Midura
Riley Hospital for Children

Terri Miller, PhD
Hamilton Boone Madison Special Services

Brianna Morse
Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Theresa Ochoa, PhD
Indiana University

Anita Silverman, EdD
Transitions Academy

Alison Slatter
Indiana Association of Home Educators

Gilbert Smith
Indiana Department of Child Services

Sabrina Suggs
Independent Mental Health Educator

Lisa Truitt
Indiana Department of Education

Gina Woodward
Indiana Department of Education



**Commission on Improving the
Status of Children in Indiana**
in.gov/children