



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Emergency Shelter Care Subcommittee

Date of Submission: 4/14/2021

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Administrative Rule or Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Professional/skills development

Other: _____

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):

Child Health and Safety Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Educational Outcomes

Summary of Recommendation:

Increase understanding and utilization of non-overnight care at shelter care facilities for the purpose of providing structure, safety, and support to the youth while the probation officer or family case manager creates and actualizes the plan for placement.

Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?

Youth are sometimes in need of a safe place to deescalate while planning is finalized for their care. Rather than being placed in detention or long waits in an office setting, having an opportunity in a non-secure environment may meet their needs while allowing the probation officer or family case manager to complete and implement the plan for their care.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

The group reviewed a program in Arizona that provides a facility for youth to deescalate while planning is finalized for their care. This need was additionally identified through the surveys that were sent to DCS and probation departments.

What disproportionality did the data reveal?

The data revealed that detention and/or the DCS local office is sometimes used on a short-term basis to be the location for the youth while the plan is created and implemented for the youth's care. There needs to be a system that can support the needs of youth in the appropriate level of care.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

Currently, detention or the DCS local office may be used on a short-term basis to be the location for the youth while the plan is created and implemented for the youth's care.

What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?

The recommendation is to create awareness amongst shelter care facilities, probation departments and local DCS offices of the ability to use shelter care for youth that need that level of support for a short period of time while the youth's plan is created and implemented for their care. If implemented, this would allow for each youth to receive the care and support that met their individual needs.

How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?

This solution addresses the disproportionality by allowing for each youth to receive the care and support that meets their individual needs.

Implementation:

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendation?

Department of Child Services would provide training for DCS workers. The Office of Court Services would be a starting point to ask for training of probation officers.

Has the recommendation been discussed with the implementer?

Yes No

What is the recommended timeframe for the Commission to review implementation?

6 months 12 months 18 months Other _____

If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.