



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Indiana State Library, History Reference Room

- Christine Blessinger, Director, Division of Youth Services, Department of Correction
- Dr. Kris Box, Indiana State Health Commissioner, Indiana State Department of Health
- Senator Jean Breaux
- Bernice Corley, Executive Director, Public Defender Council
- Jason Dudich, Director, State Budget Agency
- Justin Forkner, Chief Administrative Officer, Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
- Representative David Frizzell
- John Hammond IV, Office of the Governor
- Curtis T. Hill, Indiana Attorney General (non-voting member)
- Senator Erin Houchin
- Susan Lightfoot, Chief Probation Officer, Henry County Probation Department
- Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education
- Kevin Moore, Director Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- David Powell, Executive Director, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Justice Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana
- Jane Seigel, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Indiana Supreme Court
- Terry Stigdon, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Representative Vanessa Summers
- Dr. Jennifer Walthall, M.D., Secretary, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Hammond convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Chief Justice Rush introduced Justin Forkner, the newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer of the Supreme Court, and as such a new member of the Commission.

2. Consent Agenda

Rep. Frizzell moved the approval of both items on the consent agenda—the [meeting minutes from August 15, 2018](#), and the appointment of Christy Berger as the new co-chare of the Educational Outcomes Task Force—and both were approved 11-0.

3. Committee Updates/Announcements

Presentation: Tyler Brown of the Management Performance Hub (MPH) gave an update on the Information-Sharing Guide and app. Chief Justice Rush asked Tyler to give a summary of the app for those who were not aware of it, and Tyler did so. He announced that the app has reached a milestone of 50,000 interactions since its launch.

Tyler presented a [list of 13 data “user stories”](#) that can help answer questions for the Commission. He explained that MPH and the state Medicaid office have been working on this list to assess the level of effort required to complete the data requests, and he requested that the Commission provide their input on prioritizing the data requests.

Discussion: Chief Justice Rush noted that “vulnerable youth” as defined in statute includes youth on probation, which is information that DCS would not have for its data sharing with IDOE related to objective 4.6. Tyler agreed that the definition of vulnerable youth is broad and so the committee is starting with low-hanging fruit by starting with foster youth, but they would look to add additional groups later.

Chief Justice Rush asked for more information on the data user stories, and Julie Whitman explained the purpose of the user stories in connection with the Commission’s strategic plan and the next steps for prioritizing the list. John Hammond suggested that Julie send out a survey of Commission members to gather their priorities and formalize that input.

Dr. Box offered data from the child fatality reviews and overdose death reports that ISDH receives and asked if those would also be helpful. Julie indicated they would. John suggested people add priorities they thought were missing from the list when Julie sends out the survey.

Presentation: Ted Cotterill, Chief Privacy Officer of Indiana, gave an overview of MPH and the process of establishing agreements between and among agencies to share data and offer subject matter expertise to support data-driven decision-making. MPH also helps make de-identified data sets available to researchers. Ted explained that MPH executes a data sharing agreement with each executive branch agency, while the agency remains the owner of its own data. He explained that Indiana statute has established that data shared between state agencies using MPH as a conduit does not constitute a disclosure of the data. Where there are federal rules in place, MPH works through those on a case by case basis to ensure that data sharing is limited to legal and appropriate cases, with sign-off from the relevant agencies. With the courts being involved in the Children’s Commission, data sharing becomes more complex, because the MPH enabling statute only applies to executive branch agencies. In the case of the Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative, which involves both the courts and executive branch agencies, a multi-party MOU has been developed and an executive branch agency serves as the passthrough for courts data. Project charters then are developed which provide more detail on exactly what data is shared when. Ted indicated that a similar approach may be helpful for the Children’s Commission.

Discussion: Chief Justice Rush suggested it would be nice to have a presentation at the Commission of some of the data that MPH is already gathering through the opioid initiative.

4. Strategic Priority: Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth

Presentation: John Hammond invited Representative Siegrist to speak about her trafficking bill that requested the Children’s Commission to study an issue. Rep. Siegrist gave the background of the request, which stemmed from conversations with representatives of law enforcement, who reported not being sure what to do in certain

circumstances where they discovered a child they suspected to be a victim of human trafficking. Rep. Siegrist thanked the Commission for working on the study.

Don Travis indicated he was presenting on behalf of Judge Dowling and the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) subcommittee. Don indicated that 2018 legislation asked the Commission to study what specific authority law enforcement has to take a child into custody when the officer believes the child may be a victim of human trafficking or a child in need of services.

Don reported that the CSEC subcommittee met three times to study the issue. He listed the members of the subcommittee and reported the Committee's [findings and recommendations](#). The committee found that there is statutory authority for law enforcement to take custody of the child until DCS arrives, and that statutory law is backed up by case law. He indicated that in the course of studying that question, several other topics arose, which are incorporated into the recommendations in the report. The recommendations include joint training for law enforcement and DCS, ensuring that DCS continues to respond immediately to law enforcement calls, studying how to make emergency shelter care available throughout the state (this is already an objective of the Juvenile Justice/Cross System Youth Task Force), studying the requirement that a child admit or deny being a victim of trafficking, and studying issues related to interstate trafficking of children, including recovering Indiana youth found in other states and returning children from other states who are found in Indiana.

Discussion: John Hammond asked Don to explain the concept of reception centers, which Don explained as a center with many different services under one roof, where a child is assessed to determine what system will work best for each child based on the circumstances.

Chief Justice Rush mentioned that the CSEC subcommittee had also created some pocket guides for law enforcement on identifying victims of trafficking. She asked whether those are still being distributed and what was the status of the funding for them. Don reported they are still being distributed and that the subcommittee is working on versions for other sectors of professionals. He reported there is a funding source, but he wasn't sure what it was. Chief Justice Rush asked for him to report back on that.

Terry Stigdon asked whether information on trafficking had been shared with hospitals, and Don indicated the subcommittee was working on a guide for medical professionals as well.

Rep. Frizzell asked about reciprocity with other states, given that Indiana's laws seem to be more advanced on child trafficking. Don noted that the Office of Court Services provides support around the Interstate Compact, which is an agreement between states related to juveniles and runaways. He indicated that trafficking may present a nuance that needs to be worked through with the Interstate Compact, and the subcommittee was going to work with the court services personnel on that.

Jason Dudich asked for clarification on the term resources in the recommendation to study the resources needed to provide shelter care throughout the state. Don explained that there is administrative code on shelter care that provides that shelter care must be licensed by DCS, and once licensed shelter cares can contract with DCS, though not all do. Such facilities also receive funds from many other sources including federal, local, and philanthropic.

Action: Susan Lightfoot made a motion to adopt the five recommendations presented by Don. The motion was seconded and passed 11-0.

Julie Whitman indicated that she would submit the [report as provided by the subcommittee](#) to LSA to respond to the legislative request.

5. Strategic Priority: Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Presentation: Sirrilla Blackmon indicated that the Task Force had two presentations on the integration of primary and mental health care (objective 3.1) and learned that it is happening, but some of the consultation between providers is not currently covered. The Task Force determined that a specific legislative or policy recommendation was not appropriate at this time. She noted that the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has come out with a new model called Integrated Care for Kids (INCK) which includes improved quality care and a new payment model. The Task Force may bring back a recommendation on that to the Commission at a later date. She indicated that the Task Force is also looking at recruiting new members.

Sirrilla also gave an update on new DMHA grants related to youth that are being worked on collaboratively with other agencies. She mentioned a mentoring grant for youth at risk of opioid disorders, on which DMHA is collaborating with the Indiana Youth Institute. DMHA is also working with ISDH and IDOE on the STOP Violence grant. There is also Project AWARE that is a collaboration with IDOE.

Discussion: Chief Justice Rush asked whether the INCK model could be linked on the Children's Commission web site. Sirrilla indicated that it was a new model that is on OMPP's radar, and she could provide a link.

6. Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence

Presentation: Jane Seigel, Lun Pieper, and Tashi Teuchsler provided a brief presentation on the concepts of equity, inclusion, and cultural competence (slides 7-27 in the [meeting PowerPoint](#)). Jane discussed the importance of these concepts for the Supreme Court. The three speakers briefly illustrated the three concepts and discussed some of the court's initiatives, including the Supreme Court's Race and Gender Fairness Commission, the Language Access Task Force, and the Race Equity Work Group of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Jane then presented the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Race Equity and Inclusion action guide, which is an example of a structure that the court is using to integrate these concepts into the work of JDAI.

Julie Whitman presented the Commission with the objective they had previously adopted on cultural competence and a proposed [revision to it](#) that would include the concepts of equity and inclusion. She also proposed for the Commission's consideration the development of a work group to define these terms for the Commission and identify and propose a framework and tools for the Commission to use in order to ensure the equity lens is applied to all of the Commission's work.

Discussion: Terry Stigdon thanked the court staff for their work on this. She mentioned the class "Undoing Racism" which is provided by Child Advocates in Indianapolis and to which DCS has been sending case managers. Jane Seigel concurred the class is great and the courts have also sent a number of staff members to it.

Action: Rep. Frizzell made a motion to adopt the revised objective and to have the Executive Committee form the work group and report back at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 11-0.

7. Executive Director Update

Presentation: Julie Whitman presented the [2019 calendar of meetings](#) and asked the Commission to adopt the calendar.

Julie then presented the major themes from the community feedback on the strategic plan that she has been gathering during speaking opportunities at conferences and meetings (slides 30-43 in the [meeting PowerPoint](#)).

Action: Jason Dudich made a motion to adopt the 2019 calendar of meetings. The motion was seconded and passed 11-0.

8. Future Meeting Topics

No additional topics were raised.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.