

**Commission on the Improvement of the Status of Children in Indiana
Education Outcomes Task Force Meeting
September 11, 2015
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Indiana Government Center South Building Conference Room 17**

Those members present: Laurie Elliott, Melaina Gant, Tia Joseph, Susan Lightfoot, Susan Lockwood, Danielle McGrath, Theresa Ochoa, Lenee Reedus-Carson, Paul Runyan, Anita Silverman, and Julie Smart

Visitor: Shaina Cavazos

The group approved the minutes from July 9, 2015 Education Outcomes Task Force Meeting

Susan Lockwood provided an update to the group regarding the **OJJDP Juvenile Reentry Planning Project**. Since July, the project team has conducted focus group meetings with facility staff at Madison Juvenile and Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facilities, and will use the information gleaned from the focus groups during the IDOC/DYS Fall Reentry Summit, scheduled for September 15-16. The objectives of the IDOC/DYS Fall Reentry Summit include:

1. Use the Reentry Action Planning Document to prioritize three or four major goals for the coming year.
2. Develop an operational plan to address the prioritized goals
3. Establish outcome measures for the goals.
4. Discuss “next steps” for the IDOC/DYS leadership team regarding Juvenile Reentry.
5. Delineate the role of the Statewide and Regional Reentry Task Forces throughout the implementation of the Action Plan.

Susan Lockwood asked the group for insight regarding the objectives of the Reentry Summit, and the group responded with the following comments:

1. The number one barrier to reentry seems to be connecting kids and families to services in the community.
2. There needs to be a SPECIFIC connection, or a “warm” hand-off...person to person.
3. There needs to be an HONEST assessment of the student’s ability to learn. “Special Education” is not the same as being “under-educated” due to not attending school.
4. There needs to be an “in-person” meeting, prior to the youth’s release, with parents and related service providers (school, etc.) to create a specific plan for reentry.
5. The definition of “parent” needs to be expanded to include other significant adults in the youth’s life who can support him in his reentry efforts...at DCS; this person is the “Education Champion”.
6. The youth needs to be allowed to express any fears or reservations about his reentry, and this needs to be taken into account when planning. The youth needs to have options available to him regarding schools...perhaps sending him back to the same school is not the best option.

Additionally, the group determined it should function in an advisory capacity to provide oversight to the implementation of the Reentry Action Plan. This could involve monitoring the implementation to

identify any gaps that need to be addressed. Or, the group could continue to help build partnerships among key stakeholders.

Julie Smart updated the group regarding the status of the **School Discipline and Climate Sub-Committee**. The Sub-Committee met for the first time July 9, and is scheduled to meet following today's Education Outcomes Task Force Meeting.

The work of the Sub-Committee is aligned to the IDOE's State Plan for School Climate and Culture. The goal is to increase alternatives for schools regarding youth who would otherwise be suspended or expelled.

Tia Joseph, from the Indiana Department of Education, has been assigned to coordinate all efforts associated with School Climate and Culture, and has joined the Education Outcomes Task Force and the School Discipline and Climate Sub-Committee.

Additionally, JauNae Hanger, of the Children's Policy and Law Initiative, has organized a one-day conference titled, "Leaders Collaborating to Advance Positive School Discipline in Indiana," to be held October 6, and any outcomes or recommendations will be presented to the Education Outcomes Task Force at the November 6 meeting.

Expungement of Juvenile Records: There was discussion about "next steps" surrounding this project, which resulted from the May, 2015 of the Education Outcomes Task Force. The goal is to develop a guidance document that can be used by school personnel, youth, parents, probation, parole, or any other youth workers to address questions they might have regarding juvenile records and expungement.

It was decided that Laurie Elliott would create a draft document that would be in the format of a brochure and would include a section for parents, a section for youth, a section for youth workers, and a section for parole/probation. The brochure would also include a simple checklist of pertinent information.

The group determined that the document should be available on relevant stakeholder web-sites with hard copies available at sites frequented by youth and their parents (school counseling offices, Work One offices, Adult Basic Education sites, etc.)

Danielle McGrath will get input from the Commission's Executive Board regarding the sponsorship of the document. The group recommended that the document be sponsored by the Commission.

The group determined that the Education Outcomes Task Force would be responsible for keeping the document up-to-date.

The topic of **Staff Development** was discussed. The group talked about the identified needs for staff development in the areas of Trauma Informed Care and CASAs. Melaina Gant reported that DCS would be recording its Trauma Informed Care presentation, including strategies for school personnel and youth workers and it would be posted on the IDOE web-site. This webinar can count towards Professional Growth Points for teacher license renewal.

Additionally, Laurie Elliott reported that the Youth L.A.W. Team was developing a library of 9 webinars that could be used for training potential CASAs. These webinars will also be posted and available at no charge.

Anita Silverman suggested that a new “community” (for educators of system-involved youth) be formed on the IDOE Learning Connection as a way of facilitating communication. She volunteered to establish the community.

Melaina Gant informed the group that the National Traumatic Stress Network has a variety of resources available to support staff development.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: November 6, 2015

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