



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

<b>Committee/Task Force:</b>	Juvenile Justice & Cross System Youth Task Force		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11/03/2023	<b>Time:</b>	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EDT
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Nancy Wever	<b>Location:</b>	Held Virtually via Zoom

## 1. Meeting Objective(s)

Learn about progress of sub-committees toward meeting objectives  
Plan for presentation to CISC on 12/6

## 2. Standing Members

Name	Organization	In Attendance (X indicates present)
Steve Balko	Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)	X
Amber Becker	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	
Honorable Vicki Carmichael (Co-Chair)	Clark Circuit Court #4	X
Kate Collins	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X
Alison Cox	Indiana Juvenile Detention Association (IJDA)	
Ann Davis	Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)	
Terrie Decker	Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC)	X
Hon. Kimberly Dowling	Delaware Circuit Court #2	
Suzanne Draper	Vanderburgh County CASA, Inc.	X
Tracy Fitz	Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC)	
James (Mike) Goodwin	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS), Sullivan County	
Mike Gray	Madison County Probation Department	
JauNae Hanger	Children's Policy and Law Initiative	X
Rebecca Humphrey	Tippecanoe County Government	
Jill Johnson	Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division	X
Samantha Lewis	Wayne County Probation	
Kiarra Pearson	Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	
Leah Pezzarossi	Open Door Youth Services	X
Kaylee Price	Youth Representative	X
Colleen Saylor	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	
Don Travis	Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)	X
Nancy Wever (Co-Chair)	Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS)	X
Renee White	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (CJI)	
Joel Wieneke	Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC)	

## 3. Staff/Guests

Name	Organization
Blane Cook	Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Judge Harvey	Monroe Circuit Court, Division 7	
Calvin Roberson	Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Inc.	
Rachel Vilensky	Indiana Bar Association/Child Advocates	
<b>4. Introduction and Check-In</b>		
Result: attendees know names and roles of those present		
<b>5. Review and Approve Minutes</b>		
Minutes from 9/8/23 reviewed. Suzanne Draper advised that she was not present, but minutes indicate she was. Don Travis questioned whether Mike Gray was present. He is not marked as such. Blane and Nancy will check the recording to verify. Don Travis motioned to approve the minutes, with corrections to those in attendance; Jill Johnson seconds the motion; no discussion; minutes approved.		
<b>6. Action Items from Last Meeting</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Person/Group Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
Prepare and distribute 9/8 meeting minutes	Nancy Wever	Completed
Invite Holly Wimsatt (BDDS) to join TF	Don Travis to connect Nancy and Holly	Completed – contact and follow-up multiple times; no response from Holly
Convene sub-committees	Sub-Committee co-chairs	Completed; Leah – members; other states work; next 11/17; invite Nancy, carmichael, blane, erin, mark
Share DCS policy/information regarding visitation with incarcerated parents	Don Travis to send to Steve Balko and Joel Wieneke	In progress; Don is on sub-committee and will share with that group; agree to remove as action item
Connect Amber Becker and Alison Cox with CSEC	Nancy Wever	Completed
<b>7. Sub-Committee Reports</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Main Points</b>	<b>Recommendations/Decisions</b>
Objective #1- CSEC	<p>Judge Harvey reported that she, Judge Dowling, Amber and Alison met to discuss potential funding from DMHA to support CSEC activities and training for detention center staff. The scope of the funding is flexible and the group agreed to make a request to develop a curriculum for a train-the-trainer program for detention facility staff. They reached out to Dr. Aalsma to discuss the potential of partnering with his team for this and have a meeting scheduled for 11/6. This is necessary to meet need, as Judges Dowling and Harvey are limited in capacity to train all groups across the State.</p> <p>Nancy Wever asked about sharing this information during presentation to CISC on 12/6. Judge Harvey agreed, pending outcome of discussion on 11/6.</p>	

Objective #2- Status Offense	Leah reported that the sub-committee convened. The focus of current work is to recruit additional members and explore what other states are doing related to status offenses. She added that the group is discussing whether they want to review offenses that are defined as “status” and if there would be a recommendation to change any of these. The sub-committee will meet on 11/17 and Leah and/or Tracy will provide an update to include in the presentation to the CISC on 12/6.	Leah/Tracy to provide information to be presented to CISC.
Objective #3- Children with an Incarcerated Parent	Jill Johnson reported that sub-committee met on 10/18. Discussion items included expanding membership, including a formerly incarcerated father and Jeff Whitman from the Villages who does training on father’s programs in prisons. The sub-committee had questions about how housing/location decisions are made when persons are committed to the DOC and learned that although persons can make requests to be located close to their home/community, classification is currently dependent on bed space. The sub-committee asked for Randy Crawford (DOC) to attend a meeting to discuss further and consider opportunities to have parents placed in facilities close to where their children live to promote increased contact. Another topic discussed was what agencies/organizations are best suited to provide prevention efforts – preventing children with incarcerated parents ending up on child welfare or youth legal system. DCS is a potential agency through Community Partners and there was discussion about whether sheriff’s departments and schools are other entities. Jill advised that Mr. Manley facilitates a father’s program at Logansport for youth who are fathers and he shared information about that, including visitation protocols. She added that the sub-committee discussed re-entry and heard from a formerly incarcerated parent who advised that there is no state-level organization supporting returning parents so that they can be in the best position to support their children. The group meets again in December.	With agreement from Steve and Joel, presentation to CISC will include this update information. Jill has minutes and will send to Nancy and Judge Carmichael after approval from Joel.
Objective #4- Child and Adolescent Development into the Justice System	JauNae reported that the sub-committee canceled a meeting due to scheduling difficulties. They are scheduled to meet 11/8. Three areas of focus are: minimum age for juvenile court jurisdiction, access to services for those who may be excluded, and training.	JauNae to provide information to present to CISC on 12/6.
<b>8. Executive Director Update</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Main Points</b>	<b>Recommendations/Decisions</b>
<b>Summary of October meeting</b>	Blane reported that the October meeting included a presentation from CSEC and legislators were very interested in having that information shared with their colleagues.	
<b>Family Youth Engagement Summit</b>	Blane reported that the event is scheduled for December 1-2 and the portal is set up. He will share the information and registration links with all task forces and committees and encouraged all to distribute to our contacts. The first day is geared toward professionals and the second toward families and communities. The event is free and all are encouraged to attend.	
<b>Task Force Presentation to CISC</b>	Blane advised there is no formal structure for this. The purpose is to inform the CISC of activities so if a recommendation or legislation are requested for action, it is not the first time the CISC has heard about it.	

<b>December CISC</b>	Blane invited members to attend a reception after the meeting on 12/6 for the annual “thank-you” for serving on the task force		
<b>6. Action Items (Include recommendations/queries for Executive Committee)</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Person/Group Responsible</b>		<b>Due Date</b>
Prepare and distribute minutes	Nancy Wever		Before January meeting
Send information about sub-committee activities to Nancy and Judge Carmichael for presentation to CISC	Co-Chairs		After scheduled meetings
Prepare presentation to CISC for 12/6	Judge Carmichael and Nancy Wever		12/6
<b>7. Adjournment</b>			
<b>Action</b>			<b>Time</b>
Meeting Adjourned			10:40 a.m.
<b>8. Next Meeting</b>			
<b>Date:</b>	1/5/2024	<b>Time:</b>	9:30-11:00 EDT
<b>Location:</b>	Online via Zoom		
<b>Topics/Objective(s):</b>	Follow-up/Assignments from presentation to CISC; sub-committee status and need reports		