



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Mental Health & Substance Abuse Task Force

Date of Submission: 10/30/2017

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Public Promotion

Other: _____

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance:

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

Summary of Recommendation:

1. Create a guide to understanding how to select evidence-based services for youth in and exiting the Department of Corrections and their families and make it available and accessible on the in.gov website.
2. Create a brief, mandatory survey for all licensed mental health and behavioral health professionals that must be completed during the license renewal process that gathers data pertaining to:
 - a. Whether they are actively practicing in their field
 - b. Their geographic area of service
 - c. The demographics of the populations they serve
 - d. Whether they use telemedicine to provide their services
 - e. Any other relevant data useful in determining service accessibility or gaps

Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem?

1. Department of Corrections (DOC) staff have requested a guide and listing of resources to help them select evidence-based programs for the youth and families that they serve. Marc Kniola, Youth Services Program Director at the DOC, created a one-page guide that explains how to select an appropriate evidence-based program and lists several national on-line resources that provide lists of such programs.
2. Currently, the state of Indiana does not have accurate or complete information on mental health service providers that would help identify the areas of the state experiencing significant gaps in access. A mandatory

survey would collect that data, which could then be utilized to pursue federal funds to increase the number of professionals in those areas.

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

N/A

What is the recommender proposing, and how will it help solve the problem?

See summary

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

The MH/SA Task Force heard testimony from professionals, held meetings with stakeholders and held discussions during meetings to formulate the recommendations. For more information, please see the meeting minutes.

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

Mandatory license renewal statutes affected are in IC 25-1 but it is not determined whether a new section will be added or not.

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

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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.