

Members

Rep. William Crawford, Chairperson  
Rep. Mary Kay Budak  
Sen. Connie Lawson  
Sen. Rose Antich  
Marcia Hearn-Lindsey  
Carol Johnson  
Nathan Samuel  
Ellen Clippinger  
Cheryl Seelig  
Sven Schumacher  
Kimberly Tracy Armstrong  
Judith Ganser  
James Hmurovich  
Mara Snyder  
Judy Nevins  
Sharon Pierce



# BOARD FOR THE COORDINATION OF CHILD CARE REGULATION

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## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: September 17, 2001  
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., Room 404  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 4

**Members Present:** Rep. William Crawford, Chairperson; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Rose Antich; Marcia Hearn-Lindsey; Nathan Samuel; Ellen Clippinger; Sven Schumacher; Mara Snyder.

**Members Absent:** Carol Johnson; Cheryl Seelig; Kimberly Tracy Armstrong; Judith Ganser; James Hmurovich; Judy Nevins; Sharon Pierce.

Rep. Crawford called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. He informed the members that the next two meetings will be on October 15, 2001, and October 22, 2001, at 10:00 am. He explained that an affirmative vote of 9 members of the Board is necessary for approval of the final report of the Board and any proposed legislation, and that the October 22 meeting will be held for that purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Rep. Crawford acknowledged receipt of information concerning: (a) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) contract awards and expenditures for FY 1997 to FY 2001; (b) the CCDF waiting list; and (c) a summary of county minimum standards for the CCDF voucher program prior to SEA 110-2001; that was requested at the September 10, 2001, meeting of the Board from Amy Brown, Legislative Liaison, Division of Family and Children (DFC), Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and stated that one additional meeting might be held before October 15 if he determines that an additional meeting is necessary.

### **Immunizations of Children in Child Care Settings**

Wendy Gettlefinger, Assistant Commissioner, Children and Family Health Services, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), presented two handouts concerning immunization levels of children in daycare and Head Start facilities.<sup>2</sup> In response to questions from Rep. Crawford, Ms. Brown and Ms. Gettlefinger stated that children who receive voucher funding for child care must be immunized and that child care centers must report regarding immunizations of children who receive child care at the center. Ms. Gettlefinger referred to charts on page 4 of each handout reflecting the number of complete immunizations among children in daycare and Head Start from 1995 to 2001. She specified the immunizations that must have been received by children for immunizations to be considered "complete" for purposes of the data provided in the handouts. Ms. Gettlefinger noted that there has been a decrease in the number of children reported to have complete immunizations and speculated that this might be connected with the increase in unlicensed child care providers, which do not report immunizations. Ms. Gettlefinger related her belief in the importance of an immunization registry so that immunizations of all children are counted.

Ms. Gettlefinger reported on the progress of the ISDH in development of an immunization registry. She stated that a contract has been entered into with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) so that federal funding may be utilized to develop the registry. Ms. Gettlefinger explained that the ISDH plans to select a vendor in 2002 and have the immunization registry functional in 2002. She stated that the goal is to capture the immunization records of at least 50% of Indiana children in the first year that the registry is functional. Ms. Gettlefinger reported that Dr. Greg Wilson, Commissioner, ISDH, will present a more detailed description of plans for the registry at the September 26, 2001, meeting of the Health Finance Commission.

Rep. Crawford requested that Ms. Gettlefinger provide to the Board a more detailed summary of the ISDH's plans for the immunization registry. In response to questions from Rep. Crawford, Ms. Gettlefinger stated that: (a) a model immunization registry program conducted in St. Joseph County was very successful and will be used as a model for the statewide registry; (b) the ISDH's current plan is to utilize only federal funding for the registry; and (c) private funding options are being explored.

Rep. Budak provided a copy of Preliminary Draft 3090-2002 concerning development of an immunization data registry.<sup>3</sup> She informed the members that immunization registry language was passed by the Indiana House of Representatives during the 2001 legislative session, but was not called to the floor of the Indiana Senate during the final minutes of the session, so did not pass. She explained her work toward passage of this legislation over

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<sup>2</sup>See Exhibit 1.

<sup>3</sup>See Exhibit 2.

the past few years, and her frustration over the lack of development of an immunization registry to date.

Sen. Antich raised the issue of religious exemptions from the statutory requirement of immunizations for school aged children. There was general discussion concerning this issue.

Rep. Crawford stated that he would appreciate answers from the ISDH to the following questions: (a) can private funding of the immunization registry occur?; (b) does CDC funding include ongoing development and maintenance of the registry, or is the funding only temporary?; and (c) what is the cost of the registry?

Sen. Lawson explored the possibility that children who are currently not immunized may not contract diseases because the majority of children are immunized and so do not carry the disease. Rep. Crawford stated that he would like to include a minimum standard requiring complete immunization of children in child care settings to be included in proposed minimum standards for voucher reimbursement eligibility legislation. He requested that staff research whether such a standard may be applied to enrollment in Head Start, as well.

Patricia Cole, Healthy Childcare, Indiana, stated that current regulations require children who attend child care centers to be immunized, but monitoring is not routinely performed so children who are not fully immunized may still attend child care centers. She stated that she will provide to the Board a comparison of Indiana's immunization requirements with the requirements of other states.

### **Kinship Care in Relation to CCDF Voucher Funding**

Ms. Brown provided a handout concerning Indiana child care providers and capacities, and Indiana's definition of "related" for purposes of regulation of child care providers.<sup>4</sup> There was general discussion regarding: (a) clarification of the information concerning capacities of the various types of child care providers; (b) the percentage of each type of child care provider that receives voucher funding; (c) representation of school aged child care providers; (d) representation of legally license exempt child care providers; and (e) the number of children actually enrolled in each facility represented on the handout. Ms. Brown responded that she will seek clarification for the members.

Ann Brooks, Co-Founder, Provider Link Association of Indiana, provided a handout.<sup>5</sup> Ms. Brooks summarized various benefits of utilization of licensed child care providers and potential problems with reimbursement of kinship care under the voucher program. Ms. Brooks advocated limitation of kinship care to immediate family members only. She provided a definition of "relatives" for purposes of regulation of child care homes under the Indiana Administrative Code and stated that she believes the definition should be narrowed.

Ms. Snyder stated that she would like to provide fire safety language to be included in proposed legislation concerning minimum standards for child care providers receiving reimbursement under the voucher program. Rep. Crawford agreed that Ms. Snyder should

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<sup>4</sup>See Exhibit 3.

<sup>5</sup>See Exhibit 4. A copy of Ms. Brooks' testimony is available in the Legislative Information Center.

provide language to staff for inclusion in the proposed bill.

There was discussion concerning the definitions of "related" and "relatives" for purposes of regulation of child care providers under Indiana law. Staff offered to research the flexibility of the state under the federal law concerning CCDF funding in defining "kinship" or "related" for purposes of the CCDF voucher program. Ms. Lindsey stated that she would like state monies to be used to reimburse only licensed child care providers and commented that, under current law, child care providers may provide care to a certain number of unrelated children in addition to any number of related children. Rep. Crawford responded that if the Board would like to recommend a change to this, such a recommendation may be proposed and approved in the final report.

In response to questions from Sen. Lawson, Ms. Brown stated that a potentially large number of child care providers that are currently legally license exempt may be required to be licensed if a change were made so that relatives are included in the limit on the number of children that may be cared for in a home before licensure is required. She stated that she will provide clarification of "capacity" of child care providers in the document that she presented to the Board.

Ms. Cole provided information concerning the CCDF,<sup>6</sup> including a summary of "basic health and safety requirements" for child care providers that receive voucher funding. She stated that the state's current emphasis on education is good, but that child safety and mental health concerns in the child care provider area must also be addressed. Ms. Cole related that, while the state has increased training requirements for licensed child care providers, data provided by the Bureau for Child Development reflects that more child care deaths have occurred in unlicensed than licensed child care situations. She shared California's requirement that a child care provider that provides care to children from more than 2 families must be licensed. Ms. Cole noted the recent decrease in the number of licensed child care centers (the most heavily regulated child care provider in Indiana) and the increase in the number of child care ministries (the least regulated child care provider in Indiana other than legally license exempt homes). She stated that she will provide a comparison of state accreditation standards for child care providers.

Ms. Snyder stated that she would like to submit proposed legislative language concerning use of seclusion and restraint by child care providers.

Rep. Crawford requested that Ms. Brown provide a memo to the Board summarizing: (a) the reasons for the difference between the CCDF contract awards and expenditures specified in the information provided by Ms. Brown following the September 10, 2001, meeting of the Board; (b) what may potentially be done to decrease the number of families on the CCDF waiting list within the financial constraints that exist; (c) possible reasons for approximately 50% of families on the waiting list being residents of Marion County; (d) how long families are on the waiting list before they become eligible for voucher reimbursement; and (e) how many parents who receive voucher funding are in school and how many are working. Ms. Lindsey stated that she was under the impression that Marion County had overspent during each year that CCDF funding has been available, but that the information provided by Ms. Brown does not reflect this.

Rep. Crawford encouraged the Board members to set forth any proposed recommendations for inclusion in the Board's final report. He explained that current state budget constraints must be kept in mind and that federal funding should be fully utilized for

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<sup>6</sup>See Exhibit 5.

the purposes for which it is provided to the state. Mr. Schumacher expressed his concern regarding whether the state should continue supporting unlicensed child care providers through CCDF funding. He shared his belief that, thus far in the Board's discussions, budgetary impact of possible recommendations by the Board seems minimal. He stated that he would like the Board's final report to contain recommendations for improved quality in child care.

Rep. Budak suggested that Ms. Clippinger provide written documentation to the Board of her recommendations for Board consideration of school aged child care issues. Ms. Snyder agreed that it would be helpful to have Ms. Clippinger's concerns in writing. Rep. Crawford encouraged members to bring proposed recommendations forth for inclusion in the final report.

Rep. Crawford announced that the next meeting of the Board will occur on October 15, 2001, during which issues that have been discussed during this interim should be brought forth for discussion and suggested recommendations for the final report. Rep. Budak suggested that Ms. Armstrong be consulted regarding any recommendations that she has for the final report. Staff agreed to contact Ms. Armstrong.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Crawford adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.