

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

October, 2004

INDIANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2004

Speaker B. Patrick Bauer

Chairman

South Bend

Senator Robert Garton

Vice-Chairman

Columbus

Representative Brian Bosma

Indianapolis

Senator Richard Young

Milltown

Representative Russell Stilwell

Boonville

Senator Becky Skillman

Bedford

Representative Dale Grubb

Covington

Senator Joseph Harrison

Attica

Representative Charlie Brown

Gary

Senator Patricia Miller

Indianapolis

Representative Scott Pelath

Michigan City

Senator Thomas Wyss

Fort Wayne

Representative Kathy Richardson

Noblesville

Senator James Lewis

Charlestown

Representative Richard Mangus

Lakeville

Senator Earline Rogers

Gary

Philip J. Sachtleben
Executive Director
Legislative Services Agency

INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM
Membership Roster

Representatives

Vanessa Summers, Chairperson
Indianapolis

Dennie Oxley
English

Robert Alderman
Fort Wayne

Cleo Duncan
Greensburg

Senators

Kent Adams
Warsaw

Marvin Riegsecker
Goshen

Allie Craycraft
Selma

Connie Sipes
New Albany

Lay Members

Hugh Beebe
New Haven

Michael Carmin
Upland

Leah Helvering
Indianapolis

Susan Hansen
Indianapolis

Herbert Grulke
Crown Point

John Taylor
Indianapolis

Staff

Eliza Houston
Attorney for the Commission

Chris Baker
Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation (IC 12-11-7-5 and IC 12-11-7-6) directing the Commission to do the following:

- (1) Study the service delivery system for individuals with autism and the families of individuals with autism, including the following:
 - (A) An analysis of the number of Indiana citizens believed to have autism.
 - (B) Funding amounts and sources.
 - (C) Types of expenditures and services provided.
 - (D) The number of clients served.
 - (E) Relationships among agencies and organizations.
 - (F) Residential options for individuals with autism.
- (2) Study the need and effectiveness of programs for individuals with autism.
- (3) Oversee and update the development of a comprehensive plan for services for individuals of all ages with autism, including an interagency cooperation agreement among the following:
 - (A) The department of education.
 - (B) The division of mental health and addiction.
 - (C) The division of family and children.
 - (D) The division of disability, aging, and rehabilitative services.
 - (E) Any other appropriate agencies.

The Legislative Council did not assign any specific topics to the Commission for the 2004 interim.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Commission met three times during the 2004 interim on August 3, 2004, September 8, 2004, and October 20, 2004.

III. SUMMARY

During the 2004 interim, the Commission received information concerning the following:

- (1) An update from the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS) on the Autism waiver, the Developmental Disability waiver, the Support Services waiver, and concerns related to case management. The update also included information on group homes for children and cost containment measures implemented by DDARS.
- (2) An update from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism.

(3) The history, services, and funding of the Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center.

(4) The services provided by health care coordinators.

(5) The development of group homes for children with developmental disabilities.

(6) The experiences of individuals who have moved from institutional care to community based care.

The Commission also considered legislative proposals concerning: (1) funding Autism waiver slots; and (2) services for developmentally disabled children.

The Commission is not required to file a final report. Additional details concerning the Commission's proceedings are available in the Commission's minutes, which can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.