



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

The Task Force on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, hereinafter referred to as The Task Force, was charged, through HEA 1075, **to make recommendations** regarding the below referenced subject matters to the legislative council not later than September 1, 2022:

DSP Curriculum and Training

- Establishment of a statewide training curriculum for individuals who provide services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD);
- Feasibility of establishing training certification;
- Establishment of a statewide training registry; and
- Feasibility of a pilot project to implement any recommendations made

Waiver Trends and Support

- Current trends related to health and safety requests for the community integration habilitation Medicaid waiver or any other service; and
- The feasibility of the division establishing a pilot program to create special service review teams to assist families or individuals in a crisis situation to identify available resources and sources of assistance

Incident Report

- Creation of a report to be distributed by BDDS to each authorized service provides; and
- To provide to the authorized service provider the name of each direct support professional who has been the subject of a substantiated incident report

To accomplish this goal, the Task Force formed a committee for each topic area. The committees were comprised of individuals, family members, association members, elected officials, state employees, providers, and other external stakeholders who have lived experience and/or knowledge in the topic area.

Committee chairs and facilitators were assigned by the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to provide support and leadership. At least one member of the Task Force participated on each committee. DDRS/BRS team member Kristina Blankenship maintained committee documentation and assist with meeting logistics.

The Task Force on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities convened on August 23, 2022, to review and finalize committee recommendations for submission to legislative council. To follow are the recommendations as approved by the Task Force.

¹ Indiana House Enrolled Act 1075-2022. Available at:
<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2022/bills/house/1075#document-95caf6d3>



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Task Force Recommendations as Charged by HEA 1075 and approved by the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force on Tuesday, August 23, 2022

1) Direct Support Professional Curriculum and Training

Recommendation 1:

The State, specifically the Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services, develop and administer a minimum standardized competency-based statewide training curriculum for individuals who provide supports and services to individuals with I/DD

- Made available or administered by the State in multiple modalities
- Required annually where the DSP receives a portable certificate of completion
- Training should be a billable activity

Recommendation 2:

Establishment of a tiered direct support professional training certification process

- Should include macro and micro credentials
- Should be tracked in a statewide registry that is accessible to FSSA, providers, and direct support professionals that also integrates with the vendor's training system

Recommendation 3: Establishment of a direct support professional training registry

- Should include base training (recommendation #1) as well as tiered training (recommendation #2)
- Should be searchable by name and accessible to FSSA and providers
- Should integrate with training modules for real time training results
- The direct support professional training registry should be codified by the IN General Assembly

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2) Waiver Trends and Support (Emergency waiver)

Recommendation 1:

The Division should establish a Special Service Review Team pilot to review certain requests for the CIH Waiver under the Health and Safety category and consider the circumstances of the applicant, collect data, and provide evaluative information that can be applied at the systems level to the Division. The results of the pilot should inform the development of a rubric as referenced in Recommendation #5.

Recommendation 2:

The Special Service Review Team, as part of the pilot, will provide to the DDRS Advisory Council a report every quarter regarding identified benchmarks.

Recommendation 3:

As part of the pilot referenced in Recommendation #1, the Special Service Review Team should be a multidisciplinary team and members who provide services should be eligible for a stipend.

Recommendation 4:

Using the results of the Special Service Review Team pilot as informative, adjust age of the priority category or eliminate age criteria as a priority waiver category (age of primary caregiver -currently 80 years of age).

Recommendation 5:

Using the results of the Special Service Review Team pilot as informative, develop a transparent rubric that would allow individuals, families, and other stakeholders to understand decision-making criteria for the Health & Safety Priority Waiver category.

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3) Incident reporting

Recommendation 1:

The State of Indiana, specifically, the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS), should manage the process of incident reporting, including activities associated with:

- (1) developing an intake process for DSPs which includes personally identifiable information (including legal name, date of birth, social security number, driver's license number, or state ID number);
- (2) review the provider investigation and determine what, if any, additional investigation or follow up is needed;
- (3) actions (when substantiated and as determined appropriate) being available on an accessible registry (including a status of "Substantiated – Within Appeals Window" and "Substantiated – Final"); and
- (4) ensuring an appropriate appeal process that is timely and implements clear parameters for substantiation and registry inclusion.

Recommendation 2:

The current definition of an incident is sufficient. State should provide clear guidance on what constitutes addition to the registry based on level of severity of substantiated incident.

Recommendation 3:

The State should develop a DSP registry that includes substantiated incidents available at the individual DSP level.

- The registry should include individual identifiers (example: legal name, date of birth, social security number, driver's license number, or state ID number).
- The state should provide clear guidance on what constitutes addition to the registry based on level of severity of substantiated incident.
- The DSP registry should be made accessible to FSSA staff and BDDS providers as a report for each DSP with a substantiated incident.
- In the event that an appeal finds that an incident is unsubstantiated, the finding will be removed from the DSP Registry.
- One DSP Registry should exist that includes training/certification status (Recommendation #3 under Statewide Training Curriculum & Registry) and a means to identify DSPs not in good standing due to a substantiated reportable incident. Incident Reporting, as part of a DSP Registry, should be codified by the Indiana General Assembly.

¹ Indiana House Enrolled Act 1075-2022. Available at:

<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2022/bills/house/1075#document-95caf6d3>