

From: Blayne Miley, Director of Policy & Advocacy
To: Indiana Center for Nursing Access to Care
Date: 11/1/2016
Re: Policy Update for 11/2/16 Meeting

Interim Study Committees

The Interim Study Committees are preparing their final reports. If an interim study committee recommends certain legislative action or adopts a preliminary draft of a bill, that makes it likely there will be a bill on the subject introduced in 2017, but does not guarantee passage. Similarly, if an interim study committee declines to act or votes against a topic, that does not preclude a bill on the topic from being introduced in 2017, but does make its passage less likely.

Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Human Services

- Adopted a preliminary draft of a bill regarding **mental health**. The proposed legislation would (1) expand the availability of mental health and addiction services in the criminal justice system, (2) requires FSSA to certify compliance of recovery residences with national standards, and (3) includes neonatal abstinence syndrome as a factor for qualifying as a child in need of services. There was discussion of adding a provision regarding drug tests for pregnant women, but that is not currently part of the draft.
- Adopted a preliminary draft for a **loan forgiveness program for dentists and dental hygienists** working in underserved areas and seeing Medicaid patients.
- Recommends the General Assembly support measures to promote **Employment First** as a means to increase competitive, integrated employment for Hoosiers with disabilities.
- Voted No on **Nurse Licensure Compact** over concerns of a lack of regulatory monitoring. The Office of Attorney General also takes the position that multiple facets of the required compact language conflict with Indiana laws regarding privacy, government spending, etc.
- No recommendation of legislation on **hospital employee immunizations**, following the suggestion by the Indiana Hospital Association and ISNA that currently-in-place efforts to promote immunization rates are preferable to a mandate from the legislature.
- No action taken on topic of the **confidentiality of medical records and their disclosure in instances of child abuse and neglect**. No testimony offered.

Fiscal Policy

- On the topic of **food deserts**, the Committee finds that a more robust discussion is needed of the economic challenges that food providers must overcome in order to locate in underserved areas. Committee discussion was focused on the scope of the problem and did not adequately address the underlying causes that lead to food deserts.
- Recommend that the General Assembly create a task force charged with preparing a

comprehensive plan of how best to implement **community-based services for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities** in Indiana. The comprehensive plan would include the following elements:

- (a) Data collected that specifies how many individuals are receiving services in the state of Indiana, the types of services being used, any waiting list for services, the services that are needed, and where individuals are waiting for services.
- (b) An assessment of the array of services being offered by the State and a needs assessment of that array of services and how it meets the needs of individuals.
- (c) The identification of services not currently offered but needed by individuals.
- (d) A determination of whether the current array of services complies with the current Home and Community Based Services Rule.
- (e) An assessment of provider capacity in Indiana to provide the array of services identified in the current array and those services identified as needed.
- (f) An assessment of the cost of delivering the array of services offered currently and those services identified as needed.
- (g) The identification of any new configuration of service options that are needed in the future and the cost to deliver those services