

2020 School Health Legislation Updates



Presented by Mark A Fairchild, MSW, LSW
*Director of Policy & Communication
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana*

Presentation Overview

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ 2020 Indiana General Assembly
- ▶ Key Legislation
- ▶ 2021 Legislative Projections
- ▶ Role of COVID-19 Policies
- ▶ A Little Talk About Advocacy



2020 General Assembly

- Key Legislation -

Senate Bill 1: Tobacco and Vaping Smoking Age

Authored by Sen. Andy Zay, Sen. Ed Charbonneau.

Co-Authored by Sen. Mark Stoops.

- ▶ Prohibits a person who is less than 21 years of age from buying or possessing tobacco, e-liquids or electronic cigarettes. Doubles the civil judgment for an infraction for a retail establishment that sells or distributes tobacco, an e-liquid, or an electronic cigarette to a person less than 21 years of age and certain retail establishments that allow an underage person to enter their establishment.



2020 General Assembly

- Key Legislation -

Senate Bill 246: Mental Health Services

Authored by Sen. Michael Crider, Sen. James Merritt.

Co-Authored by Sen. Vaneta Becker, Sen. Frank Mrvan, Sen. James Buck, Sen. Jeff Raatz, Sen. Linda Rogers, Sen. J.D. Ford, Sen. Eddie Melton, Sen. Lonnie Randolph, Sen. Mark Stoops, Sen. Ronald Grooms.

- ▶ Requires a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school to have a MOU in place with a community mental health center or provider to provide mental and behavioral health services to students before applying for a grant from the Indiana secured school fund.



2020 General Assembly

- Key Legislation -

Senate Bill 141: School Based Health Clinics and Medicaid

Authored by Sen. Andy Zay, Sen. Ed Charbonneau.

Co-Authored by Sen. Mark Stoops.

- ▶ Would allow for Medicaid reimbursement for health care services and school based services to specified individuals provided by a school based health clinic and supplemental Medicaid reimbursement payments to qualified school based health clinics under the fee for service Medicaid program.



2020 General Assembly

- Key Legislation -

Senate Bill 142: Medicaid Reimbursement for Schools

Authored by Sen. Andy Zay, Sen. Ed Charbonneau, Sen. Jon Ford.

Co-Authored by Sen. J.D. Ford, Sen. Ronald Grooms, Sen. Vaneta Becker, Sen. Jean Breaux, Sen. John Ruckelshaus, Sen. Michael Crider, Sen. Jean Leising, Sen. Eddie Melton, Sen. Linda Rogers.

- ▶ Would allow school corporations Medicaid reimbursement for medically necessary, school-based Medicaid covered services provided under federal or state mandates.

** Indiana already allows for reimbursement of services delivered under Individualized Education Programs; this sought to add Section 504 plans, behavioral intervention plans, individualized healthcare plans and nursing services by a licensed nurse.*



2021 Legislative Projections

- ▶ What are likely issues in the coming year?
 - ▶ Continuing work to aid student mental health and improve access to services
 - ▶ Continuing efforts to increase Medicaid services and reimbursement in schools
 - ▶ Continuing efforts to support school-based health clinics
 - ▶ Expanding access and utilization of telehealth services
 - ▶ Policies impacts related to COVID-19
 - ▶ Mandating the teaching of cursive handwriting



Role of COVID-19 on Policy

- ▶ What can we expect over the next year?
 - ▶ Discussion on what policies to keep
 - ▶ Discussion on what policies to change
 - ▶ Analysis on the role of e-learning
 - ▶ More interest in the use of telehealth
 - ▶ New understanding of socio-emotional support
 - ▶ Policies related to exposure risk mitigation
 - ▶ Discussions on the financial impact of COVID-19

A Little Talk on Advocacy

(aka Mark Trying to Recruit New Advocates)

Advocacy vs. Lobbying

- ▶ Lobbying Defined:
 - ▶ Lobbying is professional activity that involves communicating by any means, or paying others to communicate by any means, with any legislative official for the purpose of influencing any legislative action.
- ▶ What is Not Lobbying?
 - ▶ Educating - Offering factual information on the topic.
 - ▶ Advocacy - Talking about the importance of an issue and/or the need for changes based on your experience.
 - ▶ Private Individual - You can seek to influence a legislator's vote as a private individual. **BE CAREFUL**



Types of Advocacy

- ▶ Organized rallies and events
- ▶ Community informational meetings
- ▶ Testimonials from those impacted
- ▶ Email, phone and letter writing campaigns
- ▶ Boycotts of products and services
- ▶ Action alerts and talking points to memberships
- ▶ Education of legislators and stakeholders



Advocacy Concerns & Fears

- ▶ Lack of knowledge on the legislative process
- ▶ Lack of knowledge on the bill or issue
- ▶ Possible hostile confrontations
- ▶ General public speaking anxiety
- ▶ Being unprepared for questions
- ▶ Not knowing how to navigate the statehouse
(aka getting lost in the statehouse basement)



Ways to Work with Legislators

- ▶ Partner with a legislator to craft a bill
generally a lobbying activity unless strictly educating
- ▶ Schedule a one-on-one meeting
- ▶ Write a letter, email, or phone a legislator
- ▶ Work with others who have a “direct line”
- ▶ Speak at a legislative committee meeting
- ▶ Create fact sheets and talking points

Advocacy “Do-Nots”

- ▶ Do not assume knowledge of the bill or issue
- ▶ Do not overstate your knowledge or guess
- ▶ Do not go in with a hostile attitude
- ▶ Do not engage in partisan politics
- ▶ Do not solely argue as moral or right vs. wrong
- ▶ Do not reinforce stereotypes of your field
- ▶ Do not make false promises



One-on-One Meetings

- ▶ Be prepared and remember your expertise.
- ▶ Have a goal in mind for the meeting / relationship.
- ▶ Remember your interpersonal skills:
 - ▶ Working with adversarial persons
 - ▶ Affirming positive intentions
 - ▶ Finding common ground
 - ▶ Building long-term relationships
 - ▶ Addressing stereotypes and misconceptions tactfully
- ▶ Offer your assistance and always follow-up.
- ▶ Try meeting with your legislator outside of session.



Testifying in a Committee

- ▶ Before: research the committee and watch online
- ▶ Arrive a least 15 minutes early to all committees
- ▶ Fill out committee testimony card and turn it in
- ▶ Draft your comments in advance; never ramble
- ▶ Keep to two or three concise points; 5 minutes max
- ▶ Coordinate with other speakers; build a team
- ▶ Use credible facts, direct experience & testimonies
- ▶ Either oppose, support, or support with concern

<http://iga.in.gov>

- ▶ Legislator lookup service
- ▶ Full text on bills, amendments and fiscal notes
- ▶ Legislators and their involvement in bills
- ▶ Committees, their agendas and bills to be heard
- ▶ Live committee and chamber webcasts
- ▶ Indiana Code and Constitution



CKF Advocacy Opportunities

- ▶ CKF Policy & Provider Committee
- ▶ State of Coverage Policy Forum
- ▶ Social Work Internship Program
- ▶ Volunteering for a Specific Policy Effort
- ▶ Getting Drafted by Mark 😊





Contact Information:

Mark A Fairchild, MSW, LSW

Director of Policy & Communication
Covering Kids & Families of Indiana

317.222.1849

mfairchild@ckfindiana.org

www.ckfindiana.org