

KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE:

Teamwork is the KEY!



To learn more, *click on one*
of the Placement Support
& Compliance Team doors.

CENTRAL OFFICE BACKGROUND CHECK UNIT (COBCU)

Cindy wants you to know...

The Central Office Background Check Unit (COBCU) is responsible for all aspects of background checks. They review all people who will be in contact with or work in providing services to children under the supervision of the Department of Child Services (DCS). Areas included are:

- Unlicensed relative out of home placements (even when court ordered)
 - Foster family homes licensed through the local DCS office and/or Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA)
 - Prospective adoptive homes for DCS children or private adoptions seeking financial assistance
 - All employees/volunteers of DCS licensed or contracted agencies
- Cindy also wants you to know that her team provides:**
- Evaluation of all mandatory fingerprint based checks as well as optional checks for the purpose including Reunification or Collaborative Care host homes

- Child Protective Services (CPS) searches for agency employees/volunteers working with DCS as well as searches for those outside of DCS such as churches, school, summer camps and requests from other state's child welfare agencies.
- Assistance in policy/procedure clarification in the completion of other background checks done by the local office and/or an agency such as sex offender registry, local law enforcement checks and child protection service history check

When a subject has a disqualifying criminal history or CPS substantiation, a mandatory waiver is submitted to a COBCU. Once complete, the waiver packet moves onto the Waiver Committee for an individualized decision. All is done for the safety of the kids.

Manager: Cindy Hewett

Consultants: Brian Figueiredo, Dan Dunbar, Lisa Doran, Scott Hood

Clerical Assistant: Brandi Hatcher

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Manager: Cindy Hewett

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Tristyn wants you to know . . .

The Foster Care Program is administered by the Central Office Foster Care Unit (COFCU). Their goal is to ensure foster families and relative caregivers provide safe, nurturing, and stable homes to meet/support children's needs for safety, permanency, and well-being.

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The Team Keeps Our Kids Safe by:

● Consulting/Training

The Team works with Relative Care Specialists (RCS), Regional Foster Care Specialists (RFCS), Foster Care Supervisors, Field Management Staff, Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA), and others within DCS on foster care laws, policies, and procedures and how they should be applied to best meet the safety and well-being needs of foster children. In addition, the COFCU team works with staff on any foster/relative home placement and/or licensing issues or barriers. The team also provides initial and ongoing training to DCS foster care staff, as well as ongoing training to LCPA staff.

● Oversight, Supervision and Review

The COFCU team reviews child abuse and neglect assessments and licensing complaints regarding DCS and LCPA foster homes and ensures appropriate follow up actions by the RFCS and/or LCPA. The team also provides oversight to the LCPA foster home licensing process, including guidance on policy, practice and all approvals in MaGIK. The COFCU approves and facilitates all revocations and denials of foster home licenses. In addition, they review and make decisions on all licensing waiver, variance and capacity exception requests in MaGIK.

Manager: Tristyn Ryan

Consultants: Ann Arvidson, Josslyn Gillard, Rhoda (Nicki) Moore, Ron Featherston, and a fifth vacant consultant position soon to be filled!

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Manager: Tristyn Ryan

INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT UNIT (ICPS)

Chris wants you to know...

The Institutional Assessment Unit (ICPS) assesses allegations of abuse and neglect in daycares, schools, residential facilities, group homes, detention centers and other scenarios where child care staff is considered the alleged perpetrator.

The ICPS case managers have expertise in conducting these assessments and have built close working relationships with the licensing bodies over the institutions, including DCS Residential Licensing, the Division of Family Resources, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Education. Not only does the ICPS unit complete the assessment regarding the abuse and neglect allegations, but works with the

facilities and licensing bodies to come up with better protocols and procedures to ensure safety for other children who will be attending, or are placed with these facilities in the future.

Manager: Chris Wright

Supervisor: Amanda Ekman-Berger

ICPS Family Case Managers: Amanda Horton, Michael Kittrell, Kelsey Dunn, Jeremy Wells, Jerry Paczkowski, Mike Keesling, Cathy Hodge, Lissa Allman, Christopher Powell, Erica Durr, Robert Hardin, Kandi Norris, and Michelle Vasquez

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Manager: Chris Wright



INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

Kathy wants you to know...

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) works to ensure the safety of children by following the regulations of the ICPC Compact. All 50 states plus Washington DC and the Virgin Islands are parties to the Compact whose purpose is to ensure a safe placement and supervision for children placed out of state. The following four placement categories require compliance with ICPC:

- Placement with a parent
- Placement with a relative
- Placement with an adoptive parent
- Placement in a residential facility

The unit is responsible for the review and processing of all in and out of state referrals and is charged with ensuring that all required documentation is complete and all placements are compliant with ICPC regulations. In addition to working with public

agencies, the ICPC unit reviews all private adoptions involving Indiana and another state. Additionally, international adoption referrals involving an Indiana adoptive family are the responsibility of the ICPC Unit .

Also, Indiana is one of six states selected to test a new electronic information exchange for processing ICPC cases. The goal of the system known as NEICE (National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise) is to significantly reduce the processing time of placing children across state borders. Testing of the system is scheduled to begin in June with implementation in July. The ICPC unit will be reaching out to local offices to provide information about the system and to request their assistance when required.

Manager: Kathy Ogden

Consultants: John Roberts and Andria Hoying

Clerical Assistant: Lisa Davis



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Manager: Kathy Ogden

RESIDENTIAL LICENSING AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Beverly and June want you to know...

The primary role of the Residential Licensing and Contract Compliance Team is to provide oversight to the approximately 218 residential treatment facilities licensed by DCS and located throughout the state. These consist of group homes, child care institutions, private/secure facilities, and licensed child placement agencies.

The Team's role begins by providing training to entities interested in opening new licensed residential facilities or child placement agencies. The training continues through the licensing process.

Once licensed, the Team monitors the operations of these organizations by conducting at least one Licensing Review per year. The purpose of this review is to assess compliance with 465 IAC 2. Additionally, the Team conducts at least one Contract Compliance Review with licensed facilities per year. The purpose

is to assess each facility's compliance with their DCS residential program contract.

Beverly and June also want you to know...

Residential Licensing and Contract Compliance also licenses child placement agencies that operate as adoption agencies and place children from the United States or other countries into adoptive homes. These agencies receive at least one Licensing Review per year.

Managers: Beverly Gatling and June Artis

Consultants: Diane Holter, Angie Broyles, Hope Munn, Robin Andrade, Shavon King, Blake Hudson, Rick Steigerwalt and Ann Czerwinski

Clerical Assistant: Gurline Jones

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*Managers: (Left to right)
Beverly Gatling and June Artis*