



From the Executive Director

Welcome to the 2019 *State of the Association*. It has been a busy 12 months. IARCA members have improved the lives of thousands of children, helped many families stay together or come back together safely, and helped new families form when necessary.

Changes at the state and federal level continue to create opportunities and challenges for securing positive outcomes for the children and families we work with. IARCA has been proud to engage Indiana’s legislative and executive branches, Indiana’s Congressional delegation, and leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of our members and the Hoosiers they serve.

Thanks to the partnership of Lilly Endowment and the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, we have also offered more than a dozen low-cost training opportunities throughout Indiana to make sure our state’s workforce is prepared to provide life-changing services. Finally, under the leadership of the IARCA Outcomes Task Force, and in collaboration with experienced researchers, we have been planning the first significant overhaul of the Outcomes Project measurement tools since the effort was launched more than 20 years ago.

I’ve included some highlights in this Update but, as always, please reach out to me with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

All the best,
Chris Daley

Association Financials

Members’ commitment to paying annual dues means that IARCA’s financial position is strong. The IARCA Board of Directors approved a 2019 budget of just under \$800,000. To date, we have realized 94% of projected income for the year.

Led by IARCA’s Finance Committee, the Board of Directors approved a policy for a reserve fund for the agency to weather any future, unexpected shortfalls or expenses. IARCA staff will work with the Committee and Board to allocate dollars to the fund annually until it is fully funded. Per the policy, the reserves can only be tapped with Board approval.

The IARCA Institute for Excellence is also financially healthy. The Institute completed two grants in 2019 and is working with each institution to renew the partnerships into 2020 and beyond.

IARCA Membership 2019

IARCA’s membership continues to grow. As of September 1, 2019, we have:

Full Members	Affiliate Members	Associate Members	Total Members
85	15	6	106

Indiana Advocacy

IARCA members and staff have been incredibly active over the last year. A few highlights:

- With support from Governor Eric Holcomb and DCS Director Terry Stigdon, IARCA accomplished one of its years-long priorities when the Indiana General Assembly passed a two-year budget that restored previous cuts to the Family and Children Fund. This up-front commitment of funds for direct services to children and families should allow DCS to better plan its spending and fix long-standing problems with rates and rate setting.
- After years of advocacy by IARCA members and action by the Indiana General Assembly, DCS has begun retooling its audit programs. Recognizing that the existing structure was overly repetitive and inefficient, DCS worked with member agencies, IARCA staff, and other providers to streamline a number of its audits. Initial reception has been positive, though some inefficiencies remain. DCS is also looking at the accreditation agency surveys to identify possible additional efficiencies for accredited agencies, working on technology fixes that will make it easier for auditors to access files already submitted to DCS in advance of audits, and efficiencies that can be gained in the audits of community based programs.
- IARCA committees and work groups have also been actively working with DCS to improve procedures so that more time and resources can be committed to families and children. For example, the PRTF work group advocated tirelessly to make sure changes to paying for these services did not negatively affect children in their care. And, the LCPA work group continues its efforts to make sure applications for potential foster homes are reviewed in a timely manner.
- Member agencies and IARCA staff have also worked with Medicaid staff at the Family and Social Services Administration to understand new opportunities and brainstorm on persistent challenges and the Department of Education to make sure communications to residential facilities are clear and consistent.

Federal Advocacy

While there are many moving parts at the federal level, IARCA and its members have been primarily focused on implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). In conjunction with our colleagues at the National Organization of State Associations for Children, Child Welfare League of America, and the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, IARCA and our members have been pushing for fixes for unintended shortcomings in FFPSA that, if left unaddressed, will diminish the positive effect of this landmark legislation.

We have engaged with Congressional leaders and their staffs, including Senator Todd Young and Representative Jackie Walorski, to discuss Indiana's child welfare community. In May, SCAN and Oaklawn hosted a Congressional staffer from the House Ways and Means Committee. They told her about their services, the populations they work with, and ideas they have for making FFPSA even more successful. IARCA staff also met with HHS Associate Commissioner Jerry Milner to discuss HHS's FFPSA implementation plans.

The message to all of our federal partners has been clear and consistent: FFPSA creates a number of opportunities for children and families but we won't be able to leverage them without some small, important fixes to the law. Primarily, we need Congress to temporarily adjust the equation for which evidence-based programs are reimbursable under FFPSA. Doing so will allow Indiana and other states to engage more deeply in prevention services quicker than is possible under the current statutory language.

Training Project

IARCA's Training Project has hosted 13 different one- or two-day trainings so far in 2019 with 5 more scheduled before the end of the year. About 600 participants have attended, or are expected to attend, one of these trainings. IARCA's trainings focus on concrete skills and evidence-based programs that are in line with national trends and upcoming requirements.

For instance, our training calendar is reflective of the principles that underlie FFPSA. Up to 150 therapists will attend an IARCA sponsored TF-CBT training in 2019 alone. TF-CBT was recently included as an approved program in HHS's FFPSA prevention programs clearinghouse. We are also working with Children's Bureau to co-host their TACTICS training, *Treating All Clients With Trauma Informed Strategies*, in five locations around the state—including a new version of the training that focuses on making trauma informed changes to your organizational structure.

IARCA also launched a new partnership with Colorado's Vital Hearts to host one-day trainings to help staff identify and address any secondary trauma they are experiencing. Thanks to our partnerships with Lilly Endowment and the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, all of our trainings are offered to participants at a fee that is well below cost.

Outcomes 2020

Thanks to the participation of Outcomes Task Force members statewide, plans for updating the IARCA Outcomes Project assessment scheme are well underway. With advice from the project's external evaluators, Doctors Jacqueline Wall and Katherine Kivisto, we looked at evidence based assessment tools from across the nation.

In the end, we determined that the North Carolina Family Assessment Scales (NCFAS), which were already a component in part of the project, could be tweaked for use project-wide. Working closely with the Task Force and NCFAS creators, the National Family Preservation Network (NFPN), we have developed a tool that allows for a more modern, nuanced look at how support across the service continuum benefits children and families and better pinpoints where our efforts can be more effective.

IARCA staff have been in touch with DCS leadership throughout the development of Outcomes 2020. The Department has been generous with its time and has participated in conversations with researchers, NFPN, and the Task Force. We are all hopeful that the changes to the Outcomes Project will be relevant to any future plans DCS has for outcomes measurement.

Final details for changes to the assessment tool are being worked out now with the project's IT systems partner. We will then begin field testing, training, and preparations to launch the new tool in 2020.

2019 IARCA Regional Meetings

Each year, IARCA brings together members, DCS leaders, legislators, other providers, and community stakeholders in regional meetings around the state. One amazing member in each region donates space for the gathering and we spend most of a day talking about our successes and challenges in working with children and families.

This year, members can attend the meetings for free (there will be a small charge for non-member providers). Here are the dates and locations:

November 6

Park Center in Ft. Wayne

November 19

Crisis Center in Gary

November 20

Damar Services in Indy

December 3

SWIRYV in Vincennes

December 9

Childplace in Jeffersonville



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