



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Indiana Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Public Meeting: Civil Rights and the School to Prison Pipeline in Indiana**

Indianapolis, IN – The Indiana Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of panel discussions to examine the application of school disciplinary and juvenile justice policies in the state, and the extent to which these policies may have a discriminatory impact on Indiana’s children on the basis of race, color, and/or sex.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Ivy Tech Community College Event Center, 2820 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 from 8:00am to 5:00pm EST. The complete agenda is listed below. This meeting is open to the public, and parking is available free of charge at the event center. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should contact the Midwest Regional office prior to the meeting to make appropriate arrangements.

The Committee will hear testimony from community members, advocates, education and legal professionals, and government officials in the state. Members of the public will be invited to speak during the open forum session, scheduled to take place from 4:15 to 4:45pm. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to [mwojnaroski@usccr.gov](mailto:mwojnaroski@usccr.gov) by March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. “The Committee looks forward to hearing public testimony,” said committee chair Diane Clements-Boyd. “It is imperative that affected families, education proponents, and researchers participate in this hearing.”

Commission Chairman Martin Castro will also be in attendance at the event. “The school to prison pipeline is not a myth. Many of our nation's schools are disproportionately targeting children of color for punishment and criminalizing their conduct. This can put a young person of color on a path to incarceration that not only deprives that person of freedom but injures us all by stealing the potential of a fellow American. I commend our Indiana SAC for taking on this issue,” he said. The Indiana Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

## Agenda

### Opening Remarks and Introductions (8:00-8:15am)

#### Academic Panel (8:15-9:30am)

Russell Skiba, Ph.D. ; Director of The Equity Project at Indiana University

Laura McNeal, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Law at The University of Louisville

Monica Solinas-Saunders, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Indiana University Northwest

Alex Lichtenstein, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Indiana University

Marvin Lynn, Ph.D., Professor and Dean of the School of Education at Indiana University South Bend

### Community Panel (9:45-11:00am)

Patricia Howey, Special Education Advocate

Veronica Cortez, Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Diana M. Daniels, Executive Director, The National Council on Educating Black Children

JauNae Hanger, President, Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana

Rev. Janette Wilson, Esq., National Director of RainbowPUSH Coalition

### Government Panel (11:15am-12:30pm)

Julie Smart, Program Coordinator for School Social Work and McKinney-Vento Education Coordinator, Indiana Department of Education

Susan Lockwood, Director of Juvenile Education, Indiana Department of Correction

Kenneth Allen, Vice Chair, Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

Melissa Keyes, Director of Legal & Advocacy Services, Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services

### Break (12:30-1:30pm)

### School Administrator Panel (1:30-2:45pm)

Carol Kilver, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Instruction, Lafayette Community Schools

Sheila Huff, Principal, Bosse High School, Evansville

Cheryl Pruitt, Ph.D., Superintendent of the Gary Schools Corporation

Byron Sanders, Principal, Washington High School, South Bend Community School Corp.

Cynthia Jackson, District Positive Discipline Coordinator, Indianapolis Public Schools

### Educator Panel (3:00-4:15pm)

Ann Wilkins, ISTA Uniserv Director, Indiana State Teachers Association

Leslie Dillon, Gary Teachers Union Local 4 AFT

Nicole Garcia, Washington High School English teacher, South Bend Community School Corp.

Colin Pier-Silver, Instructional Coach, Navarre Intermediate, South Bend Community School Corp.

Shelia Dangle, 6th grade teacher, Charles W. Fairbanks School 105, Indianapolis Public Schools

### Open Forum (4:15-4:45pm)

### Closing Remarks (4:45-5:00pm)

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