

# *Indiana Commission for Women*

## **Annual Report**

**In fulfillment of the requirements of IC 4-23-25-7(15)**

**This Report Includes Activities of the Sexual Assault Standards & Certification Board**

**2007**



**INDIANA COMMISSION  
for  
WOMEN**  
*Linking Indiana Women*

## About the Commission

The Indiana Commission for Women is a bi-partisan advisory commission of fourteen appointed members from across the state. Established in 1992 and enacted as a State Commission in 1996, the ICW is symbolic of Indiana's commitment to improving the quality of life for women and families.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to assess the needs of Indiana women and their families and to work strategically for systematic change in the way our State, our communities, and our political, economic and educational spheres interact with them. The ICW is committed to the full participation of Indiana women in all areas, making Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family.

## What We Do

**Assess** the needs of women and their families across the State

**Advocate** for and act as a voice for Indiana women

**Work** toward improving the status of women in the State

**By.....**

- Serving as a first-response referral resource for women and their families across the state via email, phone and written inquiries
- Recognizing the achievements of and honoring women in our annual *Indiana's Salute to Women: the Torchbearer Awards*
- Providing up-to-date information on the issues affecting Indiana women; Get the Facts series, statistical reports and report briefs on topical issues
- Conducting studies, sponsoring programs and conferences to address issues affecting women
- Evaluating laws and governmental policies with respect to the needs of women, monitoring legislation and other legal developments
- Consulting with and advising the Governor's office, General Assembly and State agencies on matters pertaining to women
- Promoting opportunities for women through outreach, education, research and referral services
- Collaborating with partner groups to open doors and create opportunities for change for Indiana women

## Our Website

[www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw)

## ICW Commissioners

The ICW Commissioners are, by statute, bi-partisan and are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tempore.

Senator Vaneta Becker, Evansville\*  
Jane Blessing, Trafalgar\*  
Linda K. Bloom, Fort Wayne  
Virginia Calvin, Ed.D., South Bend  
Janie Craig Chenault, Bedford  
Rep. Suzanne Crouch, Evansville  
Cindy Felsten, Columbus\*  
Lisa Hershman, Lafayette\*  
Judy Johns Jackson, Columbus\*

Anne Jacoby, Vincennes  
Senator Sue Landske, Cedar Lake\*  
Rep. Linda Lawson, Hammond  
Melissa C. Martin, Indianapolis  
Amy McQueen, Shelbyville  
Senator Vi Simpson, Bloomington  
Andrea Heslin Smiley, Indianapolis  
Patzetta Trice, Indianapolis

### Ex-Officio Member

Anita Samuel, Governor Mitch Daniel's Liaison

\* Cindy Felsten was appointed by Senate Pro Tempore Long to complete the term of Judy Johns Jackson upon her resignation in August, 2007. Additionally, in late 2007 Senator Long appointed Lisa Hershman and Senator Vaneta Becker to complete the terms of Jane Blessing and Senator Sue Landske.

### ICW Staff

Sharon Langlotz, Executive Director

### 2007 Interns

Chelsea Mason, IUPUI (May 2007 – continuing)  
Jenna Yarnell, Franklin College (May 2007 – July 2007)  
Sarah Fritz, Governor's Fellow (July 2007 – September 2007)  
Katie Sheean, Stonybrook College, NY (September 2007 – January 2008)

### 2007 ICW Officers

Chair: Melissa C. Martin  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Jane Blessing  
Secretary: Amy McQueen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Patzetta Trice  
Treasurer: Janie Craig Chenault

## ICW Advisory Board Members

The ICW Advisory Board is comprised of past Commissioners and interested women who, through their experience and insight, support and advise the Commission on projects and initiatives.

Rep. Terri Austin, Anderson	Joanne Sanders, Indianapolis
Jane Blessing, Trafalgar	Judy Singleton, Indianapolis
Jade Cooney, Patriot	Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, Greenwood
Susan Crosby, Roachdale/ Wash. DC	Rep. Vanessa Summers, Indianapolis
Jan Ellis, Bloomington	Mitzi Witchger, Noblesville
Sandi Huddleston, Franklin	Ruth Vignati, Indianapolis
Judy Johns-Jackson, Columbus	Sharon Walker, Evansville
Pat Keiffner, Indianapolis	Rep. Peggy Welch, Bloomington
Senator Sue Landske, Cedar Point	Ann Windley, Seymour
Sandra D. Leek, Indianapolis	Senator Katie Wolf, Monticello

# Indiana Commission for Women Activities 2007

While the ICW is by definition an “advisory” group, commissioners and staff have, since its inception, been involved in activities, projects and partnerships that have served the needs of Indiana women and families. From participation in a “Women’s Awareness Weekend” in 1973 to projects still in progress, such as the Forum on the Economic Status of Women, the ICW’s presence around the state has been a living symbol of Indiana’s commitment to improving the quality of life for women and families.

## The Economic Status of Women in Indiana South Bend, IN, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

- *Study Commissioned:* In late 2006, the ICW commissioned a report on the current economic status of women in Indiana, including wage breakouts by race. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research produced the report. The report was released in March 2007.
- *Forum Planned:* One outgrowth of the report is a planned forum in northern Indiana bringing together experts in the field to discuss the findings and to propose solutions. Planning for the event began in the fall of 2007 with co-sponsors St. Mary’s College Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership and Ivy Tech South Bend. Sponsors saw a need to bring local stakeholders into the planning which resulted in co-sponsors and representatives from 25 groups in St Joseph County meeting in December. The forum was scheduled for April 22, 2008 to coincide with national wage equity day.
- *Funding:* the ICW was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau to host the forum.

## Wage Equity Day April, 2007 Indianapolis, IN

- The ICW issued a press release and researched, wrote and presented a FAQ and resource list media piece. The press release generated media interest with the release being carried in at least 8 news outlets and in three radio interviews and a number of hits on the ICW website.

## Publications: Summer 2007

- ICW staff and interns researched and produced a comprehensive and up-to-date statistical sheet entitled “We are Indiana Women: a Statistical Snapshot”.

- ICW staff produced a new updated ICW brochure outlining our mission, our role and our partners.
- ICW staff, interns and Governor's fellow researched and produced a booklet on the history of the Commission including a comprehensive history of the ICW from 1973 – 2007 along with listings of the commissioners who served as well as the projects and accomplishments of the ICW since 1992.

Collaboration with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs on Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's *Advancing Hoosier Women in Business* initiative for rural areas

May - June, 2007, Vincennes and Wabash

- ICW Commissioner Anne Jacoby, hearing about the proposed *Advancing Hoosier Women in Business Seminar* scheduled for June in Vincennes, recommended a collaboration between the ICW and the sponsoring organization, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA). Lacking contacts in both the Vincennes and Wabash areas, the IOCRA director was very pleased to have the ICW promote the events through our network of women's organizations across the state. Both Commissioner Jacoby and I sent letters and emails to a number of contacts and media outlets in the respective areas to promote the event. ICW Commissioners and staff attended the event in Vincennes.

Indiana's Salute to Women: The Torchbearer Awards

January 23, 2007 Indianapolis, IN

- The ICW is, by statute, authorized to recognize and honor Indiana women. The Commission does this annually through our Torchbearer Awards gala. The annual awards were hosted by the ICW on January 23, 2007 at the Conseco Field House Entry Pavilion. Secretary of State Todd Rokita and Senator Teresa Lubbers were the co-masters of ceremony. Audience numbers increased to 525 as the ICW recognized 60 nominees and awarded 25 Torchbearer awards.

Hoosier Women's Veterans Conference

April, 2007, Indianapolis, IN

- Conceptualized by the new Women Veterans Coordinator at the Department of Veteran Affairs, the ICW played a role in planning this event and also hosted a display booth. The event gathered over 300 Hoosier women veterans to the Government Center Conference area and provided workshops and information on health, veteran's benefits, counseling and job search. Lt Governor Skillman spoke at the event.

Sexual Assault Standards Certification Board (SASCB)

January 1 - ongoing Indiana

- Work continues on the development of certification standards. This board is free standing but is supported by ICW staff. The ICW executive director is the chair of the SASCB. The purpose of this board is to develop standards for certification of

advocates, set fees that cover the costs for the certification process, adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this section, administer the sexual assault victim assistance account, and certify sexual assault victim advocates to provide advocacy services.

U.S. Department of State and the Intercultural Center of Indianapolis:

July 2007, Indianapolis

- The ICW has been designated as the primary women's group to meet with visiting foreign delegations: The International Center of Indianapolis acts as host to these delegations and invites the ICW to meet with visiting groups when appropriate. On July 13, 2007 the chairperson of the ICW, Melissa C. Martin met with Ms. Pan Wei-Kang, a four term legislator from Taipei City. Ms. Pan Wei-Kang was particularly interested in U.S. state government organization, social services funding at the state and local level, women in politics and U.S. women's issues.

National Association of Commissions for Women:

July 2007, Louisville, KY

- The ICW director and 8 commissioners attended all or part of this three day convention and business meeting, learning much from the speakers and workshops, but gaining most from the networking with peers from across the country. The NACW is the professional network for commissions on women. At this meeting the ICW director was elected to the office of Region V Board Director.

Speeches and Presentations:

- ICW staff and commissions made a number of presentations to women's groups and organizations. Presentations included keynote speeches at the Western Indiana Women's Leadership Meeting and the AAUW Summer Summit in Indianapolis. Other presentations were given at various group meetings and include presentations on "The top 10 Issues Facing Indiana Women" and "The Sandwich Generation: *Secrets of Women Who Do It All and Make it Work*". The ICW chair and executive director met with the Lugar Series 2007 class to discuss issues of interest.
- Several Commissioners, in response to press releases on Women's History Month were interviewed by local media reporters.
- In the first 7 months of 2007 ICW staff hosted the display booth at four events, including the Federally Employed Women annual conference and a health and wellness fair at the Rolls Royce manufacturing facility. Staff distributed not only ICW information, but assisted our partner organizations by distributing their information on women's health and domestic violence.

Women's Health

- Office of Women's Health: the ICW was responsible for legislation creating the Indiana Department of Health's Office of Women's Health in the late 1990's. In 2007 State Health Commissioner Dr. Judith Monroe restored staffing and

organization to this office and the Office of Women's Health Advisory Board became a reality. Co-chaired by Senators Vi Simpson and Vaneta Becker, the executive director of the ICW has a seat on this advisory board and attends meetings regularly.

- Indiana Breast Cancer Alliance: As in the past, the ICW continues to support the Breast Cancer Alliance, an alliance formed of a number of central Indian Breast Cancer organizations as a member of the planning committee for the Illuminations event in October. This year the ICW obtained a proclamation from the Governor declaring October Breast Cancer Awareness month. Commissioner Jane Blessing read the proclamation to the group.

ICW Commissioner Recognition Luncheon: 15 Years of Continuous Service  
September 11, 2007, Governor's Residence, Indianapolis

- All past and current ICW Commissioners were invited to attend a luncheon at the Governor's residence in honor of 15 years of continuous service. The very first commission was established in 1973 and the first chairperson, Judge Margret Robb attended. The Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, Nancy Chen, flew in from Chicago to attend the event.
- The Commissioners were presented with a booklet prepared by the ICW staff and Governor's Fellow Sarah Fritz. The booklet contained a comprehensive history of the ICW from 1973 – 2007 along with listings of the commissioners who served as well as the projects and accomplishments of the ICW since 1992.



# The Sexual Assault Standards and Certification Board (SAS&C Board)

The Indiana Commission for Women accepted new responsibilities as it assumed sponsorship of the new Sexual Assault Standards & Certification Board (SAS&CB) when it was enacted by the General Assembly in 2006 under IC 2-23-25-11. The purpose of the SAS&CB is develop standards of practice for professional and volunteer Sexual Assault Victim Advocates and to implement and administer a voluntary professional certification process for the professional and volunteer Sexual Assault Victim Advocates in Indiana. Under IC 2-23-25-11, the SAS&CB has the following statutory roles and responsibilities:

- Develop the standards for certification of sexual assault victim advocates
- Set the fees that cover the costs for the certification process
- Adopt Rules under IC 4-22-2 ( Indiana Administrative Rules) to implement the certification process
- Administer the certification process
- Grant certification to individual sexual assault victim advocates
- Administer the sexual assault victims assistance account

The SAS&CB is currently housed at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development - Indiana Commission for Women and is chaired and staffed by the Executive Director of the Commission. The members of SAS&CB are appointed by the Governor and represent of the volunteers, professionals and victim advocates who work in and with the Rape Crisis Center Programs and Services across the state.

## Background

Indiana currently has 32 rape crisis centers defined as organizations that provide a full continuum of services from the onset of the need for services through the completion of healing to victims of sexual assault. Advocates generally accompany victims through the legal process and sometimes testify in court. Training for advocates has not been standardized in the past and ranges widely from a full 40 hour training program to simply watching a video. According to some practitioners this has resulted in uneven background and knowledge in dealing with victims, the hospitals, and the court system.

## Board Members



The legislation carefully outlined the criteria for the naming of board members, requiring expertise in specific fields such as law enforcement, counseling and advocacy and medical, including forensic nursing and pediatric experience.

In October, 2006, Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. named the following members to the Sexual Assault Standards & Certification Board:

**Board Chair:**

Sharon Langlotz, Executive Director, Indiana Commission for Women, Indianapolis

**Members:**

Detective Lt. Rick Wilson, Crawfordsville Police Department, Crawfordsville

Pamella Jahnke, RN, CEN, SANE-A, Center of Hope Community Health Network, Indianapolis

Suzanne O'Malley, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Indianapolis

Toby Strout, Executive Director, Middle Way House, Bloomington

Anita Carpenter, Executive Director, Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Crawfordsville

Holly Renz, RN, SANE-A, Anderson

Mike Cunegin Executive Director, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Indianapolis  
(position became vacant in late 2007 however, Mary Neddo serves as the proxy)

Barbara Quandt, Director of Public Affairs, QEPI, Avon

Dr. Antoinette Laskey, IU School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, Indianapolis

Jeanne Harber Porter, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, Consulting & Counseling Associates, Ft. Wayne

*Summary:*

There is much good work being done right now in Indiana by professionals in rape crisis centers, hospitals, and in law enforcement in responding to victims of sexual assault and sexual violence. The establishment of this Board lays the foundation for enhancing the training, expertise and professionalism of those victim advocates in all areas of response.

## 2007 Activities of the SAS&C Board

The SASCB has been meeting regularly since the fall of 2006 to research best practice standards and examine certification processes from other states. The Board is currently in the process of developing the professional standards of practice and voluntary certification requirements and process for the professional and volunteer Sexual Assault Victim Advocates who provide rape / sexual assault crisis services in Indiana. The standards of practice and voluntary certification requirements and process will be adopted by Administrative Rule in 2008. The SASCB will administer the certification process.

Under IC 2-23-25-11, the SASCB is also charged with administering the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Account. As the account administrator, the SASCB works with the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault to award funds to support the work of rape crisis centers across the state. In 2007, the SASCB approved \$50,000 in awards from the account.

The primary work of the Board thus far has focused on developing definitions and training requirements for the proposed certification standards. The board has been helped tremendously by the guidance and direction provided by consultant Becky Pryor who has a wealth of experience in developing certification standards for other volunteer advocacy programs.

During 2007 Board members heard presentations on the certification standards and training modules required in other states and then asked for input from several groups in Indiana who provide advocate training. Presentations were made by Middleway House in Bloomington, the Crisis Connection in Jasper and the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault. In November the Board was brief on the state rules promulgation process by Susan Gard and Jim Schmidt from the Advisory Division of the State Attorney General's Office.

As work progressed, the Board chair recognized a need for representation from two specific groups that receive and manage grants for rape crisis centers and rape prevention. Contacts were made and by mid-year representatives from the Indiana Department of Health Office of Women's Health and Family and Social Services Administration began attending Board meetings as ex-officio members. Their input has been very helpful to the Board.

Additional activities for 2007 included:

- Development of SAS&CB philosophy and purpose statement
- Development of both basic level training requirements
- Development of certification level training/subject area requirements

- Discussion and committee work on peripheral topics deemed integral in the development advocate certification standards such as:
  - code of ethics
  - definitions
  - personal history clearances requirement
  - educational attainment requirements
  - employment/volunteer field (one-on-one)experience requirements
  - re-certification requirements and procedures, including hours
  - “grandfathering in” provisions
  - confidentiality statement requirement
- Planning of the formal rules promulgation process.
- Issuance of an RFP for distribution of fund from the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Account and, upon Board review and approval, the grant was awarded to INCASA. Funds were distributed to Indiana’s 32 rape crisis centers to assist with their advocacy programs.
- Working with legislators to secure operational funds for the Board for the biennium beginning 07/01/07.