



## CARTF

SpringHill Suites, Boise

March 2, 2018

### MINUTES

**Joshua Wickard**- Public Defender (Chairman)

**Bart Adrian, MD** – Pediatrician

**Doug Giddings**-Idaho County Sheriff

**Galen Carlson**- Prosecuting Attorney

**Hon. Mark Rammell**- Criminal Magistrate Judge

**Hon. Steve Clark**- Civil Magistrate Judge

**James Baugh**-Children with Disabilities

**Jennifer Bergin**- Attorney

**Jill Robertson**– Parent

**JoAnn Gemar** – Homeless Education Liaison

**Jennifer Tachell**– Educator (Vice-Chairman)

**Lisa Nordstrom**- Child Advocate Attorney

**Melissa Osen**– Foster Youth

**Michelle Weir** – DHW, Child and Family Services

**Miren Unsworth**- DHW, Family & Community Services

**Molly Vaughn**– Victim Services Coordinator

**Nadine McDonald** – Juvenile Justice

**Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD**– Mental Health

**Susan Bradford, MD** – Pediatrician

**Tahna Barton** – CASA

**Anthony James** – Task Force Support

#### **ABSENT**

Guests: Dr. Amelia Huntsberger

Chairman Joshua Wickard called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Task Force members in attendance introduced themselves to Anthony James, who is now supporting the administrative functions of the Task Force.

Chairman Wickard tabled the approval of the February 2018 minutes due to the transition of administrative duties from Mindy Peper to Anthony James.

#### Legislative Updates –

Ms. Miren Unsworth briefed the Task Force on pending legislation

On March 2, 2018, a Routing Slip (R/S) presented to in the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee, the Foster Care Improvement Act. If the Foster Care Interim Committee issues on a full hearing on the Act is anticipated on Monday, March 5, 2018. Senator Lee and Representative Perry are Co-Sponsors of the Legislation.

Sections of the pending Legislation covers 5 broad areas within the Child Protective Act:

- (1) An additional requirement for the Department about when to investigate.
- (2) The use of protective supervision and the use of extended home visits in child protective cases

- a. Parental use of controlled substances
- b. Conviction tied to felony injury to a child
- (3) The Department's Citizen Review Panel
  - a. Organization and Structure
    - i. Panels reside within the public health districts
      - 1. Organized within the public health districts
      - 2. Tasked with reviewing a certain number of cases each year
      - 3. Submit reports to a newly formed legislative committee who could carry the recommendations of the panel forward
- (4) Contested Case Hearings
  - a. Earlier Foster Care Committee meetings draft proposed including Rule 43 into Statute with judicial discretion
- (5) Potential changes in the statute that makes placing siblings together as the policy of the state.

Ms. Unsworth distributed for review, an R/S that she anticipates that the Ways and Means Committee will be reviewing Title 39 (Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act) for the purpose of clarifying when the Department of Health and Welfare can grant consent to medical and mental health evaluations and when notification is to be given. She noted that this issue has been brought to the attention of the Governor's office.

James Baugh noted that there are potential hierarchical conflicts between Title 39 and Title 16. Ms. Unsworth stated that she would have the Department review the potential conflicts as they were not identified in previous discussions.

Ms. Unsworth stated that there is a pending bill related to the specific parameters surrounding the disclosure of referent information in child protective cases. The Department of Health and Welfare currently has use and rules in place to protect the confidentiality of referent information, however, law enforcement and other agencies do not have the same requirement. The bill would require all entities to ensure certain protections of referents' information. The intent is to mitigate any retaliatory actions against referents. (currently minimal opposition)

Ms. Unsworth informed the Task Force that the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee held a hearing on the Office of Performance Evaluations study related to Preventing Adverse Outcomes for Children in Child Welfare Overview. The report has not been published. The report will cover 3 Areas:

- (1) When a family comes to the attention of Child Welfare Services - What does practice look like in the state to keep children in the home?
  - a. Antiquated and disparate data systems
  - b. The most common activity is removal
- (2) Case Management
  - a. Consistency issues in model application

- b. Use of Multidisciplinary Teams
- (3) Dual System Youth
  - a. Gaps in major statewide systems with respect to sharing of information
  - b. System is currently fragmented
  - c. Potential solution is to create a governing body
  - d. Independent Living Services & Aging Out of Foster Care
    - i. Often poor case management results
    - ii. Homelessness
    - iii. Gaps in level of information received and relationship
    - iv. Potential Solution(s)
      - 1. Resource guide for foster care info
      - 2. Mobile Application for foster care info

Michelle Weir informed the Task Force that funding has been secured to support youth advocacy initiatives and case reviews of independent living programs

10:25 – 10:40 Break

Guest Speaker Presentation: Dr. Huntsberger discussed the relatively parallel issue of Maternal Mortality in the Sandpoint region. Dr. Huntsberger stated that there has been a material increase in maternal deaths in the Sandpoint Region. Dr. Huntsberger noted that the deaths were not related to congenital abnormalities. Dr. Huntsberger supports the establishment of a maternal mortality review board whose mission is similar in scope to the that of the Child Fatality Review Team.

Dr. Huntsberger also informed the Task Force that a significant concern within the Sandpoint OBGYN medical community is that substandard care from laymen mid-wives has resulted in a marked increase in newborn deaths (4 deaths within 4 years). Currently, Idaho coroners note these deaths are the result of “Natural Causes” on the death certificates.

It was suggested that, similar to the state of Oregon, Idaho Birth and Death certificates be revised to reflect the following information:

- (1) The intended Place of Birth
- (2) The Intended Attendant

Another suggestion was to embark on a letter writing campaign to the Bureau of Occupational Licensing addressing substandard care and patient mis-management exhibited by non-nurse certified midwives in the state of Idaho.

Noted potential pitfalls with respect to the suggestions were:

- (1) How to address deaths of Idaho citizens that occur in different states.
- (2) Lack of resources

(3) What are the resources/ mechanisms currently in place to support follow-up reviews

Dr. Huntsberger noted that Maternal Mortality Review Committees are not currently standard practice.

Dr. Huntsberger again expressed the data derived from Maternal Mortality Review and Child Fatality Review can be used by the officer of the Governor to shape policy with respect to the health and wellbeing of Idaho's youth population.

Doctors Cox and Barton expressed that they would be in communication with the pediatric community concerning the issues raised by Dr. Huntsberger.

Ms. Carlson stated that, from a prosecutorial perspective, she is open to facilitating meetings to address this issue.

Chairman Wickard thanked Dr. Huntsberger for her passion and informative insight. Chairman Wickard expressed that the OBGYN community has allies and advocates in the Task Force.

Tahna Barton stated that she will continue to review this matter and reach out to neighboring Fatality Review Teams to facilitate an information exchange. Ms. Barton also informed the Committee that the National Fatality Review Association will be meeting this year in Denver, CO.

Ms. Lisa Nordstrom stated that the upcoming Task Force Reports should reflect limitations as they pertain to capturing maternity mortality and fatality information.

Planned agenda items for the April 2018 meeting include:

- (1) Child Mortality & Fatality Discussions
  - a. Maternal Mortality
- (2) Annual Reports
- (3) Grant Applications
- (4) 3-Year Report Summary
- (5) Annual Conference Planning
  - a. Date(s)
  - b. Location(s)
  - c. Speaker(s)

The monthly meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.