



CARTF

SpringHill Suites, Boise

May 5, 2017

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)

Bart Adrian, MD – Pediatrician

James Baugh-Children with Disabilities

open– Mental Health

Doug Giddings-Idaho County Sheriff

open– Foster Youth

JoAnn Gemar – Homeless Education Liaison

Jill Robertson– Parent

Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)

Lisa Nordstrom- Child Advocate Attorney

Miren Unsworth- DHW, Family & Children Services

Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician

Hon. Steve Clark- Civil Magistrate Judge

Jennifer Bergin- Prosecuting Attorney

Tahna Barton – CASA

Hon. Mark Rammell- Criminal Magistrate Judge

Nadine McDonald – Juvenile Justice

Molly Vaughn– Victim Services Coordinator

ABSENT

Mindy Peper - Administrative Support

GUESTS: Melissa Osen; Galen Carlson; Dr. Sheila Sturgeon Freitas; Deb Alsaker-Burke; Liberty Barnett; Thersa Abbott

WELCOME

Wickard welcomes everyone. Dr. Sturgeon Freitas introduces herself. Tachell makes a motion to approve the April 2017 minutes, Giddings seconds, all in favor and so moved.

DEB ALSAKER-BURKE, ISC CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Deb feels child protection is in a very interesting time with advancement and changes, most due to the Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) and wondering what direction the legislative will move.

For 2018 legislative session the OPE has been asked to look at the functioning and effectiveness of Guardian ad Litem program, connection between child welfare and juvenile justice system, the placement of children in foster care, and support for older children who are aging out of care.

The legislature also provided additional funding for the Guardian ad Litem program. The money allowed the child protection committee to pinpoint children who are underserved or not served by Guardian ad Litem. The money will help recruit, train, and retain Guardian ad Litem representatives.

DHW did a deep dive into a select number of records and across the board what was found is that there is not a system of shared information between agencies that work in child protection. There is not a deficit in gathering information. All agencies have great information. There is not a common pool of information, however.

CP committee working closely on:

- Program Improvement Plan
- ICWA Conference- hosted by Casey Family Services and the tribes
- Institutionalized training for prosecutors and public defenders with a minimum base line
- Timeliness of hearings and more focus on quality of child protection hearings

CARTF would like to help fund some scholarships for the ICWA conference in October. It may be just in Boise or it may be regional. Nordstrom asks if it will be a teleconference format that can be live streamed. Deb feels like it is a great idea but not sure it will happen yet.

May be a good idea for the CFR Team to go to some of the legislative committee meetings to share the annual report.

LIBERTY BARNETT-JEM FRIENDS

JEM FRIENDS is a community organization that works specifically with foster youth who age out of foster care. Liberty started the organization about 8 years ago after hearing about and meeting a young lady who had been in and out foster care homes, had been adopted and then those rights were terminated and she aged out of the system with no legal parents. JEM FRIENDS help the youth transition out in a positive way with mentoring and life skills, become a safety net for the youth, and try to raise awareness in the committee.

The transition program is 18-24 months and provides stable housing, helps them pursue education or employment, and includes life skills and mentoring.

The life skills program is built on bringing individuals from the community to speak on their profession. They have about 50 topics that are offered. The program also focuses on showing them community resources that can be used now and in the future.

Wickard asks how many youth can JEM FRIENDS serve. Liberty states that the girls home is full so it depends on how the community responds to need. She says currently they have about 40 trained volunteers. More volunteers and more money would increase their capacity to serve.

Stats include:

45% of those who age out do not have their GED or HS degree

50% of them return to homelessness

22,000 youth age out of foster care each year

1 in 4 foster youth who age out will be incarcerated within 2 years after aging out

Wickard asks if JEM FRIENDS has the ability to help foster youth who are not necessarily homeless but aging out and need mentoring in life choices. Liberty says yes, they are moving that direction, but their first commitment for now is to those who are homeless.

Sturgeon-Freitas asked if there are resources for college students who would be otherwise homeless when the college campus closes for the summer, holidays, etc. Unsworth says there is a social worker and a group called Impact Scholars on campus who meets with these youths and works with them.

THERESA ABBOTT- CFR TEAM

Abbott reports to CARTF about the annual CFR Team report that covers cases from 2014. There were 187 child deaths and 103 were reviewed in detail.

Highlights include:

- There has been improvement in the investigation and classification of sudden unexplained infant deaths but still needs more work. It was noted that many of these deaths had a characteristic of unsafe sleeping surface, prenatal smoking, unsafe and unhygienic environments.
- There were 27 motor vehicle deaths reviewed. Recommendations stemming from these cases include ATV safety training and awareness, seatbelt usage, child restraining seats, not using electronic devices while driving, and of course, not driving impaired.
- There were 4 drowning deaths. All happened in open water that did not have a safety barrier.
- Carbon Monoxide inhalation resulted in 4 children deaths. All of them were to improper installation of use of a home appliance. Recommendations include educating public about this danger.
- New to the report was a teen death due to binge drinking over several hours which resulted in alcohol toxicity and death.
- Idaho continues to have a high rate for suicides. All the 2014 victims were 13-17 and predominantly male. There were 18 deaths. Several of the individuals show history of complex history of generational neglect. Many had documented history of mental illness or emotional trauma.
- Homicides accounted for 4 deaths of children in 2014. Ages ranged from preschool to teens. 3 were inflicted by firearms and 1 was blunt force trauma and strangulation. Domestic violence, mental health illness, and substance abuse were present in almost all of the cases.
- Preventable deaths resulted in 3 children deaths. They were all pneumonia deaths and victims were 25 days to 6 years.
- In 2014, there was no evidence of child deaths due to refusal of medical treatment due to religious beliefs.

Send report to legislators (105), email fact sheet and report link to coroner's association, chiefs and sheriffs association, prosecutors association, state department of education (matt and shari Ybarra), and so on. How do we reach medical providers and how do we reach public health agencies?

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Speakers: JEM Friends? CFR Team report at lunch; Det. Miraglia for 3-hour block (identify and prosecution of sex trafficker); table discussions with your community and awareness; Van Dernoot Lipsky and vicarious trauma—reach out to her for 2018; trauma informed systems and courts; Det. Pacheco regarding websites and apps and those that predators are using (Galen Carlson); SRO Ray Ellis (Lisa Nordstrom) at Heritage Middle School and/or SRO Rocky Mountain HS who has put together several talks about sexting, cyber bullying, internet crimes, etc.

Credits: IBA is requiring the paperwork earlier so need to make decisions sooner than later; POST requires a law enforcement agency to sponsor our application- Idaho County? Yes

CARTF GRANT PROGRAM REVISIONS

CARTF looks over MDT grant amounts and who received those grants from 2015-2017. McDonald and Barton are looking over and updating the grant application and making it a .pdf form that can be submitted online.

CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN AWARD

Tabled

AGENDA: JUNE

June- conference; CARTF grants program; Champions of Children Award
Fall- new CASA state director

NEW BUSINESS

Jerrilea Archer has resigned as chair of the CFR Team. Tahna Barton has been asked to take over that position and she has accepted.

ADJOURN

ACTION ITEMS:

PEPER-

Continue conference work

Build email data base for CFR Team reports

CARTF will meet June 2 at 9:00 AM at SpringHill Suites in Boise