



CARTF

SpringHill Suites, Boise

February 3, 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)

**ABSENT**

Mindy Peper - Administrative Support

GUESTS: Dr. Matthew Cox; Galen Carlson

**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

## WELCOME

Wickard welcomes everyone. Tachell moves to accept the minutes, Giddings seconds, all in favor and so moved.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE, UNSWORTH

Unsworth reports is just over \$131,000 and the conference just came in at over \$30,000. With salaries and meetings, we will have about \$14,000 to give in grants.

Wickard asks if there is a CJA grantee meeting coming up. Unsworth is not certain when nor where it will be held.

Senate Bill 1005 for including a definition of sex trafficking in the CP Act has made it through the senate and there is a house committee meeting next week and Unsworth anticipates it will go through easily.

The Office of Performance Evaluation will give a report next week and it will then go public. It is very comprehensive. This may result in another interim committee to look at child protection in Idaho and foster care reform. Notice to parents and priority placement may see changes.

DHW now has a new state requirement to give the legislators to include data about the past years activities.

Tonight, channel 6 is carrying an expose tonight about faith healings. CARTF may want to watch. This topic may come up again during the legislative session.

The Idaho Supreme Court is looking at a case which will allow co-guardians, a correction to the law.

DHW is asking for funds to hire 6 client-service technicians, perhaps one per region, to help solely with supervised visitations. Gemar suggested DHW look at utilizing the Grandparents foster program through Department of Aging to supervise visitations. Unsworth will follow up on that. Also, DHW asking for a 20% increase in payments to foster families. Compared to surrounding areas, Idaho is very low and would need a 75% increase to be comparable.

### **CARES DIRECTOR, DR. MATTHEW COX**

From Dallas, came in September. Learning about the system in Idaho. Making changes which include educating doctors because they are the front line and currently do not do well in evaluating in child abuse. Idaho is strong in sexual abusive evaluation but needs to improve in child abuse. CARES was a closed program and only law enforcement could come in but now CARES will be open to physicians as well to bring in kids. Improvements to evaluation include having individuals who are fully comfortable in evaluation. Also, working closely with DHW to have open office hours in which case workers can bring kids in instead of using primary physicians who may or may not miss signs.

Also, CARES will open a failure to thrive clinic to help track children who are neglected. This will include a dietician and social worker and will provide parents with education they need.

In March, CARES will hold an abusive head trauma conference for law enforcement and social workers and will also speak to the collaboration of the multi-disciplinary team. CARTF will advertise this on the website and votes to help cover the registration, travel, lodging of some participants if needed. All in favor and so moved. They will need to submit a request by email to Peper. Dr. Cox will let FACES know.

Ultimately, Dr. Cox hopes to see a statewide system. They are looking at doing a quarterly training that can be teleconferenced statewide. St. Lukes is a great financial support and CARES is a priority. Staffing at CARES now includes 2 nurse practitioners, 2 doctors, and 5 social workers.

McDonald says in regards to older kids the standards for neglect are higher and therefore missed. The resources are lacking and the application of receiving services for rural areas is challenging. Juvenile Probation officers, and likewise CASA, could use some additional training on what to look for in evaluating neglect.

## **CHILD PROTECTION CHANGES AND JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE, JUDGE ANDREW ELLIS**

Wickard welcomes Judge Ellis and CARTF introduces self.

Ellis introduces self. He is a magistrate judge in Ada County. Part of his time is in child protection cases, termination cases, and domestic violence protection orders. He has been on the bench for 3.5 years. Past experiences include family law and child support cases. He was a prosecutor for Ada County and worked on child protection cases.

Wickard asks what changes are happening in foster care reform and any areas that need improvement? Ellis states that the most profound change was the legislation giving extraordinary judicial oversight allowing subject to judicial approval any disagreement in a child protection case. Prior to that a judge's role was defined and the day to day decisions was up to the department to include changes to foster homes. Judges were to keep a thoughtful watch but the new changes give judges the right to become more involved in the decision-making process. Now every contested point of a child protection case will be brought before a judge and that may bog down the system.

Clark provides a more historical perspective. There was no CASA and a child-friendly court was unheard of at that time. Then there was a time as the changes came with the introduction of CASA, representatives of children, and so forth, that it was thought the child protection cases would be in litigation all the time. It turned out better than he thought it would and much less litigation than he thought. Unsworth agrees and she is seeing that there is a much greater push for collaboration.

Wickard asks Ellis about his thoughts on trauma-informed courts. He is aware of it in general terms but not versed in it in regards to specifics. Wickard and Unsworth both went to a training back east about trauma-informed courts. The focus is from the minute the children enter through the doors and to include the interaction they have with attorneys and judges to be trauma-informed and sensitive to the children. Overall, kids in court is fairly mundane. Fifty to 75% of the time the kids are in court. Much of the time they prefer their representatives to speak for them.

Barton says she does not see attorneys who represent the children are not doing a good job of meeting up with their clients before the case other than a quick 2-minute meet up in the hall before entering the courtroom. The attorney is appointed through the public defender or through a contracted attorney. Barton suggests we need a very specific curriculum that speaks to what is court, what to expect, what does it mean to have an attorney, and what is the child's responsibility with the attorney. Sounds like this very from county to county. Ellis says in Ada County, the attorney tries to reach out at least a week prior. Clark feels what happens in Ada County is an exception and not the rule. It is worse

the more rural the area. Wickard says that this problem is being addressed by the public defense commission. The caseload for public defenders is heavy and time for attorney-client meetings is difficult. Additionally, difficulty in rural areas the public defender is often contracted and only in the area 2 days a week, for example.

## **STEWARDS OF CHILDREN/ INSIDEOUT ORGANIZATION**

Tabled

## **TASK FORCE UPDATES AND CHANGES- OPEN POSITIONS**

CARTF reviews the letter, resume, and article for Melissa Osen. She could fulfill the role for either mental health provider or former foster youth representative. Robertson makes a motion to nominate Melissa Osen for appointment to CARTF for foster youth representative. McDonald seconds. Discussion is held about whether she could be as the foster youth representative or a mental health provider representative. Unsworth mentions that whoever is the foster youth rep will need to keep close ties with the foster youth advisory panel and stay up-to-date on what they are doing. All in favor and so moved. Osen is willing to Peper will contact Osen to help her fill out the application with the Governor's office.

## **AGENDA: MAR – MAY**

March- Det. Mike Miraglia, Boise PD; FACES grant application; Champion for Children award; Stewards of Children; InsideOut

April- Tamara Pittz, Chapter Director INCAC (and guests); YES committee guest

May- Deb Alsaker-Burke, Idaho Supreme Court Child Protection Committee

Fall- new CASA state director

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Harigfeld from Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections asked if anyone of CARTF would want to serve on the Criminal Justice Commission subcommittee on human trafficking. Molly Vaughn is very interested and McDonald will share Vaughn's information. In the future, we may have someone from that task force to come speak with us.

Wickard talks about changes to the Prosecutor's Award of Excellence that would allow to open the award to social workers, counselors, etc and give the award at our annual conference. Tachell says call it Champion for Children. Open it to all those who do CP work. Tachell says could recognize a person and an organization. Could do one from each region.

## **ADJOURN**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

PEPER-

Work with Melissa Osen about filling out application for CARTF nomination

Work on tribal letters/invites

**CARTF will meet March 3 at 9:00 AM at SpringHill Suites in Boise**