



CARTF

Springhill Suites, BOISE

Clearwater III Room

January 10, 2014

MINUTES

Kirt Naylor - Child Advocate Attorney (Chairman)

Bart Adrian, MD – Pediatrician

James Baugh-Children with Disabilities

Phares Book, PsyD –Psychologist

Doug Giddings-Idaho County Sheriff

Marcia Hernandez– Foster Youth

Patti O' Dell – Homeless Education Liaison

Jill Robertson– Parent

Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)

ABSENT

Mindy Peper - Administrative Support

Tammy Perkins – Governor's Office –Not Attending

GUESTS: Anne Tierney, Molly Kaczmarek

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender

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

Debbie Stallcup – Juvenile Justice

Molly Vaughn– Victim Services Coordinator

WELCOME, OPENING

Naylor opens the meeting. Wickard introduces himself and task force introduces themselves. Tachell makes motion to accept November 2013 minutes, Stallcup seconds, all in favor and so moved.

CARTF/CJA Financial Report, Unsworth

Unsworth reports we went over by \$200 on last grant cycle. Thus far our balance is \$121000. Going to need to expand Teresa Abbott's hours from 10 to 19 hours a week for 2-3 weeks to get the annual report out for CFR Team.

Updates on website, inventory, MDT grants, binders

Peper updates task force on website updates, inventory, grants, and binders. Naylor shares with Wickard information on our grant process for MDTs and CACs. Peper will add to the website the parameters of our funding—this funding provides for... take from our executive order. Also add, "while we are interested in these things, prevention and treatment are prohibited by our funding..."

Effects of the Economy on Child Welfare and Disproportionality Issues in Child Welfare, Amanda Pena and Erika Wainaina

Unsworth introduces today's speakers. Both speakers are program specialists in central office. Pena is a child safety specialist and sits on Idaho Children's Trust Fund. Wainaina is a foster care specialist. Today's topic is Poverty and Child Welfare. Pena states that this is a complicated topic and hopes this will lead to a larger discussion. 2012 data shows a 4.5% increase in poverty in Idaho since 2000. Argument could be made that the data is inaccurate since the poverty

threshold has not been updated since late 1940's and therefore poverty is higher. In 2011, Idaho poverty rate was 16.5%. Children in poverty is increasing in both Idaho and nationally. More than 1 in 5 in the US lived in poverty in 2010. From 2011 to 2012 there was no change. In Idaho, 19% of children live in poverty. Nationally, the child poverty rate is 22%. More kids than adults in poverty because there are multiple kids in a single family. Idaho approved applications for food stamps, TAFI, Medicare, and assistance for elderly. Child protection case referrals that are accepted and assigned for assessment has leveled out from 2009 to 2012. Likewise, neglect referrals that were accepted has leveled out in Idaho. Nationally, 78% of maltreatment cases were neglect cases. There seems to be an increase nationally while it is leveling out in Idaho. Some conclusions might be that the economy is getting worse but CPS cases leveling out, so maybe there is no relationship. Another conclusion might be that though the economy is getting worse, more people access benefits, and so that is preventing an increase in CPS cases. Pena states there is a relationship between the economy and CPS cases and it is a very intricate, complicated relationship. There is an overlap amongst income, family support, education, mental health, physical health, community support, and race and gender and CPS cases that intertwine with a lack of standard definitions and lack of resources. Part of this is that the definition of "poor" has changed but the indicators and poverty threshold has not been updated to reflect the changes in the American family since the 1960's. Idaho has many who sit just under the poverty threshold and therefore do not qualify for services and assistance. That could be a very stressful situation to be in. Wickard states that his office represents 85-90% of all CPS cases in Ada County because they don't have the resources to hire an attorney. Traditionally, DHW looks at maltreatment and how to correct it. But what is often found in the field that it is much more difficult to deal with those problems when connected to the economy. Tachell brings up topic of situational poverty versus generational poverty. Often she sees generational poverty. Had a family that was situational poverty and had to walk them through how to access services and how to "be poor". Pena states that the generational poverty cases can be the most complicated and difficult and often the most chronic CPS cases. Wickard states that often highest number of CPS cases is mostly dealing with generational poverty. Adrian asks is there a point where helping people begins to harm their ability to get off the system, such as having more kids equals more benefits. Pena states that is a myth and there is only a \$35 per kid increase with a cut-off of 5 kids. Pena states that there are very different number for children of color and the poverty rates raise.

Wainaina states that the Urban Institute reported that from 2007 to 2010 poverty increased from 18% to 22% and children living in food-insecure families went from 13% to 22%. Additionally, the wealth of white families declined by 11%, Hispanic families a loss of 40%, and black families a loss of 31%. This further widens the disparities of wealth accumulation that already existed. Wealth was defined of total assets and income. Number of children doubling up with other families and the number of uninsured children also increased. According to the

AFCARS report, 44% of white (non-Hispanic) children were entering foster care, 23% black, and 21% Hispanic. Children of color are entering foster care at an increased rate. These trends are similar when looking at exiting foster care or waiting for adoption- staying in foster care longer and waiting longer for adoption. Children of color also have poorer outcomes. Could be due to lack of culturally appropriate resources, lack of foster family diversity, social work bias, and institutionalism racism. Recently, Wainaina looked at foster care children who are placed in residential settings. A point in time poll was taken to find that 1/3 of the children were children of color. That is alarming considering that 81% of Idaho's population is white, non-Hispanic. Big focus is to find a foster parent diversity as well as find foster parents to be bigger advocates of accepting children of different races. Studies show that in states where there is not a diverse racial population show that the outcomes are worse for people of color. Baugh states that part of this is that the systems they deal with are lacking cultural diversity and competency, ending up with disparities even without overt racism. Unsworth says in Idaho that entries into foster care disparity lies with the Native American population. Regarding other races, Idaho lines up with national figures, however there are poorer outcomes. Giddings ask if as an organization they have come up with any solutions and has there been any successes? Wainaina talks about "Knowing Who You Are" class training professionals and parents, also trying to improve connections between foster children and relatives. Wainaina feels small steps are being made but is difficult because it is ingrained in systems and more hidden. Baugh says that what he has noticed from years of representing children with disabilities is that part of the problem is the disparity from the institutions but part of the problem also lies with distrust in the institutions from races of color and a sense of alienation from cultures that might help them assert themselves in making their lives better. It is much more subtle than just saying "people are racist".

Pena feels that when there is a strengthening of families that seems to have the most impact on success and stability. Protective factors might include parent-child bonding (early interventions), can a parent anticipate a child's needs, can a parent delay their own needs ahead of their children's needs, and so on. See Children's Trust Fund for community training. Naylor asks what are those resources that teach those protective factors to break the cycle of "bad" parenting. Pena states a few community resources such as what is going on at women's prison, Headstart, and so on. Baugh states that the program has to be culturally appropriate. Pena states that is the case as well as teaching the classes in their language.

Tachell googled "protective factors" and shared with CARTF. Wickard states that what would be really helpful is to know these factors and the resources to help in CPS cases. Unsworth wonders how we could work this with MDTs and grant MDTs in this area. Idaho Children's Trust Fund (ICTF) has the strengthening family's framework and protective factors is a big part of that. Baugh wonders if we could partner with Children's Trust Fund (Roger Sherman, executive director)

in generating ideas for MDTs to apply for grant monies that surround the ideas of protective factors and strengthening families. Unsworth states we could have ICTF visit with us to talk about Strengthening Family framework. These factors are relevant to reunification and the work done with a family before separation and could be a focus of our conference. Would be best to get them in March.

Conference Update

Peper goes over conference summary and evaluations. A potential speaker could be Foster Kline (Love and Logic material) but would need to make a decision on a speaker in February. Also, need to decide on whether to charge or not charge a registration fee. Also look into dynamics of “no- shows” for February. Add to evaluations, your discipline and area (city). Stallcup will make initial contact with Foster Kline.

MDT Survey Update

Unsworth states we have a faculty member at ISU (Kimberly Waycaster) and she teaches a child welfare class. Not a lot of students and has extra time on her contract. Tasked her with doing the MDT survey. She has begun doing that. Contacted all the counties and have had a response from 21 MDTs. Asking same questions that were on the 2010 survey. Looking at an April deadline. She can email Unsworth or Peper with any counties that she is having a difficult time getting in touch with.

Strategic Update/ Upcoming Meetings

Make changes to 2014 calendar dates/ topics.

CFR Team

Linda Martin is slotted to attend our meeting in February to discuss religious exemptions to medical care. Naylor has invited Dr. McPherson to attend this meeting. Abbott did discover that one child the CFR Team has reviewed was in one of the news reports regarding the child deaths.

Review INCAC Legislative Draft

Newest draft and an email from Anne Tierney is in binders. The new draft basically creates a position for CACs and requires they be a part of the MDT and allows them to provide training to the MDT. Bergin, who worked with INCAC on this draft, is satisfied with the changes though feels it is a heavy-handed way to deal with the one instance of the CAC being left out, she is okay with it.

Naylor asks for input from the task force. CARTF doesn't typically sponsor legislation. Naylor will tell Tierney that it may be easier to try to get the one MDT to get along than to try and pass a new statute. Baugh worries about the way paragraph 3 in Section 2 16-1617 is worded regarding training. Naylor will pass that on to Bergin and Tierney.

New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

Next meeting will be held February 7, 2014 at 8 a.m.

February Agenda Items:

Linda Martin

Conference ideas and location(s)

Action Items:

Peper-

Update website

Send promo items/ prosecutor award brochures to IPAA February conference

Check into Riverside, Red Lion Downtown, The Grove Hotel, and Center on the Grove for conference location

Contact Linda Martin about attending Feb 7 meeting--if can't come, can ICTF come instead?