



CARTF

The Riverside Hotel, BOISE

March 4, 2016

## **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

**Kailamai Hansen**– Foster Youth

**JoAnn Gemar** – Homeless Education Liaison

**Jill Robertson**– Parent

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

### **ABSENT**

Mindy Peper - Administrative Support

GUESTS: Deb Alsaker-Burke, Lauren Nechochea, Barry Peters, Res Peters, Linda Patchin

## **WELCOME**

Rammell motions to accept the February 2016 with changes to page 2 under new business to state “statutes foster parents’ immunity”, Adrian, all in favor and so moved.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Unsworth says DHW has advanced a statute and rule revisions regarding foster care parents having reasonable and prudent decision-making power and giving them immunity from liability in their application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

New bill moving through the legislature that makes substantial changes to the Child Protective Act. DHW does not support the bill and would like more time to work over the summer with the legislators and stakeholders.

Religious exemption legislation does not appear to be advancing this session but the governor is creating a committee to further investigate and review the issue.

## **GUEST- DEBORAH ALSAKER-BURKE, IDAHO SUPREME COURT CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Wickard welcomes Deb Alsaker-Burke.

Burke updates CARTF on some child protection legislation that is coming up. Refer to Senate Bill 1328 and 1253 as well as House Bill 556. The preventing sex trafficking and strengthening families came out in 2014. It focuses on transitioning to successful adulthood. This includes transition planning at 14 instead of 16 which will be in case plans. Long-term foster care (APPLA-

Another permanent placement living arrangement) is now only for youth 16 or older. Burke also covers the reasonable and prudent parenting statutes. Plans now should try to place siblings together and if unable to then they have to have a plan to have regular interaction with one another unless it is not in the best interest of the siblings. Plans should also minimize changing of schools to provide educational stability to foster youth. Research shows that for every move to a new school that child loses about 6 months of academic progress.

Judges will now be inquiring as to whether a foster youth is on psychotropic medicines just to bring awareness.

Burke has a couple ideas for topics in October—judicial handling of psychotropic meds in foster youth and also ICWA guidelines and training. If those guideless become statute it will change practices significantly. She will speak to the committee in April about ideas for topics.

**GUEST, LAUREN NECOCHEA AND ALEJANDRA CERNA, IVC**

Necochea introduces herself and Cerna. She discusses that the current priorities at IVC is closing health care gap, early reading initiatives, and increasing access to early learning programs.

Cerna attended a meeting with Protect Idaho Kids and Bruce Wingate regarding religious exemptions and medical care for children. They are looking at PSA and video media campaign. Concerns are that the bill is a non-starter and IVC would like their lawyer-lobbyists to look into the bill. CARTF shares some names of contacts that IVC can talk with for more information. Unsworth suggests IVC returns after May and after our third CFR Team report is released to discuss reoccurring trends in the reports. Necochea asks if there is a possibility to do a formal community presentation(s) that presents the report recommendations. CARTF was receptive to this idea.

Cerna states there is current legislation that restructures the funding to help with foster care youth and educational stability. The bill looks at all kids who move amongst districts.

McDonald states that one topic the CARTF has looked at is the suicide rate in Idaho. Bergin points to that fact that many of them are high-functioning youth. Naylor mentions that it would help if these youth had someone with whom to talk and share. It appears to be tied to impulsiveness. Asked is it tied to social media and to what extent? Much of it falls under the lack of mental health services in Idaho.

**GUEST, BARRY AND RES PETERS (ICHE), LINDA PATCHIN (CHOIS)**

Wickard welcomes Barry and Res Peters and Linda Patchin to CARTF. Peters reports that the system put in place in 2001 is working quite well and he is pleased with it. In 2008-2009 CARTF and ICHE worked together to strengthen the educational piece of the CP Act. The new statute clarified ambiguity of who did or did not validate the home schoolers. Language was added to strengthen the rights of home schoolers while simultaneously laying out what is educational neglect.

Adrian asks how homeschoolers compare to public schooled students in ACT/SAT and other tests. When homeschoolers take the SAT and ACT they use a code that can pull out there test scores. HSLDA has a national study that looks over success rates of home schooled children.

Peters covers the method used for reporting educational neglect to IDHW. Over 6 years, Bob Forrey, who was respected by both the Idaho Dept. of Education and the homeschool community, would investigate the reports that came into the Dept. of Education about educational neglect. It was found for the most part that the reports many times did not turn out to be educational neglect.

Bergin asks what scores are for virtual charter schools. Peters says that they test lower than public schools and collectively they all score lower than brick and mortar charter schools.

**2015 CONFERENCE**

Bergin moves to have a one-day, keynote conference in October on child forensic interviewing and then follow up with a certification training. McDonnell seconds, all in favor, so moved.

Peper will contact Kathy Downes to find someone who can address child forensic interviewing in general and then down the line follow up a certification training.

**MDT GRANTS**

CARTF reviews the two grant applications- one from Coeur d'Alene Police Department and one from Nampa Family justice Center. Naylor points out that perhaps with all those requesting child forensic interviewing training we should consider this a topic for October.

Naylor motions to give NFJC a grant for \$1000 to help with the travel costs of attending the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Child Abuse Conference in Alabama. McDonald seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Naylor motions to deny the grant request from Couer d' Alene Police Department due to lack of information and lack of signatures. Giddings second, discussion followed. All in favor, so moved.

## **APRIL AGENDA**

- Kathy Downes with INCAC is confirmed for 9:30
- CFRT and CARTF recommendations
- Tonya Newberry, Boise PD
- 2016 Conference
- Grants- time restraint and grant subcommittee, guidelines for Peper to deny grants
- Foster Care Reform Act

## **CFRT TEAM REPLACEMENTS**

Barton reports that Dr. McPherson and Al Barrus have both resigned from the CFR Team. They would also like someone from the education community. Barton has recommended Superintendent Wiley Dobbs. She will get his letter of interest and resume and bring to CARTF for nomination.

Dr. McPherson has resigned. He was board certified in child abuse. Jerrilea Archer made a recommendation of Dr. Ben Godfrey. CARTF would also like to look into others for recommendation.

The board also needs a prosecutor and an EMT. Bergin and Clark will look into possible recommendations for a prosecutor. Hansen may know of an EMT recommendation.

Send any letters of interest to Peper and we can review them in April.

## **NOTES and NEWS**

Wickard thanks Naylor for his many years of service.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Recent resignation of Phares Book**

Wickard asks task force to consider any one they might know for replacement of Phares Book. He is resigning due to his inability to attend meeting/ scheduling conflicts. Bergin has someone in mind (Scott Rassmussen) and she will talk to him about it. Tachell will also reach out to ICA for interested parties.

We will put this on our April agenda for discussion.

## **ADJOURN**

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

Peper-

- contact Kathy Downes to find someone who can address child forensic interviewing in general and then down the line follow up a certification training
- send approval/denial letters for grants
- bid hotels for October conference

All CARTF-

- Recommendations for CFR Team

Gemar-

- Email CARTF with clarification about McKinney-Vento funding regarding foster care youth.

**CARTF will meet April 1 at 9:00 AM at SpringHill Suites in Boise**