



## CARTF

Springhill Suites, BOISE

Clearwater III Room

March 6, 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: Debbie Alsaker-Burke, Roger Sherman, Amanda Pena

**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

Jennifer welcomes the task force. Giddings moves to accept the minutes, Baugh seconds, all in favor and so moved.

### CARTF/CJA Financial Report, Unsworth

Unsworth reports that through February (phase 12 of the grant) we have spent \$34431.87. On-going we have Teresa Abbot and Mindy Peper salaries, the monthly meetings, and also Tachell and Unsworth will attend the National Child Abuse conference in New Orleans in April.

### MDT Survey

Appears that 8 counties answered that they do not have an MDT team. Baugh suggests that it might be beneficial to look at the counties that have no team. They report that they do not or rarely have child abuse cases that need reviewed.

Barton discusses the various differences in the MDT teams that she visits.

Clark County doesn't have a team—that might be understandable, as it is very small. Camas and Gooding link together. Franklin County not having a team could be a concern.

Boise and Ada County indicated additional training would be helpful. Should contact those who indicated needs and see if we can get them some resources through the grant. Need ongoing marketing of the grant monies available. Maybe send a letter at the first of every year to prosecutors (and CC to other

contact person) and let them know about the grants, what our goals are, tell them about the conference and scholarships, the prosecutors award, and so on. Could send them a packet with samples of our resources. Send this out September 1.

### **Strategic Planning/ Upcoming Meetings**

Move May 2 meeting to May 9. Add prosecutor packets to September meeting.

### **Supreme Court Child Protection Committee Update, Debbie Alsaker-Burke**

Tachell welcomes Debbie. Debbie wanted to share with us that it has been an extraordinary year of collaboration with DHW. Also started working with the Department of Juvenile Corrections. Also, wanted to share that they don't have little projects anymore. All the projects are expansive and on-going.

Recently the Department received a IV-E waiver (primary source of funding for foster care maintenance) on funds that will allow the department to use the funds differently than normally allowed. Usually related to kids being in foster care. Feds offered up some potential waivers for specific, evaluated interventions and outcomes and if state can do it, then future funds won't be solely tied to just foster care services. Allowed some flexibility. Idaho is one of 29 states with a waiver. The Supreme Court also recently received a federal grant to enhanced family renunciation drug courts in Regions 5 and 6. Right now the committee and the Department are in a planning phase. Working on creating trauma-informed assessments. Funds will be used to screen children for trauma. This is a communimetric, collaborative assessment and intervention that also includes an engagement strategy with families. Working on a common version of CANS (Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths), allowing the DHW to identify needs of children and families and help focus those services. Will also include use of alone family time to allow family group decision making and planning as well as evidence-based parenting programs in each region called "Nurturing Parenting". These are focused on kids in foster care but can also be used on kids outside of foster care but receiving in-home interventions.

The court and behavioral health are also writing a grant that will focus on child protection and substance use issues.

Another extensive project with DHW is working on their enhanced safety assessment. Holding a webinar for judges on March 19. Purpose is to make sure DHW and courts are working together when the judges feel there is a safety issue but DHW may not feel there is a safety issue. Example may be that prosecutors feel there is an automatic safety issue when substance abuse is involved where DHW may feel it isn't due to other reasons. This enhanced model will help with bringing common language to the assessment.

Working on a data project with DHW and moving to Odyssey which is a different case management software. It will help in sharing data with one another. Right now using a spreadsheet that shows the stakeholders and then what is needed from and for each party.

Working on a project called Fostering Department Improvement.

Also looking at how to enhance advocacy in CPS. Held a training, with 90 attending and 70 were attorneys. Helped with another training in fall. Also went to the law school and did some training with them. Attorneys can now get a certificate called "Child Welfare Law Specialist" and encouraging attorneys to get this.

Bill is out there that requires Law Enforcement to consult with DHW before removing a child. This involves calling the central intake unit or a social worker and getting history on the case. There may be a recommendation and the officer chooses to follow it or not follow it. This is moving through committee.

Task force discusses the parental rights bill.

Debbie discusses that from the time she started in 1998, she has seen vast improvements in how we work with children and families. She feels less kids are being brought into care, we are doing much better on permanency timelines, we are more focused on well-being rather than safety, and the aggregate data and outcomes are helping us to see improvements or areas that need improvement. Bergin states she feels we also more often meet federal guidelines and we can more quickly identify where problems are statewide. Wickard would say that DHW is doing a better job of moving cases and of getting out of cases when there are no longer issues. Debbie states we know more now about child well-being, what affects CP cases, and effects of removing children. She feels it will only get better. Unsworth states that the role of DHW has evolved. DHW used to be risk assessment. Now it is looking at a subset of families that are in safety issues. There is no way to eliminate the risk, some families will always live in risk. Now looking at risk versus crossing that safety threshold and helping those families. DHW sees that there are other organizations that can help with risk issues.

Unsworth will send CARTF the power point presentation for the safety assessment.

Clark asks how all these great options can be applied to small counties like Salmon. Unsworth says we can do the best we can, but yes, will continue to be a struggle in many rural areas of Idaho.

Baugh discusses Eli-Lily grant program that dealt with prescription of psychotropic meds to children and adolescents. Baugh asks Unsworth if IV-E funds could be used to look at that program, which no longer exists.

### **Idaho Children's Trust Fund, Roger Sherman**

Tachell welcomes Roger Sherman. Task force introduces self to Sherman. Sherman states that three of those here are connected to the ICTF. Sherman discusses ICTF. Commissioned by the legislature in 1985. Capacity to fund, train, provide technical assistance, share best practices, educate, and build awareness throughout the state. They are a catalyst for best practices and disseminate this information, particularly through train-the-trainer programs. Focused on working at the level that prevents children from being abused.

The Strengthening Families approach comes from the Center for Social Policy which has done a lot of work on finding a prevention strategy that helps change the trajectory of families. CSP built this on a looking at best practices, outcomes, literature reviews, and research. Strengthening Families is based on protective factors that will lead to having less risk factors.

Sherman discusses risk and protective factors. There are seven program strategies that support five protective factors (see handout). This is the Strengthening Families approach. This is a framework, a paradigm shift, it works across many systems, and it is a benefit to all families. It is not a model. It embeds effective prevention strategies into existing systems and creates a widespread understanding of what all systems can do.

#### **Protective Factors:**

Parental resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity. Have the ability to cope with setbacks. Know that stress is the primary trigger for abuse. Need to know the difference between handling stress appropriately and stepping over the line.

Social connections is having positive and safe relationships. Families that are alone or isolated get in more trouble and/or when they are having problems they isolate themselves. Need to create group projects, social sharing, and create a socially inclusive culture. Needs to be an intentional process for building those connections.

Knowledge of parenting and child development is knowing how to parent and how children grow. This includes knowing nurturing parenting and discipline techniques and developmental needs of kids. Need to provide parenting classes and create safe environments for visiting. Also helps to know when child is developing atypically.

Concrete support in times of need means parents knowing where to turn for help to get basic needs met- food, clothing, housing, transportation. This includes supporting family's knowledge and ability to access community services.

Social and emotional development of children is essential for kid's development and family stability. This is the ability to interact with others, for parents to be responsive to children's needs, and children learning to tell parents what they feel. Need to help families make connections to quality childcare and mental health supports, listening to parents concerns about their children, and discussion about the importance of feelings for parents and children.

Sherman discusses non-traditional partnerships such as with childcare providers. Many of them see their work partly as preventing child abuse. They learn this within their professional learning system to build a workforce that is more aware. School bus drivers might be another non-traditional partner as they see the kids morning and afternoon. Traditional partners are Head Start, CASA, DV organizations, family advocates, and schools.

ICTF has small grants for community projects. Some are multi-year and also they have yearly grants that average about \$3000. Annual grants start in December. Next cycle opens in late summer. Information is on the website. Also, ICTF holds a conference each year- the Strengthening Families Conference. Includes several workshops on sexual abuse, communities of hope, shaken baby syndrome. All the information is on the website.

### **Linda Martin Discussion**

Those who were present at the meeting with Linda Martin discuss what happened. Currently Idaho has an exception to child endangerment that says if you have religious reasons to choose not to get medical treatment for a child you cannot be persecuted if something happens to the child. Linda Martin was a former member of the church. She told stories of children who had very treatable conditions and who suffered, often for a long time and painfully, and were not treated, eventually resulting in death. They also don't use doctors. In many of these cases the parent would like a reason to get treatment and avoid being ostracized by their church. It doesn't appear the bill will get a hearing. Baugh feels this is something that can be done, but it needs help. If done right, it may have success. The bill was limited. There was only prosecution if withholding medical care resulted in disability or death. Baugh asked his board to work on it actively. Adrian presented it to the American Board of Pediatrics and it had good support. It can be done next year and getting some support, the right sponsors, working with leadership, getting more stakeholders and faith groups will take the bill much further. Baugh would be happy to work on the bill. Linda needs to connect with some organizational support which might also provide some help in presenting the bill more neutrally. Linda might need some help in presenting more neutrally. Baugh says would be best to have some child welfare group to

be the presenter/ sponsor. Idaho Voices for Children is a good fit. Perhaps IPAA would be good too.

### **Promo Items**

Tabled until April

### **Conference Location**

Peper discusses location and date options. So far, The Riverside seems to be the best fit. It may be best to do an onsite lunch because there are not many restaurants around. Peper will book The Riverside Hotel for October 28 for 350 people. Will need to do an onsite lunch. Dinner the night before for 15-18.

### **MDT Grants**

Barton discusses the grant turned in for additional CASA manager license. She is need of 3 more. Barton leaves the room. Stallcup makes motion to fully fund the grant for \$900, Bergin seconds, all in favor and so moved.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Adjourn**

**Next meeting will be held April 4, 2014 at 8 a.m.**

### **April Agenda Items:**

Conference speakers

Roger Sherman will attend the April meeting

### **Action Items:**

Peper-

Update website

Make changes to 2014 calendar dates/ topics and email- move May meeting, add prosecutor packet to September

Promote prosecutor award

Sample MDT policy to Shoshone County

Add ICTF to our website- partners and projects

Contact The Riverside hotel and book

Send Barton's grant approval to Karla

Bergin-

Send Peper Twin Falls County MDT policy