



CARTF

The Riverside Hotel, BOISE

November 13, 2015

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:

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

Nadine McDonald – Juvenile Justice

Molly Vaughn– Victim Services Coordinator

WELCOME

Naylor welcomes everyone. Giddings moves to accept the October 2015 minutes, Tachell seconds, all in favor and so moved.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, LICENSURE PROCESS, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION, Sabrina Brown

Ms. Brown is the foster care specialist over One Church, One Child program, oversees recruitment and retention statewide.

Recruitment is driven by a 4B plan which is federal. The need for foster parents is constant. Idaho is on a decline of foster parents. That is due to several reasons. Three types of recruitment- general, targeted, and child specific. Do many events in the community. Still learning which events work best. Can also call 211 and potential foster parents will be guided through the process. Giddings asks if there is any one particular phase of the process where they lose more candidates over others. Brown say they lose many at every phase. Even the initial application is daunting and can lose applicants. There is waiting time to get into PRIDE and they lose people there and then there is a wait for home study and they lose people there. One reason is because relatives who have applied have to be expedited and done within 30 days. General applicants come after that. Additionally, there are not enough people who handle the new and renewed licenses. For example, 9 people handle all new and renewals in the western hub of Idaho- from Valley County to Elmore County.

Regarding foster care home reimbursements, Idaho is 48th with one of the lowest reimbursement rates in the country. Rural recruitment is also very low. Baugh asks if the lack of promised mental health care for the children and then not receiving it affects recruitment/retention. Brown says absolutely lack of resources has a large impact and it leaves a long term negative perception of the foster care system.

Book asks if in the parent training if they receive something about psychotropic meds training and helping them decide and understand. Unsworth states that some of our communities really do not have much experience and evidence-based treatment in working with kids who have had experienced trauma. It is a complex problem across many systems.

Ms. Brown says another service they have is a peer mentor that can come into homes after the first placement and/or during a crisis in the home. They have not been able to offer this training for 3 years so excited to be able to offer that again this year.

Looking to turn 4 of the 27 hours of PRIDE training into an online class. Likewise, looking at streamlining the relatives' licensure process.

Naylor asks if many general applicants come into with the hopes to adopt. Yes, over 50% with hopes of that, which is not the purpose of the system. They do a lot of training to explain that the purpose is to move toward reunification. Wickard mentions that having open adoption in Idaho might change the movement toward placing a child with non-relatives. About 20% of the children are adopted and the rest either are reunified (60-70%) or age out of foster care system. Re-entering into foster care system after an exit within 12 months is about 8%. Nationally it is at 10%. There are some families who do a guardianship- sometimes that is appropriate for the child but need to have full disclosure as they lose quite a few benefits, including school benefits, and financial support.

Brown discusses the One Church, One Child program. It started in 2012. Goal is to engage communities of faith for recruitment and to provide wrap-around services. Includes things like diaper drives, foster parent's night out, provide venues for training, providing child care and more. Funded through AmeriCorps VISTA. It creates a challenge due to length of time to train and by the time training is done only have 6 months and they a new recruit comes in. Currently have 9 VISTAs in Idaho helping with the One Church, One Child program. They are volunteers. They receive a living stipend and they work 40 hours a week. They also receive some limited medical support. Barton shares a success story of One Church, One Child at a church in her community.

Another program is called Furnish the Future that helps donate beds and dressers to foster families that don't have the furniture needs. Wickard asks if

there has been any attempt to work with Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts. Brown says yes, in fact work with Boise Girl Scouts right now.

Unsworth says they are doing some rebranding around the One Church, One Child. Turning it into Faith in Motion to encourage communities to step forward to help however they can.

Statue Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is a new federal legislation is on the Strengthening Families side of federal requirements. It is to help create normalcy for kids by giving families ability to make some of the day-to-day decisions based on that child's development, capacity, etc without going through the various levels of system. It is a federal rule but it will also be included in the state legislation. Feds say there needs to be some immunity from liability for foster parents and this will be included.

Naylor asks what CARTF can do to help. Can't spend money on it but CARTF can help advocate and help change the perception of foster care in Idaho. The focus now is to improve retention then work on recruitment. Baugh suggests that perhaps we can make some recommendations to the governor, such as an increase of family reimbursements, increase of home study positions to decrease wait time, and increase in wrap-around services. To be affective recommendations need to be made by July. Unsworth will ask Deb Alsaker-Burke and Baugh will ask Mike Henderson to send CARTF a draft of the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standards draft.

CFR TEAM RECOMMENDATION

Tachell makes motion to appoint Dr. Kris Spain to replace Dr Hahn on the CFR Team. Unsworth seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Barton asked Wiley Dobbs with Twin Falls to be the Superintendent on CFR Team.

There next meeting is December 10.

CARTF ORGANIZATION

Naylor announces that he will be leaving CARTF April 2016 when his term expires. He will make a recommendation for his position. Tachell nominates Joshua Wickard as the next CARTF chairman. Rammell seconds. All in favor, so moved. This will be effective in January 2016. Peper will email Anne Bebee about change in chairmanship and update website.

MDT GRANT- BOISE PD

CARTF discusses grant from Tonya Newberry (Boise PD) to attend the San Diego International Child and Family Maltreatment Conference. Unsworth makes a motion to approve the MDT group with the requirement that she will do a 1 hour

presentation to CARTF in spring 2016 on what she learned at the conference and how she shared the information with her MDT Team and suggestion of future conference speakers for CARTF. Rammell seconds the motion. Discussion. Request is for \$4125 but when adding up the numbers it comes to about \$1900. Bergin amends the motion to approve the grant for up to \$2000. Giddings seconds, all in favor and so moved.

CARTF discussed how to get the word out to other MDT's to apply for next year's conference.

NOTES and NEWS

Kailamai shares with CARTF a project that the Foster Youth Advisory Panel is working on. The Youth and Care Bill of Rights as well as Sibling Bill of Rights. It is extensive. Not all the rights are protected by law but it is a standard they are putting together and will be mandated by DHW to be displayed in all foster care facilities and homes. Children over 8 will sign the bill as well as the case worker and foster parents. Kailamai has a final draft and she shares a copy with the task force. The Sibling Bill of Rights covers when other siblings are in other foster care homes. Unsworth will email the bill to Peper to share with CARTF.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR WINTER

January- IVC, Lauren Necochea and Teresa Abbott and Unsworth and Baugh for legislative update, CARTF review CFR Team report
February- Barry Peters for Educational Neglect discussion, Naylor will invite
March- Deb Alsaker-Burke, Supreme Court Child Protection Committee

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

ACTION ITEMS:

Peper-

- Conference summary
- Speakers for Jan-Mar
- Contact Anne Beebe

CARTF will meet January 8 at 9:00 AM at SpringHill Suites in Boise