



CARTF

April 7, 2023

Bright Tomorrows CAC, Pocatello/ ZOOM

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Andie Blackwood- DHW, Family & Children Services
OPEN-Children with Disabilities Representative
Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD- Mental Health
Curtis Carper- Law Enforcement Representative
OPEN- Foster Youth
James Curb – Homeless Education Liaison
Jill Robertson– Parent
Susan Nalley– Victim Services Coordinator

Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)
Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician
Stacy Pittman- Child Advocate Attorney
Hon. Steve Clark- Civil Magistrate Judge
Madison Miles- Prosecuting Attorney
Tahna Barton – CASA
Hon. Mark Rammell- Criminal Magistrate Judge
Nadine McDonald – Juvenile Justice
Teresa Vance- Administrator of the Courts Representative

Mindy Peper – Task Force Support

Indicates **ABSENT**

Welcome

Wickard welcomes everyone. CARTF reviews the March 2023 minutes, Tachell makes a motion to accept with noted changes, Rammell seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Bannock County Assessment Center, Todd Mauger

Unable to attend. Tabled for future meeting.

Bright Tomorrows CAC- Cassidy Roske, Heather, Jill Whitney

CAC introduces themselves. CARTF introduces self and welcomes CAC, thanks them for hosting our group.

Structured with 6 slots for interviews each week. Typically, full each week and sometimes booked out. Clinical services have been reduced since COVID and have had reduced staff. Just hired a person to do advocacy to build that up. The number of forensic interviews last year was around 250. Seems to stay right around there each year. They work closely with all the southwest counties- Power, Bingham, caribou, Franklin, etc. Also do some courtesy interviews with other counties or out of state. Their medical exam happens offsite at the Portneuf hospital. They did have a medical exam room built in but could never get it up and going. Challenges for that included not having enough exams to justify a full-time doctor, lab difficulties, and having a nurse to help. Some disadvantages to having it offsite such as one place, streamline resources, but working with Portneuf has worked well. The greatest need is to have staff that is willing to stay, despite the hard work. Trends include fallout post-COVID, delayed disclosures. Seeing now that law enforcement is filtering the cases out a little more for the CAC, rather pointing them to other resources. Also now seeing an uptick in cases that involve internet crimes, acting out against other children many times due to pornography exposure- have seen this trend going up since 2014. Have recently

changed protocol regarding group settings (such as a daycare) to better focus on the children who might be instigators (to be a parent resource) and victims.

The CAC does have a 24-hour hotline with licensed clinical staff. They will respond immediately if needed or make a plan to respond first thing in the morning if appropriate.

Pittman states nationally it seems there is a big trend to get involved as early as possible with families to prevent removal. What does that look like for this community. Roske states that she is not sure that she has seen a shift in this community. Pittman agrees that it doesn't seem to be a shift in Idaho.

Caseloads are heavy and turnover is high, which makes it difficult because this is a hard job to learn.

Bradford asks if CAC works with Fort Hall. Yes, they do bring their cases here.

They have community groups and long-time donors who help support the CAC. Rammell states that the more the community is involved and aware of the resources the better.

Carper asks if they are running into skill-set issues with local law enforcement. Some of that but it has been fortunate that in the last few turnovers the new person has been great.

Robertson asks about the CAC funding. Roske states that their funding from grants includes ICDVAA/VOCA, which is undergoing drastic cuts. Looking at other grant sources to cover expenses. Priority for funding is always services. They also bill Medicaid and Medicare and can do so because they have master level clinicians. Robertson states that when they get funding for training one person it actually impacts many people.

Clark asks if what CARTF is doing is helpful- grants, training, visits. Roske has always felt CARTF has been a big supporter for the CAC.

Wickard recognizes the need for more counselors, both in the state and nationwide. Waitlists for kids to see counselors is getting longer and longer. Seeing more and more community agencies no longer accepting kid clients. Freitas says that the best resource is Idaho State University- they have a great clinical program, but it is under pursued at the graduate level. ISU is a nationally recognized program. The CAC could become an internship program for the program. Barton mentions a school in Twin Falls that has in-house counselors so can see the kids during the day, not just 3-5 when kids get out of school. Robertson says they have that locally in Pocatello as well. Freitas says this problem has been solved in other states and other time periods, but those solutions have gone by the wayside.

Maddi Ames, open seat candidate

Wickard welcomes Ames and the task force introduces themselves. Ames shares about herself, her background, and story.

Terry Scraggins, open seat candidate

Wickard welcomes Scraggins and the task force introduces themselves. Scraggins shares about himself, his background, and story.

Darin Burrell, non-PREA Disclosures

Burrell presents a Power Point about non-PREA disclosures made in juvenile county detention centers and the pilot project. Power Point is available.

Bannock County MDT

Wickard welcomes the MDT and conducts introductions.

Why does your MDT work so well?

- prosecutor is very aggressive in pursuing cases
- fire and passion from prosecutors on the team
- having experienced locally CAC helps
- strong leadership

What challenges do you run into?

- manpower- all agencies running below capacity with high case loads

Meet twice a month and very consistent. Agenda includes covering new cases. Touch base with older cases and updates. Then “network” and collaborate. Can use the time to assess what is working and what isn’t working, what went wrong in trial and how to learn from it. Then run through upcoming court proceedings. The time makes everyone better at their job because they understand what each other is doing. The team also includes pediatrics SANE nurse, IDHW, Chubbuck PD, medical examiner.

Whitney states that a well-functioning MDT includes prosecutors willing to listen and consider what others have to say. There is a mutual respect/appreciation for each role and clarity as to what each role does. Also helps that everyone stays in their “own lane” and sticks to what their job is.

Tachell asks how they get new members trained on the MDT? Roske says many times the new member has been told the expectations and importance by their employers. Also, doing team building events and exercises is important. Likewise, they are good at handing off and transitioning the role by coming in together.

They have an MDT protocol, but the agency leads are working to come up with something to help with stepping into the role.

Barton asks as a team what training have they received or would like to receive. The forensic interviewing certification training has been an anchor to help everyone speak the same language, learning child development, and understanding victim approach.

Roske will share the Bannock Count MDT agenda template to send out to CARTF and use as a resource to help other MDTs in the state.

Barton asks what if we have been doing grants backwards. Instead of asking for MDTs to apply for grants, we bring in Forensic Interviewing training and we start to provide funding for a certain number of MDTs for their whole team to attend. Vance says one idea would be to bring that training to each of the judicial districts to offer the training.

Subcommittee Updates:

Legislative- McDonald reports that we have ended our meetings since the session is done and will meet May 2 to summarize what happened during the session. Will give final report to CARTF at May meeting.

Grants- Peper reports we had one grant application submitted and the grant scoring subcommittee is meeting May 3rd to go through the grant and make recommendations.

Publications- Tachell states we are working on providing some kind of training for MDTs for starting up and turnover training. May need to be it's own subcommittee.

Conference- Tachell states that planning is going well. Met with Judge Murray (conference moderator) and with Derrick Marin (videographer). Putting together bookstore as one of the exhibitors. Registration is open and 60 have signed up in the last 24 hours. Working toward having an evening reception. Sending invites to legislators that work with CP.

CFRT- Barton participated in the interviews for a new analyst and IDHW has offered someone the position. She has not accepted the position yet. Barton has met with the new IDHW rep, Autumn Ferris. Working on some policies and procedures for our CFRT so that as people leave there is a handbook to help with seamless transitions. Regarding getting subpoena power, Barton says that it really didn't help the maternal task force. It really comes down to building relationships with the entities that we need the records from.

New Business

Wickard states that the public defense bill passed, and it is moving toward a statewide system. Next steps include a transitional plan. The budget to pay public defenders will move from county budgets to the state budget. Funding by state kicks in October 2024. Public defenders in county facilities will remain there until 2029. Pittman states that because the plan is silent on child protection, this is a good opportunity for us to look at it and help shape what child protection will look like. Wickard says there seems to be a high level of commitment to make the new system successful. There has been a lot of thought put into the local control issue.

Wickard would like to propose changing the bylaws so that it states that each CARTF member needs to work on at least one subcommittee. For now, if would like to encourage everyone to join a subcommittee and/or if think a different one is needed, to discuss it.

Peper discusses the project proposal presented to CARTF by Building Hope Today. Peper will invite them to the May 5 meeting.

Tachell says that the publications subcommittee would like to bring some open meeting law training in July. Peper will put it on the agenda.

Tachell asks if she can attend the Idaho Prevention and Support Conference to represent CARTF. Pittman will make a motion to cover the registration fee for Tachell and Freitas to attend the conference. CARTF will make the motion and vote by email.

Pittman says she went to a suicide awareness conference with David Rudd and he was an awesome speaker.

Adjourn

Next meeting will be May 5, 2023 in Pocatello.