



The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk
March 7, 2025
SpringHill Suites, Boise, ID/ Hybrid

(A)Nadine McDonald, Juvenile Justice (Chairman)	Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)
(A)Andie Blackwood- DHW, Family & Children Services	Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician
Lena Biondolillo- Children with Disabilities	OPEN- Child Advocate Attorney
Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD– Mental Health	Hon. Steve Clark- Civil Magistrate Judge
Curtis Carper- Law Enforcement	Kyle Bringhurst- Prosecuting Attorney
(A)Maddi Ames– Foster Youth	(A)Tahna Barton – CASA
OPEN – Homeless Education Liaison	Hon. Brent Ferguson- Crim. Magistrate Judge
Jill Robertson– Parent	Joshua Wickard- Public Defender
Susan Nalley– Victim Services Coordinator	Teresa Vance- Administrator of the Courts
(V)Mindy Peper – Task Force Support	Indicates Absent (A) Virtual (V)

Guests: *Karla Kinzel- IDHW; Kim Neely, Rory Santana, Nick Eylar- TRUCAC; Trevor Sparrow, Brandon Cabrera- Health and Social Services Office of the Ombudsman*

Meeting Purpose

To discuss CARTF business including updates on grants, conference planning, and regional initiatives.

Key Takeaways

- Two Rivers United CAC in District 2 provided an update on their new child advocacy center, which is set to open March 24th
- The task force discussed guidelines for grant funding, including not funding meals/food
- Conference planning is underway for October 23rd, with a focus on medical child abuse/Munchausen by proxy

Topics

Welcome and Minutes

- Motion to approve February 2025 minutes, as is, no changes. **Motion made by Vance, seconded by Curtis, all in favor and so moved.**

Budget Update

Kinzel provides an update on the budget, noting some discrepancies they are working to resolve with fiscal. She explains the current spending and remaining balance, and how they can utilize the two grant phases if needed to cover conference and other expenses.

San Diego Delegation Recap

- CARTF members who attended the San Diego conference provide an overview of the key sessions and takeaways, including a powerful case study on medical child abuse, a training on investigating a child homicide, and the value of the in-depth case studies presented. They emphasize the high quality of the sessions and the opportunity to make connections with potential future speakers.

Parents for Parents Presentation, Teresa Vance

- Vance presents details on the new program they have developed, including the goals, curriculum, resources (handbook, video, etc.), and plans for scaling it statewide. The program aims to educate parents about navigating the child protection system on the process, roles of different parties, and how to stay organized and engaged.

Introduction to Idaho Health and Social Services Ombudsman

- Sparrow and Cabrera from the newly formed Health and Social Services Ombudsman (HSSO) office provides an overview of their role and responsibilities, including monitoring compliance with relevant statutes, investigating complaints, and advocating for the rights and interests of children in care.

Two Rivers United CAC Update

- New CAC opening March 24th in District 2 (Lewis-Clark Valley area)
- Received 501c3 status in August 2024
- Local hospital donated 4 rooms to use as temporary space
- Received grant funding from CARTF to purchase essential equipment, training
- Goals include hiring executive director, 2 forensic interviewers, and advocate within next year
- Working on securing additional funding through grants and community support

Grant Funding Guidelines

- Task force discussed what types of expenses should be funded through grants
- Decided not to fund conference meals or food

- Will revisit topic in April to establish clearer guidelines
- Approximately \$65,000 left to spend by September 30th. This may change with correction to fiscal overlapping cycles.

Conference Planning

- Set for October 23rd, 2025 at Riverside Hotel in Boise
- Theme will focus on medical child abuse/Munchausen by proxy
- Planning to have keynote speakers and panel discussions rather than breakout sessions
- Reaching out to potential speakers including detective, prosecutor, and child abuse pediatrician
- Task force meeting night before on October 22nd, at Riverside Hotel, from 4-7 pm MST.

Legislative Updates

- Several child welfare-related bills moving through legislature
- Bills address topics like removal of offending parent, daycare licensing, extended foster care, termination of parental rights
- Task force monitoring bills and potential impacts

Child Fatality Review Team

- Reviewed 8 cases at recent meeting
- Discussed need for more data analysis and prevention efforts
- Looking at factors like time of year, access to firearms, etc.

Next Steps

- Revisit grant funding guidelines at April meeting
- Continue conference planning and speaker outreach
- Monitor legislative session and relevant bills
- Prepare for June regional meeting in northern Idaho
- Follow up on CRP funding and national training opportunities

Action Items

- **Reach out to tribal reps for June mtg participation - Vance**
- **Contact MDT, Children's Village/Canopy, Lily Brooke CAC for June mtg - Peper**
- **Email reminder re June mtg in N Idaho - need RSVP for travel/hotel - Peper**
- **Add June meeting planning to April agenda - Peper**
- **Prep 1-pg summary/infographic of MDT survey results for Oct conf – Vance, MDT SC**
- **Add grant funding discussion to April agenda - Peper**
- **Send Children's Families Institute reg link to task force members – Peper**
- **Send power point presentations to CARTF from March meeting- Peper**