



The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk
October 22, 2025
Boise, ID/ Hybrid

Nadine McDonald, Juvenile Justice (Chairman)	(A)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
Anthony Henry– Foster Youth	Tahna Barton – CASA
Jill Robertson – Homeless Youth Liaison	(V)Hon. Brent Ferguson- Crim. Magistrate Judge
(A)Trevor Sparrow– Parent	Joshua Wickard- Public Defender
Susan Nalley– Victim Services Coordinator	(A)Teresa Vance- Administrator of the Courts
Mindy Peper – Task Force Support	Indicates Absent (A) Virtual (V)

Guests: none

Meeting Purpose

Review and approve grant applications and a new CFR team appointment.

Key Takeaways

- **Approved four grants for \$28,401**, including the first \$10k award under new state guidelines.
- **Established a new policy to ban funding for fundraising, lobbying, and grant writing**, effective next cycle.
- **Created a permanent "Data Scientist" role on the CFR team** and appointed Dr. Megan Smith (BSU) to fill it.

Welcome and Minutes

Chair Nadine McDonald called the meeting to order and welcomes everyone.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 2025 meeting:

- Made by: Henry
- Seconded by: Biondolillo
- Outcome: Approved unanimously

Grant Applications / Budget

Mindy Peper guided the review of grant applications, referencing score sheets and supplementary documents.

- **Scoring Matrix:**

- Adequate: 29–40 points
- Excellent: 45–64 points

- **Building Hope Today**

- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Score:** 40.8 (Adequate)
- **Discussion:** A line item of \$437.50 for "writing grant proposal" raised a debate about funding administrative costs, specifically grant writing. It was noted that this organization had received prior funding/partnerships.
- Motion to fund this grant request, less the \$437.50 for grant writing.
 - Made by: Barton
 - Seconded by: Biondolillo
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously

- **Bingham County Coroner's Office**

- **Request:** \$10,000
- **Score:** 53.4 (Excellent)
- **Significance:** First \$10k award under new state guidelines (max grant increased from \$9,999 to \$24,999 every 5 years).
- **Discussion:** Some initial concern was raised about the instructor fees of \$1,000 per day but was clarified that this is within state guidelines for such specialized instruction. The grant was tied to CFRT priorities and critically needed for the fatality review team.
- Motion to fund the grant for \$10,000.
 - Made by: Henry
 - Seconded by: Robertson
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously

- **Elevate Your Community**

- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Score:** 43.8 (Adequate)
- **Project:** Create a toolkit and gallery for community education, targeting MDTs, rural, and tribal communities.
- **Discussion:** The grant's need articulation was deemed vague, but it met funding priorities. The budget was initially unclear due to an attached page but was resolved during subcommittee review.
- Motion to adopt the grant with the request that CARTF be invited to at least one webinar/presentation and receive a copy of the toolkit.
 - Made by: Ferguson
 - Seconded by: Barton
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously
- **St. Luke's Cares**
 - **Request:** \$8,401
 - **Score:** 55 (Excellent)
 - **Project:** Local conference to increase accessibility for Valley County professionals, replicating aspects of the San Diego conference.
 - **Discussion:** The need was clearly identified, matching funding priorities, and included excellent SMART goals. Speaker fees seemed high, and more information on speakers would have been preferred.
 - Motion to approve the grant for \$8,401.
 - Made by: Bringham
 - Seconded by: Henry
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously

New Grant Policy

- **Problem:** The discussion on the "Building Hope Today" grant highlighted a need for clearer guidelines on what the Task Force will not fund.
- **Decision:** Draft new language for future grant cycles.

- Motion to draft language restricting funding for fundraising and lobbying (if not already present).
 - Made by: Henry
 - Seconded by: Bringhurst
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously

CFR Team Appointment

- **Request:** CFR Chair Lacey sought to add Dr. Megan Smith (PhD faculty at BSU) to the CFR team as a permanent member.
- **Rationale:** Dr. Smith's background, expertise in adolescent research, and networking (e.g., already connecting Lacey with BSU for an intern to help with data crunching) were seen as valuable contributions. The proposed role for her would be "Data Scientist."
- **Decision:**
 - **Motion 1:** To add the position of "Data Scientist" to the CFR team.
 - Made by: Barton
 - Seconded by: Curtis
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously
 - **Motion 2:** To appoint Dr. Megan Smith to the newly created "Data Scientist" role on the CFR team.
 - Made by: Henry
 - Seconded by: Nalley
 - Outcome: Approved unanimously

Adjournment

- Mindy Peper thanked Judge Ferguson for joining virtually, ensuring a quorum.

Next Steps

- **Mindy Peper:**
 - Notify Building Hope Today of the \$4,562.50 grant approval.
 - Notify Elevate Your Community of the \$5,000 grant approval and conditions.

- Notify Bingham County Coroner's Office and St. Luke's Cares of their full grant approvals.
- Draft new grant policy language restricting funds for fundraising, lobbying, and grant writing.
- Formalize Dr. Megan Smith's appointment to the CFR team.