



CARTF

October 6, 2023

Hampton Inn, Boise, ID

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)

Andie Blackwood- DHW, Family & Children Services

Lena Biondolillo- Children with Disabilities Representative

Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD- Mental Health

Curtis Carper- Law Enforcement Representative

Maddi Aimes- 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

Kyle Bringhurst- 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

Tachell welcomes everyone. Tachell reviews meeting norms. Introductions held. CARTF reviews September 2023 minutes. Pittman makes a motion to approve September 2023 minutes with noted change to Brianna Allen's title, McDonald seconds, all in favor and so moved.

San Diego Conference

CARTF conference subcommittee presents the benefits of sending the subcommittee to the conference- there are several tracks throughout the 5 days. Sturgeon Freitas shares the variety of tracks and how it covers several of our disciplines. The return on investment will last us several years and would help to plan out several years of conferences. Pittman states that we also did not send anyone to the NACC conference though we tried to send 3. CARTF reviews the numbers and cost for sending a group of 5. Table until we receive numbers from Karla Kinzel and then we will vote electronically.

Update on Open Meeting Laws

Peper updates the group about her conversation with Steve Vinsonhaler, DAG for IDOC.

MDT Conversation- Sonja Howerton, Nick Lepire, Valerie Fenton, Peggy Sheborn, Kim Neely, Ashley Stallings

Peper and Howerton sets the stage for this conversation, the partners in the room, and the projects they are doing as it relates to MDTs. Partners discuss the issues that affect MDTs throughout the state and reasons why some do not form.

Ashley Stallings, ED with Upper Valley CAC- region 7, shares that they recognized that this was an issue and that there is a need for helping MDTs due to changes with the

national children's alliance accreditation standards. To get accredited CACs have to demonstrate that they have a trained MDT in the county of the CAC. Stallings works with 4 different MDTs and they all run differently. Looking at creating MDT videos and MDT orientation guide that would pertain to all the different models of MDTs.

Kim Neely works with 4 out of 5 counties that have active MDTs. She and the MDT met with CARTF in September and discussed how the Nez Perce MDT works and what their strengths and weaknesses are.

Neely added that they are a tribal community, so that adds another layer of complexity as it can mean the FBI getting involved with how some cases are handled. Hoping to build something that gives a neutral setting where all of those barriers can be decreased by having an advocacy center.

Valerie Fenton is deputy prosecutor in Bonner County and handled cp cases for about 10 years as well as sex crime cases of 12 and under. She is with LillyBrooke CAC and the Bonner County MDT.

Nick Lepire is Bonner Co Prosecutors Office and works with sex offense cases of the teenagers. He works with the MDT. Their MDT is under the umbrella of the prosecutor's office and uses forensic interviewers. The advantage is that they are wrapped in the case and investigation from the very start.

Peggy Sherbon is director of LillyBrooke Family Justice Center and started it about 7 years ago, felt a lot of cases were falling through the cracks and not being addressed in the community. Go back and look at reports at the AG's office and you will see that their model has had great success in prosecution of cases.

Peggy has a lot of ideas about the MDT statutes and fine-tuning the language.

Howerton stated that the national best practices have changed and often times the facilitator role has not been cultivated very well. There are now more resources available to train an MDT facilitator. Howerton also states that there is a lot of improvement on the numbers of cases that are closed out.

Howerton says would be good to have a statewide project—a survey that can identify and reach out to counties about what their hurdles are in having an MDT or what needs to happen to be more efficient, etc...

Wickard agrees with the idea of bringing together a statewide working group. He asks Bringhurst if there is a way to communicate with prosecutors across the state. Bringhurst states that there is a prosecutor association and that would be a group to bring onto the statewide working group.

Howerton also states that statute calls for follow-up case review from someone with lived experience and we should seek to see if MDTs are doing this or need supported in this piece.

Vance states that the Idaho Supreme Court Child Protection Committee would be a natural partner for the working group as well.

Clark mentions that smaller or rural counties over the years have come up with strategies to help, such as link with other counties, but sometimes they just choose to

ignore the mandate. Clark feels that it is a good project and feels it will have to be an ongoing project and not just a single moment in time type of project.

Wickard agrees that the working group needs to be a long-term project.

Stallings states that after identifying and reaching out to those who don't have an MDT then would be a good idea to have resources on how to start, how to train, roles on the team-- basically a blueprint to get started. Also, in light of the great turnover within an MDT it would be useful to have a resource that brings new members on board. Wickard states that CARTF could fund sending a start-up or new MDT to visit and shadow a well-functioning MDT. Help facilitate the cross-training.

Tachell reinforces the idea of a blueprint that helps a team build skills that allows for multiple ways to access the learning modalities—video, manuals, training, etc. Also, need to create some of these tools and then at our annual conference hold break outs that cover these tools, MDT 101, on-ramps for counties to start doing this work.

Sturgeon Freitas states that there also needs to be some personal connection to the counties who historically have not had an MDT to learn about their unique barriers and nuances so that we can understand the context of why their MDT might look different. We need to create an ability for those differences to be heard and understood and meet them where they are at.

Howerton says if we can get the counties to the table and then have those conversations that would be helpful.

Research states that it is millions of dollars for each organization to run their own investigation but there is cost savings in coming together and investigating as an MDT.

Next steps? Wickard states that the strategic planning subcommittee will look at the CARTF goals and change it to reflect this working group over the next 3 years.

Pittman states that there is value in putting together an MDT working group to be the forum to facilitate bringing everyone together to brainstorm and come up with concrete goals.

Subcommittee Updates

Grants- Current cycle closed October 5th and we received 3 grants. Scoring subcommittee will review these reports on October 24th and will bring recommendations to the task force at the November meeting.

Conference- subcommittee met recently and have discussed ideas for the next conference. Have also been in close discussion with Building Hope Today and possibly partnering with them for our June conference which is being held about 2 weeks before our conference. Trying to iron out what the partnership would look like. Tachell will have a follow-up conversation with Faye White.

CFRT- Peper states that the task force met in September and will meet October 17.

Publications- have sent 52 of the 82 red books out.

2024 Meeting Planning

Wickard mentions startup of digital notebooks and that the binders will go away. Would like to make a change to the bylaws that reflects each task force member being an active member on a subcommittee or working group.

Peper holds training on the new task force member only pages/ digital binders.

Dates: Tachell shares potential 2024 dates and seeks feedback on dates.

- Make October hybrid
- Make March hybrid
- Meet the night before the conference for a regular meeting
- Add workgroup/subcommittee breakouts at second part of meeting day
- Some uncomfortable with adding subcommittees and work groups to bylaws

Venue: Vance makes a motion to contract with SpringHill Suites (Parkcenter Blvd) for 2024. Rammell seconds. All in favor and so moved.

New Business

Sturgeon Freitas brings up article that was written about Cornerstone Cottage Residential Home by Spokesman Review and shared via email with the task force. There were a number of red flags that were very concerning. One of those things is that it states it uses an ARC model but Sturgeon Freitas and one other person in Idaho are the only ones certified in that, and that other person is no longer at Cornerstone Cottage. Sturgeon Freitas had a conversation with Rep. Chew and she has an interest in tackling this issue. If anyone else wants to be involved in helping write legislation around this issue or helping define the concerns, they are open to others being part of that process.

Pittman will add that there are multiple facilities in the state where things like this are going on and that this one facility is a symptom of a bigger systemic problem. One difference is that there is a process to be heard and representation say in the juvenile justice department whereas there is not as rigorous process with IDHW for placement. A QRTP is supposed to have heightened standards but Pittman notes that those standards are generally written by IDHW staff.

Bringhurst notes that placement of a child out of state or in a QRTP has to be decided by a judge and there is an avenue to appeal that. Vance states that the judicial review and final decision isn't decided until a child has already been placed for 60 days. McDonald states that it is very rare for IDJC to place a child out of state. They keep kids in state where there is oversight by the department.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

June 12-13, Boise, Conference

July 21, virtual only

September 8, Lewiston/ hybrid
October 6, Boise/ hybrid
November 3, Boise/ hybrid