



CARTF

January 6, 2023

ZOOM

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Michelle Weir- DHW, Family & Children Services
Ruth York-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**

Guests: Sonja Howerton, INCAC, Executive Director

Welcome

Wickard welcomes everyone. CARTF reviews the November 2022 minutes. Vance makes a motion to approve the minutes as is, Tachell seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Tachell welcomes Susan Nalley and holds introductions.

Guest, Sonja Howerton

Howerton states they have made some great progress this past year with the guidance of a new mission statement and strategic plan. The fall conference was the beginning of a new charge for the CACs in the state. The CARTF grant was used to really focus on conversation and collaboration between the different districts in the state. The motto was “it’s all about collaboration.” No one person is the star of the show. They emphasized bringing together experts from the state to include Bonner CSO, Emmett PD, Ada Co, and the AG office.

Have a couple CACs in development to support some new regions to include Moscow/ Lewiston area. Have a strong partner with IDHW there and excited to spend more time this year in supporting the MDT partners in that area.

Pittman asks if their mission statement and strategic plan is accessible. Howerton says not on the website yet but will be in near future.

Wickard asks specifically how the last CARTF grant was used. Howerton says it’s always been a challenge to figure out how to have balance in funding venue, travel, and speakers. They were fortunate enough to get a lot of donations and they were able to use the CARTF funds on travel and bringing over the CAC partners from other areas so that all the districts were represented and part of the conversation.

Wickard asks what her sense of the MDTs in the Lewiston/Moscow area regarding being open to receiving and working with the CAC there. Howerton says that they are working closely with Custer County and Mahoney House and see if they can get them interested and connected. Also bringing in all the partners/counties in the area and talked about how they would potentially have a greater success if there was a CAC there to work with.

The future of INCAC is to first emphasize offering training to make sure national standards are being met. They want to bring the best training they can and talk about what are the best practices, peer review, commonality in interview styles throughout the state, setting up best models, and setting up CAC advocate training. Training is a top focus and creating dialogue in counties that are not accessing and using the resources of the CACs.

Vance says that the supreme court is going to be survey statewide and part of it will include gathering information about county MDTs. Vance will share this information with CARTF and INCAC. It should be released in next few weeks.

Clark asks if there are any specific resources available for counties that are lacking resources. Howerton says that INCAC feels it will be important to lean into the mobile CACs and figure out how we can have additional resources to make those more accessible to the counties that are not near CACs. And if mobile isn't possible, what other options are there in partnering with other departments or agencies, working in collaboration to create a part-time CAC in an area. There are so many different models and approaches and need to talk to those partners about how to make it more of a reality.

Pittman asks if they know what they plan to present in the 2023 symposium. Howerton says they are at the beginning stages but will probably include continuing the statewide conversation as well as including some advanced topics as well as topics focused on specific disciplines. They know they want to stay outside of the treasure valley and focus on the smaller, rural regions, moving around to smaller communities.

Tachell asks if they have spoke with other states and asked how they are tackling these geographical issues. Howerton says she just visited with Alaska as they are very similar to Idaho structure and issues. They have also visited with Utah as it has some similarities and struggles. They are a strong partner with Idaho. They have had some good takeaways from those states.

Vance asks Howerton to talk a little more about the mobile units. Howerton says there are 2 and she can't speak specifically to how they are managed but she says that the one in Boise is hospital based via St. Luke's Cares. It runs one day a week, and it takes the staff from the Boise CAC, therefore disabling the Boise CAC when it is out. Goes to McCall, Weiser, Twin Falls, etc. The Upper Valley mobile unit launched in October and goes to places like Rigby. Looking to see if they can get it out to places like Custer County.

Bradford asks if there has been an issue in getting medical providers to work with the CACs. There has been a phenomenal movement in working with Just For Kids and the CACs are working to get certified medical providers at each CAC.

Tachell thanks Howerton for joining us and sharing this information with us. Wickard asks either the publication or conference subcommittee to think about how they might be able to support and strengthen our relationship with INCAC. McDonald says she is excited that their focus includes Lewiston area this year and states CARTF will meet September 9 in Lewiston and would like to continue this conversation.

Redbook Purchase

CARTF discusses the red book, logistics, budget, etc.

Wickard states that the book is a manual for processing child protection cases, more on a federal level. Textbook for NACC (National Association of Child Counsel). Very helpful and unique for many but not necessarily helpful for all. Do need to make a decision today in order to take advantage of the 20% discount. Want to get it into the hands of people who will use it, not just be an expensive paperweight.

Vance states that the supreme court purchased 62 copies that will go to magistrate judges with CP cases, DAG with IDHW, one for each CASA, new judge orientation. The supreme court does publish Idaho local rules and publishes it on the website but this book covers the federal laws. This is the most current edition (4th edition). Vance hoped to get a copy of it to each prosecuting and defense attorney office, which is about 88 more books.

Pittman states that it is a good idea just has concerns about it getting it used but won't necessarily know if and how it will be used. Also, how do you get it into the hands of contracted public defenders, Guardian ad Litem, etc? Private attorneys are the ones who may need it but may have a hard time affording it whereas a prosecuting attorney may have budget for it but won't use it as much, and so should take all of that into consideration as well. Perhaps make them available and offices can request them. Vance said there are many ways the distribution could be done—could mail them out to all prosecuting offices, could put on website for request, could distribute via the CP committee. Wickard says he sees this as being similar to our distribution of the coloring books.

Clark says there have been times when questions come up on either side, the book comes in handy and helps with both legal and administrative issues in dealing with agencies. The need for the access to the federal law is important because it informs the state and local laws. Clark asks if the information in the book is available on a website? Clark likes idea to make it available for request, lessening the chance that it will go unused.

Robertson asked her brother (a judge in Idaho) what he thought, and he felt it was a very helpful resource and it would be good to get it into the hands of those who are practicing. She feels it is useful to have it upon request.

Vance says that the presumption is that the 4th edition will be good for at least 5-7 years.

McDonald will note that this purchase fits very clearly with Strategy 3 in our plan.

Freitas asks if it would be possible if we can make two purchases—one that we do and another that they do under the grant. Certainly, possible and would be upon them to apply for a grant.

The CP committee will distribute books per discussion above. The CP bar has also requested copies of the books from the CP committee, but they can't do that. Does CARTF want to purchase books and put them on the website for request or want to purchase them and send to each county. Carper asks is there a way to do a combination—perhaps send some and then leave some for checkout. There are some counties that rarely have a CP case. Pittman says that she (as being part of the CP bar) can pursue getting a grant from CARTF to get more books to distribute.

Wickard makes a motion to purchase 82 Red Books. McDonald seconds. All in favor and so moved. Publications subcommittee will discuss the logistics of dissemination.

KCS2022 Wrap Up

Peper presents PowerPoint post-conference report on KCS2022.

McDonald says that many people are over online conferences. Tachell thought it might be an opportunity to reach out to others more than once a year. Also trying to pick a time when others don't have conferences, an off time to reach people. Perhaps have something that is short and sweet, few hours, to present a national speaker or topic that we don't have access to. Rammell says there was some discussion at the conference that the dynamics being in person is so much better. Freitas agrees. You can network, ask questions, etc.... Tachell mentions she agrees those organic connections are so good, but geography is always a factor in Idaho.

Barton asks if we can make the mini trainings more regional and in person? Perhaps we can work with other partners to put those trainings out there.

There was some concern about slides at the conference of actual victims. All of these concerns will be addressed in the speaker agreements.

Subcommittee Updates

Legislative- Pittman states we will meet weekly on Tuesday mornings to discuss what happened prior week and then will report at CARTF meetings about legislation that affects CP. If anything comes up that need to take a position on, will discuss at CARTF and what that looks like. One thing that came up is the need to codify the CFR Team and how to go about that. McDonald says she has been in several legislative meetings this week and one of the biggest concerns is the huge turnover in legislature as well as in JFAC. Some concern for the social issues and how that affects programs that help kids. Going to be a lot of education required around these topics.

CFR Team- Barton says have not heard directly from Weir but understand that we have a new analyst. Do feel strongly that the CFR Team needs to be codified and would like to see the blueprint of how the maternal team was able to do that. Because of turnover in so many places, getting harder and harder to get the records they need because always must establish new relationships. Meetings are laid out for next year, 3rd Friday of each month. Will be starting 2020 cases.

Grants- Peper reports we had a grant last cycle but did not award it. Peper shares grant spreadsheet showing all grants since 2019.

Review 2022 Accomplishments

Tabled until February 2023 meeting.

Group Norms and Expectations

Tachell discusses the norms and expectations when we have meetings. Things like being muted when not speaking, having camera on, etc... Also, have roles such as keeping notes, timekeeper and allotted amounts of time for each subject, facilitator, etc. Wickard says we are all very busy, volunteering our time, and so we want to be good stewards of the time. Take care of business and be on top of it.

Tachell shares draft of meeting norms. CARTF holds discussion.

We will begin following these norms starting in February 2023.

New Business

CARTF discusses the foster youth seat. It is open and on the website. Pittman says she knows a couple people and will reach out to them. York will do the same.

Pittman discusses the issues with reimbursement process and difficulty when it takes so long. Let's get it on the agenda for next month.

Vance has drafted the questions for the legal and judicial survey. The goal is to send out this survey to practitioners in child welfare law and get feedback on how they feel the system is working. Vance would like to send the link to CARTF and asks for feedback within 2 weeks. Its about 20 questions and measures perception.

Adjourn

Next meeting will be February 3, 2023. This will be a hybrid meeting.