



The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk  
October 4, 2024  
Boise, ID/ Hybrid

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

**Guests:** *Monty Prow, Dep Director, Child and Family Services, IDHW; Jean Fischer, Division Administrator, Youth Safety and Permanency, IDHW; Britt Miller, Program Specialist, Children and Family Services, IDHW*

### Meeting Purpose

Monthly meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk (CARTF) to discuss updates, review strategic goals, and hear presentations on child welfare initiatives.

### Key Takeaways

- Budget update provided - CARTF spent down nearly all of their \$59,000 budget for the previous grant cycle
- Two grant applications reviewed - one denied, one approved for \$5,000
- Department of Health and Welfare representatives provided updates on organizational changes and new child welfare prevention initiatives
- Task force reviewed progress on strategic goals related to supporting multidisciplinary teams (MDTs)

### Topics

#### Welcome and Minutes

- Motion to approve September 2024 minutes, as is, no changes. **Motion made by Robertson, seconded by Nalley, all in favor and so moved.**

## **Budget Update**

- CARTF spent nearly all of \$59,000 budget from previous grant cycle on grants, promotional items, etc.
- New tracking system being implemented to better monitor budget going forward
- Moving into new grant cycle with approximately \$135,000 available
- Motion to approve sending up to 6 CARTF task force members and spend up to \$15,000 for San Diego Child Maltreatment conference in January 2025. **Motion made by Wickard, seconded by Bradford, all in favor and so moved.**

## **Grant Reviews**

- Two grant applications reviewed:
  - Legacy Law Group request for \$5,000 denied due to lack of detail/clarity
  - Two Rivers United CAC request for \$5,000 approved to support new child advocacy center startup
- Motion made to deny Legacy Law Group grant funding based on subcommittee review and recommendations. **Motion made by Bringham, seconded by Wickard, all in favor and so moved.**
- Motion made to approve Two Rivers United CAC grant funding based on subcommittee review and recommendations. **Motion made by Wickard, seconded by Barton, all in favor and so moved.**

## **Department of Health and Welfare Updates**

- New organizational structure presented with focus on child welfare, family services, and community partnerships
- Goal to increase ratio of foster homes to foster children from 0.74 to 1.5
- Budget request includes funding for 36 new prevention-focused caseworkers

## **Family First Prevention Services Act Implementation**

- New initiative allows use of federal funds for in-home prevention services
- Focuses on keeping children safely at home through intensive case management and evidence-based services
- Currently have ~105 in-home prevention cases statewide
- Working to build capacity and implement new evidence-based programs

## Subcommittee Updates

- **Legislative**
  - The congregate care rule might be revisited, as the original intent was unclear in the way it was written.
  - The unintended consequences of decisions around parental authority in medical care could also resurface, given the pushback and associated challenges.
- **Conference-** team met and discussed promotional items for 2025 conference
- **CFRT**
  - **Meeting Recap:**
    - Reviewed deferred cases.
    - Set dates for 2025.
  - **New Potential Members:**
    - Jimmy Roberts (Coroner)
    - Torey Danner
  - **Strategic Planning Funding:**
    - Collaborating with the national organization for additional funding.
    - Seeking support and policy guidance before approaching legislators.
    - Anticipate challenges in requesting statutory authority and budget approval.
  - **Data Access:**
    - Identify a member with Medicaid data access.
    - Question raised by McDonald: Do CFRT members have access to juvenile records?
  - **Goals for Coroner Standardization:**
    - Aim to establish a consistent reporting system and rules for coroners across Idaho.
    - Expect discussions prompted by the recent OPE report and Audrey Dutton's three-part series.
- **MDT-** Peper send the MDT survey out to all CARTF for review- need ideas on how to distribute
- **Grants-** see above discussion
- **Strategic Planning-** not currently meeting; going to meet after first of year; focus on work that needs to be done for CFRT

## Strategic Goal Review

- Reviewed progress on goals related to supporting multidisciplinary teams (MDTs)
- On track with efforts like MDT survey, conference planning, grants to support MDTs

## **In Home Prevention Cases Presentation, Britt Miller**

- See attached presentation

## **Next Steps**

- **Plan for upcoming conference and future meeting topics**
  - **January 2025:**
    - State public defense system
    - MDT survey results
    - Topics and themes for OCT conference
    - Review strategy 2 and 3
  - **February 2025:**
    - San Diego conference report
    - Citizen Review Panels
    - Review strategy 4
    - Start planning June regional meeting
  - **March 2025:**
    - Meet with Two Rivers United CAC
- **Review additional strategic goals at future meetings**
- **Wickard to Email Shannon Romero to presenting on state public defender system in January, CC Mindy**
- **Send Mindy contact info for Idaho Victim Witness Association president**
- **After New Year, contact Two Rivers United CAC to presenting at Mar/Apr meeting**
- **Email reimbursement forms to meeting participants**