



CARTF

September 8, 2023

JCC Lewiston, ID

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Andie Blackwood- DHW, Family & Children Services
OPEN-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 Tachel– Educator (Vice-Chairman)
Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician
Stacy Pittman- Child Advocate Attorney
Hon. Steve Clark- Civil Magistrate Judge
OPEN- 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

Wickard welcomes everyone. CARTF reviews July 2023 minutes. McDonald makes a motion to approve July 2023 minutes as is, Sturgeon Freitas seconds, all in favor and so moved.

New CARTF candidates- Lena Biondolillo/ Kyle Bringhurst

CARTF discusses current candidates for our open seats—children with disabilities advocate and prosecutor. Discussion includes general discussion regarding length of term and how that depends on positions changing when members change positions within their careers. Blackwood states that may be a good idea for those who are coming from Ada County to check their biases and to be aware of how things are done differently throughout the state. All CARTF needs to understand the perspective of the entire state.

McDonald makes a motion to accept the Biondolillo nomination, Nalley seconds, all in favor and so moved.

McDonald makes motion to accept the Bringhurst nomination, Sturgeon Freitas seconds, all in favor and so moved.

IDJC Lewiston Presentation and Tour

JD Storm, District 1 and 2 Liaison; Scott Johnson Dep Director of Facility Operations; Adam Klappenbach, Clinical Supervisor for JCC

Scott Johnson introduces himself. He is deputy director of IDJC and oversees all three regions in Lewiston, Nampa, and St. Anthony. Johnson states that a few months ago they reached an all-time low for the IDJC population. They are planning some significant construction projects in all 3 facilities. In Lewiston, expanding the footprint to allow for IDHW to have up to 16 youth housed there. They are working to become a QRTP. In

Nampa they are creating an onsite laundry facility, expanding the kitchen, and remodeling the clinical site. And in St. Anthony they have started replacing the older style dorm cottages with new individual room cottages which helps with housing special need and sexual offenders.

Adam K states that they do not take kids from out of state unless they are out of state and commit a crime in Idaho and are committed here. IDJC came into being in 1995 and had about 950 kids. The population has shrunk to 150 and all the kids are in state facilities in Idaho. This is a nationwide phenomenon where numbers have come down. The question is why? Part of it is great community work, more effective county probation, routing funding to mental health resources, rule 19 changed things in how juveniles are screened, and the impact of assessment centers has made a difference. As the population has shrunk, the population is more concentrated. Today's juvenile cases are much more complicated, more trauma, more mental health issues. More complicated when these kids don't have homes to return to for various reasons. It complicates release for older juveniles. IDJC has become much more trauma-informed to meet the needs of the current population.

A couple new initiatives include EPIC which is to improve the effectiveness of treatment and to decrease the length of stay, looking to keep them for the right amount of time in treatment. Lots of data and research show they have diminishing returns as they approach 16 months and negative returns beyond that, showing increased recidivism rates. Also working to improve how they engage families while their juvenile is in treatment. They are training in the FAST assessment tool (Family Advocate Support Tool) to help facilitate the partnership between social worker and family and to discover the resources the family needs to improve the environment that they return to.

Adam shares with CARTF the typical day at JCC Lewiston. Day includes school, treatment groups, program classes, and physical activity.

Wickard shares his personal experience with IDJC. He asks how often kids stay at the JCC facilities versus being moved to other treatment centers and how is that decision made, such as the Patriot Center. Used to have contracts with Patriot Center and others, including Utah. Those contracts ended about 5 years ago and they now do not move juveniles out of the JCC's. They do a very good job with assessments to recognize issues, problems, needs and that includes autism. Adam touches on the peer model in St. Anthony and how that model works. CARTF is familiar with the model. Adam states that the model is a bit complicated when you have someone with autism. Johnson states that as of yesterday there are 8 juveniles in a contract facility, usually that is a transitional facility to help juveniles reintegrate.

Sturgeon Freitas asks about juvenile sex offenders and how that population is handled and what is the process for reintegration when they have offended on a sibling. Adam states that these offenders are sent to Nampa and St. Anthony. He states that they are doing clarification and that it does depend on the victim and obtaining counseling. This is often a complication because often those offenders cannot go home because the victim is still at home. Sometimes they turn 18 and go to a transition facility, sometimes they stay at JCC a little longer, sometimes they work with IDHW to find appropriate housing. Adam states the juvenile sex offenders do not usually recidivate and when they do it is usually not a sex offense.

Sturgeon Freitas asks about how the educational program blends into home school districts when juveniles return because the needed credit requirement is different—JCC follows the state guidelines whereas each school district sets their own graduation requirements, usually beyond what is required by the state. This becomes a challenge when juveniles are transitioning. Wickard states that it can be included with their IEP but can become complicated because some school districts don't want to do that.

Blackwood asks if they could talk more about the treatment they provide to the children in their care and how they integrate their families in that treatment process. Adam states that they get a lot of commitments, and the social worker continues to follow and coordinate with the family, they are the parent's primary point of contact. They also have individual staffings each month as well as family therapy as the juvenile prepares to leave. Adam says many times the families are often tired and fatigued with the process and they often try to meet the families where they are at.

Nalley states that assumptions she hears as a victim coordinator is that juveniles in St Anthony are not doing anything. Adam states that all three facilities have very similar programs in education, treatment, etc. They are busy all day and in some kind of program, treatment, positive interactions, and interventions, and so on.

LC Valley Youth Resource Center, Michelle King

Wickard welcomes King. King shares her background as a radio broadcast engineer and how she became involved with LCVYRC.

King states there are changes in the local area that they are trying to fill but also sees where there are systemic changes that are needed.

Their center covers Lewiston and Clarkston, but the state line does present challenges.

King states that suicide rates in Lewiston are three times higher than the state average. There are very few resources, and a lack of staff at the hospital to do assessment.

King covers their three programs- drop-in; Overnight; Safe Teen Assessment Center (STAC). The STAC team connects the kids and family to resources and to the

community. They also go into the schools. They currently do tier 1 screenings but recently received funding to start doing tier 2 screenings.

King states that obstacles for unaccompanied youth include not being able to register for school, not being able to secure documents for employment, and difficulty accessing their medical records.

The center's upcoming goals include tier 2 screening, establishing peer groups, and creating transitional housing for 18–20-year-olds.

San Diego International Conference- sending sub-committee

CARTF discusses the San Diego conference and who to send. Tabled until October 6, 2023, meeting. Need to bring numbers and cost to the meeting.

Nez Perce MDT

Glady Brewer, IDHW; Shane Vervain, IDHW- Region 2; Summer Overberg, IDHW District Manager; Sgt. Nick Eylar, Lewiston PD; Det. Zach Thomas, Lewiston PD; Amy Guier, Probation, Nez Perce County Juv. Services; Lyndsi Welch, Probation, Nez Perce County Juv. Services; Kim Neely, Program Manager, IDHW
Wickard welcomes the team.

Kim Neely states that there are five counties in District 2 and four of those have MDTs. Each MDT is a little different.

Nez Perce meets monthly. They focus is ongoing safety management of cases. They share information, discuss needs, risks, whose radar the cases are on, systemic issues, things that could be done differently or better, youth who are going back and forth between the two states, etc.

Work has drastically shifted from 15 years ago. The work is more complex, and families seem to remain at a high level of risk. Many of the cases are focused on substance abuse and untreated mental health. Many infants born are testing positive for substances. Neely states that there is a big difference between how Idaho and Washington do things.

Team states that if a baby tests positive they are charging and prosecuting the cases. Try to figure out high use or continued use cases. Gets sticky when they have lived 9 months in Clarkston but gives birth in Lewiston. The goal of the charges is to open doors to resources for the offender as well as a degree of accountability.

Wickard asks what housing is like in the area. Team reports that it is very expensive and limited. It is a struggle for the families in the area.

The team states that they feel the communication on the team is excellent and work they work well together. The team has a written and signed protocol.

The team states that they could use a refresher training course on MDT training and team building and changes needed.

Part of the juvenile justice council is working with the MDT and providing resources for training.

IDHW has a separate MDT that works with the tribe. The MDT meets each month to discuss those kids and families.

Team mentioned the training that Dr Cox has given in the past was very good and useful.

Subcommittee Updates

Grants- cycle is open, have not received any applications yet, closes Oct 5th and we review at the November meeting. Do a subscriber blast about the grants.

Publications- biggest project right now is partnering with Upper Valley CAC to create a statewide MDT video training, need to assign task force members to work on a subcommittee with other partners. Will make final selection/decision at October meeting.

We received our 82 NACC Red Books and have had 47 requests thus far.

The Care Enough to Call DVD is no longer in production and is now a streaming video linked on the U of I YouTube. I have sent the link out to everyone. You can also find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-Cojs52hG4>.

Conference- dates, venue, and conference app have been secured for 2024. Now tackling the ideas of topics, speakers, etc. Need to look at ways of reaching more people to market the conference.

Have been approached by Building Hope Today in partnering with them for our June Conference. They recently received a grant from the Department of Justice's Victims of Crime Act to plan, coordinate, and implement a statewide training program on behalf of the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance. It includes taking over their Safety & Resiliency Conference (previously known as "Two Days in June"). The training includes tracks for child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. There are usually 500 direct service providers/multidisciplinary team members in attendance. We will put them on the November agenda but beforehand, would like Tachell or the subcommittee to meet with them and get a feel of what they think a partnership will look like.

CFRT- tabled; meeting September 15

Briana Allen, DAG Region II Idaho Dept of Health and Welfare

Works actively with 3 counties in Region II and works with the other 2 counties when needed—they are smaller and have few cases. CARTF and Briana discuss how court is held and whether in person or by video and the advantages and disadvantages to each manner.

Briana discusses her background and what led her to law, CP, and Idaho.

She says they are currently processing about 44 cases in the region. Yes, small in numbers but they are the largest geographic region in Idaho so limited staff is driving hours and hours to get to a case.

The group discusses the new state public defender system and how it will affect a rural area like Region 2.

Region 2 challenges include travel, the ruralness of the county, also would be helpful if local prosecutors would take back shelter and adjudication hearings.

Clark asks if there have been many changes in the AG office. Allen says there have been a lot of changes and moving parts, but everything is settling in.

Lewiston CAC, Kim Neely

Have needed a CAC for a very long time. Neely met with Sonja Howerton, Scott Coleman, and others and discussed how to bring a CAC to the Lewiston area. Started a small committee, hosting region 2 Protecting Kids Symposium at the end of September and working to get buy-in from stakeholders.

Getting to the nearest CAC for Region 2 is CDA or Boise, 2 to 5 hours of driving to get there and to then do an interview with the child after a long drive is unrealistic. Lewiston is a good central location within region 2, about 1.5 hours from most locations in the 5 counties, and Lewiston has about 75% of the cases that come through.

The first-year goal is to start small, collect data, and see what the needs are. They have a very supportive hospital and pediatrician on the team and many people who recognize what needs to be done when a child has been sexually assaulted and the need for a quick timeframe.

McDonald states that there is a real need for proper interviews via a CAC to be able to follow through with the criminal cases and prosecution.

The goal is to have the CAC as a nonprofit and not state or county run.

New Business

May need a marketing working group. Perhaps add a social media aspect to CARTF. Will add this as a subtopic of new working groups in October.

Regarding LCVYRC guests, Blackwood had some corrections to the stats that were shared. Blackwood agrees that the child welfare system, not just CP, has problems, and it's important to be armed with the right data to rally around the issues. Blackwood said she would reach out with some more accurate data.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

~~June 12-13, Boise, Conference~~

~~July 21, virtual only~~

~~September 8, Lewiston/ hybrid~~

October 6, Boise/ hybrid

November 3, Boise/ hybrid