



CARTF

Via Zoom

January 8, 2021

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Michelle Weir- DHW, Family & Children Services
Dina Flores-Brewer-Children with Disabilities
Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD- Mental Health
Doug Giddings-Idaho County Sheriff
Melissa Osen- Foster Youth
James Curb – Homeless Education Liaison
Jill Robertson– Parent
Molly Vaughn– Victim Services Coordinator

Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)
Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician
Jennifer Bergin- 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

Mindy Peper – Task Force Support

ABSENT

Guests:

Welcome

Tachell welcomes everyone. CARTF reviews minutes. Rammell approves minutes with noted changes as discussed (Vaughn changes, Weir changes-change to group reflection; Freitas statement about kids going back to parents, needs to reflect they are given the opportunity to allow them the opportunity to reconcile). Vaughn seconds, all in favor and so approved.

Subcommittee Updates

Conference (Tachell, Robertson, Sturgeon Freitas): CARTF discussed some questions and issues regarding the registration, the descriptions, the breakouts, and the need for scholarships. Tachell will reach out to Roger Sherman about these questions. Weir reports that we are having a difficult time getting a local speaker on death investigations and so Barton is going to follow up with some national speakers and see if we can get someone. Peper needs to get the links and such from Sherman to put on our website.

Scholarship application needs some framework- eligibility, approval process, and deadlines. Lots to do and a very tight timeline. Need to have a subcommittee meeting with Weir, Kinzel, and Sherman.

Publications (Tachell, Brewer, Sturgeon Freitas): Peper is working on ordering new resources.

Grants (Barton, Weir, McDonald): Peper and Weir present the new grant information and application.

Child Fatality Review Team: Weir reports that yesterday the team wrapped up the 2018 fatality review cases and started on the annual report. One of the things they talked about regarding the report is to make the report less repetitive by making the overall recommendations but then drafting a letter to each group from

Wickard with specific recommendations to their discipline, which will also help build relationships with those professionals.

New CARTF Grant Application and Process

Peper and Weir present the new grant application and process. Sturgeon Freitas makes a motion that the CARTF grant subcommittee work, new application, cycle dates, and workflow are adopted as the new grant process going forward. Rammell seconds and all are in favor. Motion is so moved.

Review 3-year and Annual Strategies/ Legislative Update

CARTF discusses strategy number 2.

Goal 2 is in regards to reviewing and making recommendations on legislation that is related to abuse and neglect. Tachell states she doesn't feel there will be much revision. We may need to work more toward fulfilling this goal. Weir mentions that all the rules from last year were not authorized, they went into temp rule status. There could be some changes made in that process, particularly to the Families First Act (see November 2020 minutes). The new session is starting up. Weir discusses further some of those changes. Sturgeon Freitas asks about the Idaho Behavioral Health Counsel that is going to implement a statewide behavioral health plan which will have a youth and child piece. Suggested that perhaps we would want to hear from them and put that under this goal, strategy 3.

How we have met this goal since May 2019:

Strategy a- talked about once we completed our federal report that we would share that with the governor's office and use it more as a recommendation tool. Also, we should have Miren Unsworth come in February or March for legislative update. Weir will ask her if one of the upcoming meetings will work.

Strategy b- Weir asks if CARTF members get the Idaho Child Protective Act Proceedings Statues and Rules Mini Reference and if not, Weir can get copies for those who want it. Weir will bring some to the February meeting.

Strategy c- Peper look up date as to when last time OPE came and reported to CARTF. Peper will also add meeting with CRP to come and meet with CARTF and not add to Goal 1, strategy c.

Guest, Andi Blackwood from DHW Central Intake

Weir introduces. Blackwood is the program manager for Centralized Intake and Central Consult. Blackwood shares with CARTF that Central Intake receives all the allegations for neglect and abuse for the entire state, mostly by phone, but some faxes and emails. The concern is typed up in the system and then this is

prioritized, based on the information, which determines how fast a response is made. Some reports do not meet the guidelines, so that is also determined upon intake. They look at history when making decisions. It is fast-paced work. They are connected to several systems to help gather information. A vast majority of referrals come from places where children are more frequently seen- schools, doctor offices, extended family members. Central Intake also takes in other calls that are not related to abuse or neglect, such as inquiries from community who end up in different resources, or from out-of-state and in need of history on a case.

Data shows 50,562 inquiries for 2020 plus about 300 after hour calls—these are calls, not necessarily turned into reports. Of those, 21,500 intake reports resulted in a write-up of abuse or neglect being presented.

Central Intake did experience a bit of slow down right at the beginning of the state mandate shutdown in April. However, by the time summer rolled around, numbers were returning to “normal”. Other things they have noticed regarding intakes and working from home during COVID includes many more people calling from their home office and therefore they may not have complete demographic info for a child. Also, more after-hour calls as well as multiple reports in one call.

Bergin asks about the levels of priority for intake and how cases are assigned. Blackwood states there are four levels, 1-3 and Information. Priority 1 is highest priority- examples include a child under 7 with unexplained injuries, sexual abuse report with unrestricted access by potential abuser, drug positive babies, life-threatening neglect like medical neglect. On a priority 1, the safety worker is expected to respond immediately. With priority 1 and 2, they have to contact law enforcement. Law enforcement decides if they want to respond with the safety assessment worker.

Priority 2 is the next step down and examples include- older children who are a little less vulnerable, sexual abuse where we can ensure separation from the alleged abuser. The safety worker has to respond to the case within 24 hours and see the child within 48 hours.

Priority 3 is the bulk of calls and has to do with neglect, educational neglect, hazardous homes, medical neglect that doesn't put a child in immediate danger. Law enforcement is not necessarily contacted but can be. Worker is expected to respond within 3 days and see the child within 5 days.

Sturgeon Freitas asks if the overall numbers have gone up or down due to COVID, in comparison to 2019. Weir states that the numbers have ended up being within the normal- numbers are similar. Weir states that she linked in the chat the priority guidelines.

Bradford states they are often told to call 211. She asks is there a better number? Blackwood says it really is preference. Also, are there details she should share with her resident doctors that they should have when calling into make a report. Blackwood states demographic and contact info is great. Specifically, for medical providers, being clear about what specifically in the medical arena is of concern, such as how likely or how soon might this medical issue become life-threatening.

Tachell asks, as an educator, is there specific information that would help for them to pass along? Blackwood sates that again, demographic and contact info is good, as well as when did the school and/or SRO last get engaged with the family as well as how was the family engaged. Also, the child's level of functioning, such as developmental delays, anxiety, etc.

Blackwood talks about the newer developed central consult unit. This is new as of April 2019 and was a result of working with a contracted agency that helps government to streamline processes which included staff from all over the state as well as different levels of employees. The idea is to have a central number where a structured case consultation with the worker around the case and its details to receive direction and ensure that all elements that constitute the comprehensive safety assessment has been completed or if they cannot be completed (which is the exception, not the norm), why, and that it doesn't have an impact on the safety decision for the child. Blackwood shares an example. Part of the reasons for forming this structure and process was to help with the timeliness for assessment and correct decision-making. They are continually assessing the process to make sure they are not sacrificing quality for timeliness. So far this have shown to be timelier and more efficient as well as allows for sharing ideas, support, and not making decisions in isolation.

Tachell and Weir thanks Blackwood for her time and sharing her knowledge.

Update to New CARTF Nomination

Weir shares with CARTF about Madison Miles, who is a Deputy Attorney with Ada County. With Alana Miton moving to the Office of the Courts, Miles is moving into role as the DAG for DHW. It was recommended to reach out to Miles as the potential prosecuting attorney and she would bring a state perspective. We will soon have her letter of interest and resume and will have that as an action item in the near future.

Weir also speaks to the potential need of having a new role on the task force that would bring the state-level perspective from the Office of the Courts and discussion with CARTF on bringing that person on as a new member/role.

Peper will add this issue to the February agenda as an action item.

New Business

Weir updates CARTF on Executive Order and Appointments. Weir has spoken with Stover, who will investigate further into the update of the executive order (which is due this year) as well as the appointments. They spoke in late December.

Wickard asks if CARTF would be interested visiting with a parent of a child who recently came through the child protection system. CARTF agrees this would be great. Wickard and Peper will coordinate.

Next Meeting: February 5, 2021, location TBD

Upcoming Meetings/ Agendas (May 20 to April 21)

~~Plan future speakers- October~~

Suicide Prevention Council

Three-year CARTF strategies- November/January/ February/March- a goal a month- Peper write report to review in April.

~~Changes and ideas to publications and process- November~~

~~Deb Alsaker-Burke- June~~

~~Tabled grants and nominations~~

~~Central intake- Jan~~

YES- Feb

Foster youth panel- not during COVID

~~Citizen Review panel- October meeting, annual~~

CASA

Casey Program

~~INCAC- attending September meeting~~

~~Conference Update- Grossman or every other year~~

~~Appointments and Executive Order Updates~~

~~Approval of final CFRT annual report~~

~~Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center- March~~

Budget update and report

Legislative update

CFRT Update

Subcommittee updates (grants, conferences, publications)

What team members are seeing around the state

Standing agenda items.

Adjourn