



CARTF

March 1, 2024
Boise, ID/ Hyrid

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Andie Blackwood- DHW, Family & Children Services
(V)Lena Biondolillo- Children with Disabilities
Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD– Mental Health
Curtis Carper- Law Enforcement
(V) Maddi Aimes– Foster Youth
(V) James Curb – Homeless Education Liaison
Jill Robertson– Parent
Susan Nalley– Victim Services Coordinator

Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)
(V)Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician
OPEN- Child Advocate Attorney
(A)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

(V)Mindy Peper – Task Force Support

Indicates **Absent (A)** **Virtual (V)**

Meeting Purpose:

The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk regular monthly meeting

Key Takeaways

- The task force received an update on the coroner system and death investigations in Idaho from the Office of Performance Evaluations. Key findings included lack of oversight and standards for coroners, low autopsy rates compared to other states, and funding/resource disparities between counties.
- The survey subcommittee continues to develop a statewide MDT survey to gather information on current practices, challenges, and needs. The draft survey was reviewed and feedback provided during the meeting.
- Budget update provided based on latest numbers from DHW fiscal staff. Approximately \$64,000 remaining in current grant phase through October 2023. Discussion around being thoughtful in expenditures for rest of grant cycle.
- Central Intake is adapting call handling processes to manage high call volumes effectively and ensuring that the right individuals are reaching the department to generate meaningful reports.

Topics:

Welcome and Meeting Minutes

- Review meeting norms
- **Action Item: Approve February 2, 2024 minutes**

- **Moved by McDonald, 2nd by Rammell**
- **All in favor, so moved**

CFRT Annual Report, Tahna Barton

- Barton covers some key data from the draft of the annual report. Reports will be provided to task force members.
- **Action Item: Approve 50 full-color, nicely bound, professional copies of the annual CFRT report.**
 - **Moved by McDonald, 2nd by Rammell**
 - **All in favor, so moved**

OPE Presentation on Coroner System

- Idaho has a county coroner system with elected coroners and no state oversight. This is unlike many other states that have medical examiners, state boards, required education, etc.
- Autopsy rates in Idaho are very low compared to national averages and standards. Lack of access, high costs for rural counties, and discretion left solely to coroners contribute to this.
- Funding, salaries, access to resources/equipment vary greatly across counties leading to disparities in services.
- Several policy considerations proposed to improve oversight, standardization, autopsy rates, and funding.

MDT Survey Subcommittee Update

- Draft survey to gather info on MDT functioning and practices throughout the state reviewed.
- Plan to distribute to MDT coordinators in each county prosecutor's office.
- Feedback provided on survey content and structure. Suggestions made around follow-up interviews and adding contact willingness question.

Budget Update

- Approximately \$64,000 remaining in current grant phase (through October 2023).
- Expenditures upcoming for CFRT meetings, conference scholarships, etc. so will need to be thoughtful about remaining budget.
- Monthly budget reports from DHW fiscal staff to provide increased visibility into expenditures.

IDHW, Central Intake, Janet Fletcher

- Unit has had success in achieving optimal staffing levels and managing call abandonment rates while also acknowledging ongoing challenges, particularly with law enforcement calls during emergency situations.

- Cases involving children who may be at risk, such as those returning home after being remotely trafficked, remain a priority for the department. These cases are treated with urgency, even if they are not considered emergencies at the moment.
- Guardianship cases present challenges due to the complexity of the process and the limited time available for investigations. There is a need for more time to gather detailed information for court orders.
- The unit has taken on additional responsibilities related to tracking and reporting cases of missing foster children. This task involves filing reports with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to ensure that these cases are properly documented and addressed.

New Business

- Chairman Wickard announces that he will be stepping down as chair. CARTF will hold nominations and vote for new chair person during the April 2024 meeting.

Next Steps:

- Barton share final child fatality review annual report and discuss potential areas for further analysis
- Finalize MDT survey content and distribute to coordinators
- Peper to develop rough numbers on typical costs (meetings, grants, etc.) to inform future budget planning
- Peper to add budget discussion as standing agenda item going forward
- Follow up on printing and distribution of child fatality review annual report
- Continue MOU discussions regarding conference scholarships
- Discuss task force chair position transition at next meeting