



CARTF

Virtual

November 5, 2021

## MINUTES

**Joshua Wickard**- Public Defender (Chairman)  
**Michelle Weir**- DHW, Family & Children Services  
**OPEN**-Children with Disabilities Representative  
**Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD**- Mental Health  
**OPEN**- Law Enforcement Representative  
**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  
**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

### ABSENT

Guests: Ruth York, IFF; Amy McCormack and Sonja Howerton, INCAC; Teresa Vance, Administrator of the Courts

## Welcome

Wickard welcomes everyone. Wickard welcomes Ruth York and Teresa Vance who are looking to fill two open positions on CARTF. Peper will send them reports, executive order, etc.

CARTF reviews the October 2021 minutes. McDonald makes a motion to approve the minutes with minor noted changes, Curb seconds, all in favor and so moved.

## INCAC

McCormack shares her position as program director at INCAC. Howerton is the new Executive Director. McCormack reports that INCAC is now their own fiscal agent and have their own 501c3. Additionally, they have also started to diversify their board as well as added an accountant to the staff. They have increased forensic training from 3 days to 4 days based on survey feedback. INCAC is housed in Faces of Hope offices.

Howerton says she is excited to join INCAC and hear about all the amazing things the CAC's throughout Idaho are doing. They are looking to grow as a 501c3 and expand what they can offer in training, forensic services, and network support to CACs and MDTs throughout the state.

Howerton reports of the 7 CACs, 5 are fully accredited and 2 are partially accredited and moving toward full accreditation. The two that are developing are in Sandpoint and Coeur d' Alene. The INCAC is also accredited and must go through the process every 5 years. INCAC must meet 6 different standards, documentation review, site visit, and so on to be accredited.

Initiatives to grow include opportunities for engaging with more professionals in the child protection arena. They want to help support advocates and grow their resources. They also hold an annual conference in September, and they would like to expand that so that they can go to multiple sites throughout the state, which would include workshops for MDTs. Additionally, they have reached out to IDHW to help strengthen that relationship.

McCormack note that their funding comes from DOJ which has put a ban on travel funds, so Howerton worked to make sure the state CACs have OWLs for virtual meetings and monthly trainings.

CACs are in Rigby, Pocatello, Boise, Nampa, CDA, Sandpoint, and Twin Falls. They are also looking at developing CACs in Burley and Kellogg. Howerton notes that they have mobile CACs in Rigby and Boise. In the mobile units they can do interviews, exams, and victim advocacy. Boise will have theirs up and running by end of this year and will visit areas that are rural and do not have a CAC.

The next training is in September and it will be co-hosted by several CACs and tethered by virtual conferencing. They are focused on Lewiston as the center of the training because it is an area of the state with a gap in services. Then they would also have in-person training sites in a couple other areas and bring everything together with virtual conferencing.

Tachell asks Howerton and McCormack who their conference speakers were. They are using couple speakers from FBI. They are a free training resource. Topics include understanding the child abuse perpetrator as well as child abduction and sexual assault. Also had Adam Cochran at the last conference and Jim Sears out of Texas as well. Howerton will send conference speakers and topics and ideas to Tachell. CARTF would like to explore continued partnership in our annual conference.

McDonald shares her thoughts on the Lewiston area, the lack of services, etc. She states that she is happy to be a resource and point of contact for the area regarding a new CAC.

Bradford mentions that her practice has been approved through family medicine residency to be a pediatric residency which will help to provide more pediatricians in rural areas and within family practices in communities.

CARTF discusses various opportunities for conference partnerships and sponsorships, defining what those look like. The conference subcommittee will discuss all these ideas.

### **Bylaw Update/ Changes**

Peper reviews the changes made to the bylaws by the subcommittee. CARTF discusses changes. Need to address in the Selection Criteria or Roles and Responsibilities something regarding fulfilling roles of task force members. Potentially something like, "If the position of taskforce members becomes vacant because of

removal or resignation, a replacement to serve the role will be recruited and shall be selected at a future regular meeting of the Task Force.”

Curb suggests we may need language that speaks to expired members who are waiting for re-appointment. Wickard is going to reach out to our federal partner and get some guidance on the situation CARTF like so many boards find themselves in with expired appointments or appointments waiting for approval.

Clark asks if the bylaws need to speak to how we interact with the CFR Team. CARTF discusses this point. Wickard states if we do, it should be a separate section, like 4.0. Perhaps add something like CARTF oversees the CFRT and appoints members chair, and vice-chair, funding, etc.

Peper will set up another bylaw subcommittee meeting to discuss these issues.

Vote on bylaws is tabled until bylaws subcommittee can meet again.

Peper will update membership list as well and send to Weir.

### **Cycle Two Grants- Review and Award Decisions**

CARTF discusses each grant and subcommittee score sheet. It should be noted that the subcommittee was very close in thought on each grant. Score sheets reflect collective comments and the average scores. CARTF did verify that each of these applicants qualify for funding regarding the “\$9999.99 in four years” cap.

#### *Building Hope Today- request for \$9997*

Total points- 56.66, Excellent category

The subcommittee recommends that the grant be approved but not for more than \$5000 as this is the funding cap for our grants.

-McDonald makes a motion to fund the Building Hope Today grant for \$5000, Tachell seconds, all in favor and none opposed.

#### *Bright Tomorrows- request for \$1330*

Total points 38.66, Adequate category.

The subcommittee recommends that the grant be approved.

CARTF discusses the grant. Freitas shares more about EMDR therapy and training. Would be helpful for the grantee to provide information about training and registration handouts when requesting funds for training. Would like to know who they are doing the training with and have they considered a non-profit route.

-Vance makes a motion to approve this grant for \$1330 with the condition that they provide more information on the training, Clark seconds, all in favor and one (Freitas) opposed.

#### *City of Twin Falls PD- request for \$1956*

Total points 28, Minimum category.

Subcommittee does not recommend this grant for funding. We will provide feedback for improvement and recommend that they apply in the next cycle.

-Bradford moves that CARTF does not fund the Twin Falls PD grant due to lack of information, Tachell seconds, all in favor, none opposed.

*City of Nampa Police Department- request for \$4975*

Total points 39.66, Adequate category.

Subcommittee recommends funding this grant with more condition of providing more details. CARTF discusses grant application. Lack specific details. Looks like a worthwhile training but needs more details, objectives, budget breakdown. Seems that the scope will have a good impact on the rest of the team and department. CARTF would like to have one of the CART members come back and share with us.

-Tachell makes a motion to fund this grant with the condition that one of their members visits with CARTF about what they learn at the conference, Freitas seconds, all in favor and none opposed.

*Family Advocates 4<sup>th</sup> Jud. Dist. CASA- request for \$4958*

Total points 49.5, Excellent category.

Note that Barton abstained from scoring this grant due to conflict of interest. CARTF discusses grant application Subcommittee recommends funding this grant less the \$700 for recognition and possibly reducing the CLE fees. More detail on how the project connects to CARTF priorities would be helpful. This was the only grant that submitted measurable SMART goals. Budget had some concerns such as participation recognition, CLE fees, and marketing. Also wonder how they plan to sustain this if it is to be an ongoing annual conference. York makes a point that we need to balance the number of hours it will take to fill out a grant vs the amount of money potentially available.

-Curb makes a motion to fund this grant for \$3058 (minus recognition and CLE fees), Clark seconds, all in favor and none opposed.

McDonald asks CARTF how they feel about today's process. Wickard notes he feels it is effective and efficient, seems more objective and fairer. Tachell feels this is a smart idea to flesh out the application a little more and give more guidance to applicant. She feels it was more efficient. Clark says he feels more objective and notes that all applicants should be treated equally and fairly.

Peper will send letters to grantees indicating approval or denial as well as feedback on strengths and weaknesses of their applications, reporting requirements and any special conditions.

**CARTF Vacancies**

CARTF tables this until we have more information and movement on the Executive Order and understand what is happening with appointments as well as get more direction from our federal partners.

## **Idaho Sheriff's Association Conference**

Peper explains the increase in price for sitting one day at the Idaho Sheriffs Association conference. CARTF discusses. McDonald makes a motion that CARTF does not pay the business association or exhibitor fee at the Idaho Sheriff's Association winter 2021 conference. Tachell seconds, all in favor and none opposed.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

Publications- CARTF thinking about putting together a quarterly newsletter. Peper and Vance will work on this together.

CFRT- Weir reports that the team met on the 4<sup>th</sup> in a business meeting. Last two reviews had been canceled due to COVID and Critical Standard of Care. They are only a couple reviews behind, suicides/homicides and SUIDs. Team made dates to meet three times over December and January to cover these reviews.

Conference- Peper gave an update from the 10/15 subcommittee meeting.

## **Strategy #1 Review**

Goal 1, strategy E, collecting information and assess MDTs—are they meeting, how often, what are their needs, strengths, weaknesses, etc. CARTF wonders if we want to keep this in the strategy and how do we go about fulfilling this strategy or do we want to remove this from our plan. Curb mentions that never in 25 years has he heard about CARTF visiting MDTs up north and he isn't sure that they are aware that is a possibility. McDonald notes that it would be good to put a face to our name, making the connection with MDTs more personal. Perhaps CARTF members in their area can go and visit with MDTs in person. Tachell mentions another idea might be to have a breakout that brings MDTs to the table in a conversation with CARTF. Weir mentions examples of strategies from federal includes establishing or enhancing child advocacy centers and other multidisciplinary programs to serve child victims and their families in order to minimize trauma. Curb mentions part of the challenge would be what do we bring to the table when visiting with the MDTs. Clark mentions he thinks most MDTs would be receptive as long as we portray ourselves as an asset rather than someone who will take over. What resources do we bring to the MDT? Grant funds, knowledge of upcoming trainings, website and free resources, and then just building a contact with them for resources. Maybe we need to rewrite this goal to something like CARTF task force members will meet with X number of MDTs each year. Weir explains what Idaho code defines as an MDT.

Need to change statute to 16-1617.

Peper will add this to January agenda to discuss removing 1E and revamping A-D.

## **ISPA Conference Outcomes**

Peper reports the conference went virtual and had two hours over the two days in breakout rooms. Met with 8 people and did see a small uptick in resource orders and subscriptions to our website.

## **Winter Planning**

November (virtual)- start strategy review, review and decide on Cycle 2 grant applications; subcommittee updates; action item to include vacancies; bylaws; INCAC-Amy McCormack.

January (virtual)- update from Robertson and Curb about McKinney-Vento conference; Roger Sherman and Children's Trust fund; strategy 2 and revisit Goal 2, Weir will look into inviting Citizen Review Panel; legislative update; bylaws; update on executive orders and appointments and vacancies.

February (virtual)- McDonald update on probation services and protocol on children who disclose when in custody, victim compensation discussion; strategy 3; legislative update; frontline social worker perspective

March- Weir will invite foster youth advisory panel; Wickard will invite a former parent involved with foster system and reunification.

## **New Business**

Peper will email 2022 meeting dates and book hotel.

## **Adjourn**

**Next meeting will be January 7, 2022. This will be virtual.**