



CARTF
July 21, 2023

ZOOM

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 Tachell- 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

Tachell welcomes everyone and opens the meeting with reading through our meeting expectations. Wickard welcomes our guest, Lena Biondolillo. CARTF reviews meeting minutes with noted change- Pittman moves to approve May 2023 minutes, McDonald seconds, all in favor and so moved.

New CARTF candidate- Lena Biondolillo

Lena Biondolillo introduces herself. Task force introduces self. Task force and Lena take time to ask questions and understand what the task force does. Biondolillo discusses what she has done as a clinician over the years and recently, who and what ages she works with.

Natalece Washington- NACC

Wickard welcomes Washington and CARTF introduces self. Washington will provide a power point presentation to Peper to share with the task force. Washington works to make sure state law and policy provides legal counsel for all children in the system. Washington covers what NACC is and what they do- shaping policy, guides for practice standards, encouraging each state to have counsel for kids, help states with Title IV-E funding for legal representation, and engaging lived experience experts.

Wickard discusses how state public defense system is moving from the county level to a state level, which may make accessing the Title IV-E easier, including making it easier to contract and understand how much time and money is spent on child representation cases. Washington advocates for a centralized office to oversee the public defense system in each state and is encouraged about this happening in Idaho. They have several resources to help with the change.

Washington shares a map of what states have in regard to a child's right to legal counsel. Idaho has limited access for children—mandated for 12 and up but not for

children under 11. Washington discusses in depth the way legal counsel works in Idaho for children. She defines what client-directed advocacy (when everyone is represented by legal counsel- parents, state, children, etc) vs GAL directed advocacy. Washington covers the qualitative data that shows that young people want to be heard, want to be part of the process and hearings, and want to be told what is happening in the court case. There is a push to incorporate the voices of the kids. Research is showing that it is increasing reunification in kinship, expedited permanency, decreases placement changes, re-entry to foster care, reduces costs, and more. There are several costs of long-term foster care stays and this should be considered when discussing what model to use regarding legal counsel for kids.

Title IV-E funds can support counsel for all kids, but Idaho is not drawing down those funds yet. Likewise past and present Executive Branch supports counsel for kids. Federal funding blocks that can support counsel for kids includes TANF, STOP, VOCA, and more.

Open Meeting Laws in Idaho- training

CARTF reviews open meeting law videos as provided by Idaho Public Television. We will continue this training in October.

CJA Grant Meeting Update, Joshua Wickard

Wickard attended the CJA meeting in Baltimore. It was the first time they had everyone in person since COVID. People were reconnecting after being virtual the last few years as well as there was a lot of discussion around the Indian Child Welfare Act—discussion surrounding how that was going to work.

Racial disparity was again a topic this year- how it has affected systems and the creation of systems around that topic. In being paired with states in our region, such as Utah, found less of a discussion and less of an issue for our region.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the reporting of this issue as well- annual reports, 3-year report, etc. Would be beneficial for the CARTF coordinator to be at the CJA meeting.

Idaho receives similar amounts as Hawaii, North Dakota, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Helpful to hear what they do with their conferences. West Virginia puts on a massive conference- most of their money goes toward that. Another state does the same topic every year instead of coming up with a new topic each year. Always interesting to hear about what ideas they are tackling in each state.

The two biggest takeaways he came away with were, 1) the vastness and variety of what the task force can do with the money is amazing- everything from mandatory training to developing an app to funding staff people at department levels. And 2) Idaho is doing pretty good and doing a lot of good things in our state compared to others such as task force stability, reunification rates, good training, and so on.

New Business

NACC Red Book Update- the books have finally arrived. Peper went to the warehouse yesterday and put stickers in each book. The form to order the books will go live Monday.

Conference debrief- Wickard thanks the conference subcommittee for the June conference. Second day was well received. We had comments that they would like to shorten the breakouts and repeat a third time. We could use some help on the subcommittees. Some negative comments that the law enforcement piece was missing in the panel and breakouts.

Meetings with Karla- Peper will be meeting with Karla and Kat every month to stay on top of what CARTF is doing.

Vance reports that OPE has announced that they are doing a follow-up study of child protection to see if they are following up on the previous recommendations. They are also interviewing stakeholders. More information and further involvement at <https://opechildprotectionstudy.com/>.

Vance says she has put the legal and judicial study into a report and will share soon.

Vance reports that the federal review of child protection cases will happen in the second week of August. The feds will review 60 cases from throughout the state and the result will probably be a new performance improvement plan. In November 2023 or January 2024, we will want to hear from Blackwood regarding results of federal review, performance improvement plan, and how that may be reflected in our 3-year report and strategies.

Pittman states that next April the Child Protection section of ISB will be holding a conference on ICWA.

Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

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

~~July 21, virtual only~~

September 8, Lewiston/ hybrid

October 6, Boise/ hybrid

November 3, Boise/ hybrid