



CARTF

Virtual

February 4, 2022

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Michelle Weir- DHW, Family & Children Services
Ruth York-Children with Disabilities Representative
Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD– Mental Health
Curtis Carper- 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

Indicates **ABSENT**

Guests: Roger Sherman, Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Welcome

Wickard welcomes everyone. CARTF reviews the January 2022 minutes. Tachell makes a motion to approve the minutes, Rammell seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Guest, Roger Sherman, ICTF

Wickard welcomes Sherman. He reports this week HCR29 came before the house and was initiated by the Idaho Resilience Project. It is a resolution and is focused on ACEs and trauma informed care and services, organizations recognizing the impact of trauma and working toward intervention. It passed out of committee and passed the house floor 41-25. It comes up in Senate tomorrow. It is to encourage education around ACEs and recognize positive child experiences.

ICTF board met last week, and they funded several more organizations than usual due to having some American rescue Act money. The funded groups in every region of the state. They received 17 grant requests in total.

The SFTI training is March 29-30. Registration is open on the website. The keynote is a professor from John Hopkins University who has helped develop the concept of positive child experiences as antidote to ACEs. This will be in person.

Sherman talks about the Idaho Resilience Project, made up of about 80 groups throughout the state. They are looking for people who would like to be part of the steering committees in each region and if any CARTF members would be interested to please reach out to Sherman. The Resilient Idaho documentary held a 3-part resilience training via Idaho Public Television that offered CEU's and wrapped up in November.

<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/specials/resilience/>

Idaho Child Abuse Prevention month is coming up and Sherman discusses some of the ideas around that.

CARTF discusses what the opposition was to HRC29, leading to a discussion on how the traumatic history of both a child and parent affects the functioning of a family, and how important it is to use assessments to get appropriate services and resources for the families. Sherman notes that part of the work that they are doing with pediatricians and family doctors is creating a patient-centered design and process working with health professionals who see the early stages of ACEs and can engage and create supportive environments early on. York notes some of the criticism of parents while working through the YES system. She appreciates the discussion and different perspectives of the group. She says there seems to be so much blaming on both parts, children and parents, and there instead needs to be a mindset shift that moves to being we understand trauma in both youth and parents and we need to focus on the trauma of both. Rammell mentions that one of the issues that we need to get to is the why people are doing what they do, not so much what they are doing—get to the root cause of these issues. Weir notes that in the larger system, blaming is unfortunately part of the nature of the problem, and so early invention and education is so important. And to hold people accountable and provide a service, unfortunately that means you have to find a problem and who needs to be held accountable. Instead of placing blame they try to see what the triggers are, what is creating the friction, and what services can be added to help the family move past it. An example of this is the quick response team that can move quickly in providing for current needs to help divert a family from breaking apart. Freitas say it is so important to honor the trauma and ACEs as an explanation and not a justification. They do need to still become the best person they can, despite the trauma, but understanding the trauma helps understand the issues that undermine safe family structure. It doesn't justify actions but helps understand how to intervene. York mentions what if there was a staff member outside of CPS that helps the parent understand the process and have the support surrounding them. Sherman mentions that Washington is doing that very thing. Weir says that they are working with Child Protection committee and have met with Washington as well as looking at different models for parent-mentor systems.

Sherman shares new report from Optum Idaho:

https://www.optumidaho.com/content/dam/ops-optidaho/idaho/docs/about-us/FINAL_Optum%20Idaho_ACEs%20Case%20Study_web.pdf

Also: <https://idahochildrenstrustfund.org/resources-research/aces-learning-collaborative/>

Tachell notes that over the years the shift from what's wrong with this kid to what's happened to this kid has been a positive change in education. Sherman says over the last few years there has been an effort to get child welfare systems to rethink and reimagine themselves as a child well-being system. It is a struggle on how to figure out the best interest and best outcomes for families and kids. But it's good to have these conversations.

Subcommittee Updates

Publications: Peper updates the group that she has upgraded the WIX account (website) and sent out our first email campaign for the new grant cycle. We had a very high click and open rate, well above national averages. Will also use the marketing campaigns to start sending out quarterly newsletters.

Grants: Peper states that Cycle one 2022 opened February 1. She says notices have been sent out to our contacts. Regarding Cycle One 2021, final reports were due January 31. We received the INCAC report (sent out to CARTF on December 20). Elmore County has had significant delays and sent us an email explaining (attached here). Cycle Two 2021 final reports are not due until July 31. All of these reports will also be in the CARTF binders by March.

Conference: conference committee met Jan 21 and will meet again Feb 18. Peper reports they have made significant headway on day 2, a virtual day focused on the topic of child trafficking. Working on several leads for speakers, both national and local. Peper and Tachell have worked on the requirements for getting a speaker via the NHTTAC and have reached out to Det Benson at Nampa PD. Wickard shares another potential local contact for speaking on the virtual day, Paula Barthelmess, who has worked with Det. Benson on several cases as well.

Regarding day 1, we are still working on ideas. Peper has contacted some potential leads for the theme "A Day in the Life of A CP Case", if that is the direction we go.

Bylaws: Weir states the governor's office said that we do not have to send the bylaws to them for approval if we are operating within the executive order.

Legislative: Do we want to form a committee around this, per the ideas brought up in the January meeting? This may help with making legislative recommendations. McDonald, Vance, Freitas, York, and Miles would like to be on this subcommittee. This may also help with our CFR Team in statute which would help that group get access to reports that can otherwise be difficult.

CFRT: Weir reports that the team met January 26 and that wrapped up the 2019 cases. They do continue to see some issues with a coroner and also coding things wrong. Smutney is working on the annual report as well as an updated template. Weir talk about the IDHW internal child reviews and asked if any of the CFR Team would like to work on those. IDHW also reviews some near fatalities. There may be some opportunity here to combine the groups and lead to recommendations and policy changes.

CFR Team Nomination

CARTF discusses resume and nomination for Kourtnei Ball for appointment to CFR Team. Rammell makes a motion to appoint Ball to CFR Team, Clark seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Revisit Strategy 1E

New wording will be “Foster relationships with and support county MDTs and regional CACs through site visits by task force members, periodic updates from MDTs and CACs at task force meetings and facilitating training through grants and conferences”. CARTF discusses wording. CARTF agrees to the new language. Peper will make the changes.

Legislative Update

Weir shares about some bills regarding parental rights, HB496 being one of them. It is in the Ways and Means committee. It is looking at making changes to the powers and duties of IDHW. It includes elements that state parents will have the right to refusal of entry into home without warrant or court order, refusal of answering questions and doing interviews with court order, and right to hire attorney. This makes some significant changes to the department and how they do their job. This will also make investigating educational neglect more difficult.

Another bill, SB1621, intention is to add comprehensive plan to protect kids from pornographic or harmful material.

Several juvenile justice bills HB451, 452, 500, and 452.

HB456 is related to medical consent.

IDHW brought forward some rule changes that is related to the extension of the age of independent living services for foster kids up to the age 23.

Monday is Foster Care Awareness Day and the legislators will talk about foster care and celebrate foster care. Citizen Review Panels will also do some presentations and then at 2:30 there will be a legislative oversight review committee meeting. Weir will send Peper the link to register and Peper will share with CARTF. Here is the agenda and link to join the Child Protective Legislative Oversight Committee meeting Monday https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2021/interim/220207_cplo_0230PM-Agenda.pdf

There has been a request for 21 additional social workers, an increase to foster care payments, and other increases to services.

Madison talks about the licensing of children’s agencies and homes would move over to DOPL- Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing. It is a multi-year project to move all of state licensing’s under one roof.

Strategy 3

Change 3c- correction to word committee.

CARTF discusses 3a. Discussion evolves around striking this strategy, tabling it for a few years, and changing the language to say “identify” instead of recognizing. An alternative to this would be to spotlight stakeholders in a newsletter. Decision is to strike a.

Keep b and c with noted changes to c.

Work on wording of d. CARTF discusses collaboration with the CP committee in this strategy. Vance suggests change to share research-based finding regarding court-related trauma; collaborate on resources, etc. Do we need a research project focused on court-related trauma on children? Weir mentions the videos we currently have that prepare youth for court could be part of the activities in this strategy and could be updated. Wickard suggests, “Collaborate with the Supreme Court- Court Improvement Program to research the impact of court and foster care related trauma to children”. Could we do an RFP to get some research done around this idea. Weir says if it is with the university, it is just a matter of having a discussion to see if they would be interested, then ask for a proposal and then do a contract. Weir says would be helpful to have some CARTF members to come up with ideas and then IDHW would contract with them on behalf of the task force. Weir will reach out to start the conversation and loop in Wickard as necessary.

Keep e and f as is.

Do we need to add any new strategies? Weir asks if we need to include the child protection section of the Idaho bar into this strategy somehow. CARTF discusses this-- support continuing education of attorneys and social workers in the child protection arena. No changes now but CARTF wants to continue discussion on this specific idea as well as how to work with the child protection section of the bar.

Executive Order/ Vacancies Update

We now have an executive order. There were some minor tweaks made to the new one. They added that we will make a report to them each year, by June 1. We will use our May annual report and annual CFR team report. The next step will be to get all of the appointments together and send to the governor’s office.

Winter/ Spring Planning

January (virtual)- update from Robertson and Curb about McKinney-Vento conference; annual conference discussion; strategy 2 and revisit Goal 2; legislative update; bylaws; update on executive orders and appointments and vacancies.

February (virtual)- strategy 3; legislative update; frontline social worker perspective; Roger Sherman from ICTF; subcommittee updates

March- Weir and Peper will invite CRP; strategy 4; legislative update; subcommittee updates

April- Wickard will invite a former parent involved with foster system and reunification; legislative update; annual conference; Weir will invite a social worker; CFRT Annual Report

May- McDonald update on probation services and protocol on children who disclose when in custody, victim compensation discussion; grant cycle one decisions; annual conference; CARTF Annual Report; Court Improvement update;

New Business

Adjourn

Next meeting will be March 4, 2022. This will be a hybrid meeting.