



CARTF

SpringHill Suites, Boise

June 4, 2021

MINUTES

Joshua Wickard- Public Defender (Chairman)
Michelle Weir- DHW, Family & Children Services
OPEN-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
Madison Miles- Prosecuting Attorney
Tahna Barton – CASA
Hon. Mark Rammell- Criminal Magistrate Judge
Nadine McDonald – Juvenile Justice
Alana Minton- Administrator of the Courts

Mindy Peper – Task Force Support

ABSENT

Guests: Heather Cunningham, Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance; Miren Unsworth, IDHW

Welcome

Wickard welcomes everyone.

CARTF reviews the May 2021 minutes. Minton makes a motion to approve the minutes with minor noted changes, Giddings seconds, all in favor and so moved.

Guest, Miren Unsworth, IDHW

Wickard welcomes Unsworth. Unsworth covers top priorities for CFS. One of those priorities include extending foster care to age 21. Before fully launching, they must have an approved state plan that will go to federal partners, eventually leading to federal funds being pulled down to the state.

On Family First issues, DHW has offered subgrants of \$10,000 to those residential programs seeking QRTP accreditation. Four facilities have accepted those sub grants thus far. They are working to meet the provisions by October 1. Two of the facilities are in northern Idaho, one in Pocatello, and one in Emmett.

Also, related to Family First, they are working on provisions to create in-home work that will help prevent all cases from needing to move to foster care. Creating infrastructure to support those in-home cases. Would like 3 evidence-based providers in each hub throughout the state to contract with DHW.

Lately, been very challenged in staffing issues. Looking for creative ways to help overcome this issue. It is all hands-on deck for everyone, in every region. Wickard discusses how he wonders if this unfavorable situation is a good time to make the process better for all stakeholders. How can we evolve the system while still meeting all the obligations that have to be met?

Unsworth mentions that they have brought Alsaker-Burke on board as a recruiter and will hire a full-time recruiter soon. Also, filling the holes they can—while can't hire social workers as quickly they can more readily hire PSR workers to help support the social workers. Also looking at more regular consultations to look at what it takes to get a kid home when safe. Wickard mentions that there seems to be a bit of a disconnect between the policy to move that way versus the practice of it. What can CARTF do to support this? Help with recruitment, help with input on the process, etc...

CARTF discusses what is behind the increased number of referrals. Thoughts are that it could be partly due to increase in population.

Unsworth mentions a new OPE on neglect will be out soon. In part, the report covers how Idaho defines neglect versus other states. For instance, how long IDHW keeps history on prior referrals and unsubstantiated findings and how long to retain and use that information when new referrals are made.

Unsworth announces that effective June 14 she will step into the Deputy Director position over IDHW.

Wickard asks if there is a way to incentivize for kids to stay connected to CFS a little longer after aging out to help them with a better start into adulthood. Couple ideas that Unsworth shares includes a mentor program and a supervised living situation that helps them live on their own yet has some accountability and support. Also, a young person doesn't have to make a decision at 18 to exit but if they do and want to come back a little later, they can and CFS can help them.

Clark asks how Idaho compares to other states for compensation for social workers. State tries to hire at 80% wage and for those with a bachelor's degree they are making about \$25 an hour plus great benefits. It is competitive wage but even more competitive at the master's degree level. Another piece of that is to not just recruit but also to retain. The message that IDHW is a great place for a long-term career has not been readily shared. Rather the message has been more that working child protection at IDHW is a great training ground and exposure for all spectrums of delivery of health and human services. Changing that perspective may benefit retention.

Subcommittee Updates

Grants-

Conference- no new updates

CFR Team- no new updates

Publications- no new updates

Guest, Heather Cunningham

Cunningham presents. PowerPoint sent to CARTF.

Cunningham shares her background and how she is looking at ways to reach out to partners to monitor services and programs for crime victims as well as reviewing resources for efficient use. The mission of ICDVVA includes adults as well as children.

Budget includes 96% in federal funds (mostly VOCA funds) and 94% goes back out to any one of 44 programs that they help fund. VOCA funds are slowly dwindling, nationwide. By SFY 2023 they will have less money for helping victims. There is a senate bill to try and fix victim funding model, but it hasn't been taken up yet. The way it will impact the state will include layoffs of counselors and social workers throughout various regions in the state. Need to fix the state funding formula to better match the number of cases and crime rate and victimization. Hope to make these rule changes by 2023.

Cunningham discusses where CARTF and ICDVVA strategies overlap.

- June Idaho Safety and Resilience Conference/ training- they have a planning committee if CARTF would like to be involved;
- Review legislation and make suggestions to governor and other appropriate entities; would be best to collaborate;
- Goal 3, a, b, and d- regional roundtables, annual conference, website;
- A clearinghouse for all the data out there on victimization; collaborate data collecting agencies;
- Collaborate with other agencies serving victims;
- Collaborate prevention and victimization partners together

CARTF discusses the lower numbers served coming from District 2 CASA. McDonald mentions that the remoteness and large geographical area with low CASA staff numbers impacts the number of people they can serve. Cunningham states that the number is also reported differently in District 2. Barton wonders if looking at the number appointed and the number served by a volunteer (vs by a CASA staff member) differs from each region. Also, of the 7 CASA programs, 5 use one data tracking system whereas 2 others use a different data tracking system.

Wickard thanks Cunningham and looks forward to finding ways to pull resources and work together.

Fall 2021

September 10- Invite OPE; start work on bylaws- overview and then form a bylaw subcommittee; conference discussion; filling of vacant positions on CARTF (Ruth York); door prize for ISPA; budget update and sponsorship levels for outside training/conferences (SFTI/ICTF); grant updates

October- Invite Citizen Review Panel; continue work on bylaws; October 2022 conference update; former parent involved with foster system and reunification, vacant positions- Det. Carper

November- start strategy review, review and decide on Cycle 2 grant applications; winter planning; Monty Prow with IJC

January (virtual)- update from Robertson and Curb about McKinnley-Vento conference

February (virtual)- McDonald update on probation services and protocol on children who disclose when in custody, victim compensation discussion

ISPA Conference Sponsorship

Tachell shares about the ISPA conference and vendor opportunity and the multiple partners we could reach by being a vendor/sponsor. Discussion ensues regarding how these fits with CARTF. We can use this as an opportunity to gather data. Minton ask if there is an info sheet out there for what to do or not to do when a child discloses (ask Upper Valley or Tamara Pitz with ICAC at the AG office).

Barton makes a motion to approve the \$1000 level sponsorship at the ISPA conference and provide a way to gather information and have a door prize. Robertson seconds the motion. Seven yes, one no, two abstained. Motion carries.

Additional/Future Conference Sponsorships

McDonald makes a motion to move this discussion to September meeting due to the need for Weir to be present for pertinent information. Giddings seconds. All in favor and so moved.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2021

Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings/ Agendas (May 2021 to April 2022)

Suicide Prevention Council- April 2022

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

Central intake- Jan 2022

YES- Feb

Foster youth panel- not during COVID

Citizen Review panel- October meeting, annual

INCAC- attending September meeting

Appointments and Executive Order Updates

CFRT annual report- March 2022

Upper Valley Child Advocacy Center- March 2022

May and November- grant app decisions

ICDVAA- fall