

**District IV Citizen Review Panel
707 N. Armstrong Pl, Boise, ID 83704
Star Garnet
Tuesday, April 6th, 2021
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

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Meeting Minutes

Members: Allison Berkson, Brian McCauley, Nicole Noltensmeyer, Kym Nilsen, Britney Journee. Darcie Bobrowski. Shannon McCarthy is absent.

Staff: Chris Freeburne (IDHW) Laura Smith and Courtney Boyce (CDH)

Call Meeting to Order

Brian McCauley, District IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Brian discussed a motion to add a brief discussion on a new group home that the Panel was made aware of since the agenda was submitted.

Motion: Allison made a motion to amend the agenda, to add 'Group Home Discussion' after the 'Logo Creative Design Survey' portion of the agenda. Darcie seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Motion: Brian motions to approve the agenda as written with amendment. Brittany seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Motion: Kym made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as written. Britney seconded. Brian abstained. None opposed. The motion carries.

Logo Creative Design Survey

The Panel was requested to complete a design survey, discussing colors, symbols, themes, and background of the Panel for Thrive Designs. The Panel discussed the questions and completed this survey which Courtney will submit to the contractors.

Group Home Discussion

Allison discussed becoming aware of a new group home, from a foster parent that launched this week. It's called Foster + Heart. (<https://www.fosterandheart.com/>). This agency is trying to be pulled together to meet a

gap in services in the Treasure Valley. It is a nonprofit organization, working on the licensing piece under residential, technically under group home qualifications. They will only be able to stay for two weeks at a time, providing respite care. The goal of the owner is to keep siblings together, and being able to give more information when getting a call for placements. They are looking at providing placements September 1st. This home will serve district, and operate out of the Meridian area with a home they secured to get started at 10 beds. The goal is to have the home opening late summer that is an emergency placement home when children first come into care. Allison just spoke with the founder. She mentioned that one of their guiding values is "the right home, not just the first home." They will be licensed under the residential licensing rules, and available to keep placements for 2 weeks. (So, technically a respite placement.) She's been working closely with the Department licensing team to be able to meet the need. Allison hopes that this level of care will provide children the ability to settle in long enough to find a placement that fits them, rather than distributing the child's routines and relationships to find any placement. This model would provide rudimentary proof of concept around minimizing moves while focusing on stable placements. They are currently fundraising, they are interviewing for a house parent position working closely with someone in the licensing department for the specific roles and qualifications they have to fulfill.

Motion: Brian made a motion to request the founder of Foster + Heart to speak at next month's meeting. Allison seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Courtney invited founder Kate, on April 8th, 2021 to speak with the Panel during the May meeting. This invitation was accepted on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Chris Freeburne discussed new challenges with Family First when they go 'live' which will be this fall, where even if group homes are state licensed, they are unable to be paid with federal funds and IDHW would use general funds to pay, until that facility has been accredited. This process may limit how many placements they can take. Chris clarified that for the first two weeks of the child's placement DHW can use IV-E dollars, after that time they may have to move that child. The Department is calling all the facilities to see where they are in the accreditation process. It can take up to twelve to eighteen months to become an accredited agency through the Joint Commission, Council on Accreditation, or Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation of Facilities. Chris discussed that this is a new federal law that went into effect Feb 2018, with the target date being Oct 2021 to be accredited as a qualified residential treatment. Chris discussed that as it pertains to Foster + Heart, if children are there for two weeks or less, than IDHW is able to use those IV-E dollars for the first two weeks until they can find a more permanent solution. If a youth truly needs residential level of care, DHW is being very intentional about placing children in a facility with specific treatment needs such as behavioral health needs. This new law will encourage state foster care organizations to be selective about placing children in appropriate residential placements. This home is not purposed to meet that higher-level need. The goal from the system is going to have higher quality clinical care.

Nicole provided information about a non-profit in Tennessee that takes in foster kids when they are removed. <https://isaiah117house.com/>

Idaho CRP Leadership Conference Call Update

Courtney was able to attend the call and provided her notes to the Panel, which reads as follows:

- Discussed federal funding to support evidence-based prevention programs to prevent children from entering them the system and enhancing services for families
- Plan for expanding in-home services, such as through Parents as Teachers

- Case manager for in-home services would be different in comparison to case manager for child protective cases.
- Discussed completing gaps and needs analysis, if regional Panels would like to have those results to contact Miren and she will connect with the staff who is completing that and is able to present
- Discussed expanding grants to implement revised group home standards
- Sen Lee will be sponsoring court approval for group home placements, so placement remains appropriate for the child
- Need more information about Family First, if those funds are able to be utilized for D5's Shelter Care Assessment Proposal
- **Action Item:** Updated/revised Shelter Care Assessment will be submitted to all Panel members
- Discussed Problem Solving Court Model and needing regional approval for changes to a Family Court, rather than doing regional or statewide recommendations
- There is funding and a Idaho-based model in place, there needs to be county support to implement
- Action Item: Requested of Anita Jones, information about evidence-based court model systems that are being implemented in other regions and funding sources
- Andi Blackwood from Central Intake did a presentation for another Panel, to discuss the coordination/partnership/communication between law enforcement
- Discussed changes to Central Intake, and discussed Misty's role in helping with that - provided her email for future utilization aware she has not transitioned into that role yet and Andi would likely be the best source of information now
- Next meeting: June 9th, 2021 and Sept. 1, 2021

IDHW Liaison Update

This portion of the agenda was suspended as Misty Myatt was not in attendance.

Executive Session: Case Reviews

Motion: Nicole motioned to move into Executive Session, per Idaho §16-647 (d) the District IV Citizen Review Panel can enter into Executive Session, to discuss items exempt from public disclosure, as outlined in §74-105. Britney seconded.

Darcie Bobrowski, Aye; Nicole Noltensmeyer, Aye; Britney Journee, Aye; Allison Berkson, Aye; Kym Nilsen, Aye; Brian McCauley, Aye.

The District IV Citizen Review Panel entered into Executive Session at 5:10pm.

Motion: Brian motioned to leave Executive Session. Darcie seconded.

Nicole Noltensmeyer, Aye; Kym Nilsen, Aye; Britney Journee, Aye; Allison Berkson, Aye; Darcie Bobrowski, Aye; Brian McCauley, Aye.

The District IV Citizen Review Panel exited Executive Session at 5:30pm.

Brittney identified a case she needed to abstain from given confidentiality conflict. The Panel also addressed a case they were assigned that was based out of Canyon County, and not Elmore County. Allison was requested to create a statement piece from a conversation with a foster parent.

Allison provided high-level concerns regarding a case that highlighted minimized real safety issues, lack of willingness to act when there are safety issues to keep kids safe, and sharing information for foster parents who are making parenting decisions

Quarterly Report Recommendations

The Panel discussed recommendations in the following areas:

- Improving communications between IDHW and foster parents, judges, and Panel members with Court records and additional documentation
- Standardized visitation supervision reports from foster parents to case workers and training
- Documentation that explicitly states both the expectation of when to petition a judge and the process in which to do so
- Improving IDHW communication, representation, and partnership with pre-existing resources in Valley County to meet the needs of at-risk children and families in crisis
- Address coordinated education and training to all child-serving organizations and individuals
- Improve communication to Valley County residents regarding feedback when reporting child welfare concerns

The District IV Citizen Review Panel Quarterly report is exempt from public disclosure and is not documented in the meeting minutes, but provides an overview of discussions for the public.

Adjourn

Courtney discussed the mandatory data reporting using virtual Monthly Evaluation Form, and methods to improve the process. In the future, the Panel will spend the first few minutes of the meeting, completing this form, after approving the agenda and approving previous meeting minutes.

Courtney discussed that the June meeting will be right after Memorial Day, and wondered if it would benefit the Panel to reschedule to accommodate for the holiday.

Motion: Brian made a motion to move the June District IV Citizen Review Panel meeting, from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday in June. Brittney seconded. None opposed.

Courtney provided an update on the main calendar invite to all Panel members and partners, including the IDHW Administration who is invited to attend the June meeting. A new calendar amendment was added to the District IV Citizen Review Panel website on April 8, 2021.

Courtney discussed the May agenda, on a previously addressed meeting invitation. The Panel discussed providing 30 minutes for Christine Tiddens, from Idaho Voices for Children, and 30 minutes for Foster + Heart with questions.

Brian McCauley, District IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:11pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Courtney Boyce.