



**District IV Citizen Review Panel Meeting
707 N. Armstrong Place, Boise, Idaho
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88673936698>

Meeting ID: 886 7393 6698

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/km2v1Mpl4>

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

Staff: Laura Smith, Courtney Boyce (Central District Health)

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Guests: Lance McCleve, Roxanne Printz, Stacy Corbett, Cameron Gilliland, Niki Flock

Guests: Detective Jessica Johnson (Ada County Sheriff's Office), Darci Anderson (Family Advocates)

Citizen Review Panel Meeting Call to Order: Brian McCauley, Panel Chair, called to order the District IV Citizen Review Panel Meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Shannon seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Shannon seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Brian reminded the Panel to complete the monthly evaluation form.

DHW Administration Discussion: Lack of Foster Homes:

Darci reported that she has heard the issues from guardians and staff about short-term rentals, increased absences from school, and allegations of substances on premises. Staffing

placement for those short-term rentals were coming through the management of a social worker up in District 1.

Rebecca and Cameron clarified that some of the increased absences from school were also due to suspensions. It's not that they are necessarily missing school because they are not getting to school, it's around multiple suspensions.

Stacy added that she is seeing more about suspensions and that being the issue rather than the not getting to school. These kids need a lot of one-on-one attention.

Brittany added that one of the themes we have seen is a lack of resources and where the tension points are that are causing hardships when we have a lack of resources. Other than going to the general population to recruit foster homes for teens, what are we doing to sit these kids up for success to be in placement? What are we doing to set wherever they are placed to meet the things they need? It's not like a general home will be prepared either. What are we doing to have them in short-term rentals when they need more support?

Jessica Johnson identified in the chat that her concern is that I have heard complaints that people are being "voluntold" to stay in the rentals. I'm concerned for more HW workers leaving the dept if being forced to be away from their own families.not sure if there is an easy answer to this....

Cameron discussed their first mission right now is to not have them in short-term rentals. They are also developing contracts for therapeutic foster homes.

Brian asked how many kids are in the short-term rental situation? Is it 5, 50 or 500?

Cameron responded that it's never been 50. It's often 5 or less. We have been up to 13 before. It's low enough time that I continually think, do I need to pull the plug on the rentals and do the hotel again if it's going to not be every day.

Brian read a question from chat: Who is staying with the kids while they are in the rentals?

Stacy responded that they have focused on looking for current licensed foster parents to do that. We also have most of our department staying and other divisions of Health & Welfare staff staying. Some volunteers from the community; some licensed therapists have joined us and a couple guardian ad litem.

A discussion was held about the decline of good foster parents over the last several years and brought up the benefits of conducting exit interviews with those families that are leaving so we can determine the root causes and areas for improvement. What are the top five things we could do to hold on to those folks?

Also discussed the support for foster families and having the skills available to parents with higher needs. Foster parents being left in situations where they need a lot of support and are left with nothing.

Brian asked if there is a group within the Department that actively works on hearing concerns with foster families and retaining and working with those concerns?

Cameron responded that he doesn't know that we have someone specifically assigned to do that. What does licensing do in this area when they are supporting foster parents?

A discussion followed around the negative publicity when good families leave and the issue with kids having to spend nights or weeks in hotels or short-term rentals due to lack of available foster parents.

Detective Jessica Johnson asked, 'What does recruitment look like? Do you have a department or employees that that is their sole job, recruiting for foster?' She identified that it's a big process when you do online and look at the steps, it's a six-step process. How are you wooing potential foster homes?

Roxanne discussed that they:

- have resources placed through Eastern Washington University who works with community groups to meet, and the community groups span from religious groups to community groups
- the need to update their material
- to do more media
- to work with our juvenile justice as then we are also getting the demographics of a youth who needs to be protected and need trauma healing

Brian asked if we have any data that we have captured directly from foster families that left about their major concerns and why they left? Do we have any statistic information why they chose that instead of the options you are saying are in place now?

Roxanne: there was a conversation around having those exists and having it done by a third party.

Brian asked if Detective Jessica Johnson has any more questions?

Jessica Johnson stated no she doesn't really have any questions but just got on to see what's being done with this problem.

The discussion continued about workers encouraging law enforcement to not declare children in damage because of a lack of foster homes.

Kym asked what is the time frame between someone showing interest in becoming a foster family and someone taking in a child?

Roxanne answered that it's 90 days.

Kym asked then that four months from now you could conceivably begin to turn this around, right?

Roxanne agreed

Cameron offered to have the licensing department come and talk with the Panel at another time if you would like to talk more in depth about how we recruit and keep foster parents.

Discussed how the issues discussed tonight have all revolved around not having enough foster parents and support and how CASA can help. Also discussed the CASA volunteers in Valley County.

Legislative Committee Meeting: Discussed topics and Brian will do the presentation. Areas:

- Trends – foster parent recruitment, lack of foster homes and safety planning verses removal
- Statutory limitations – voluntary termination of parental rights; meeting statutory timelines
- Recommendations on culture changes needed
- How to retain foster families – contract for behavioral health services
- Ideas for judges - Pushing for guardianship instead of adoption, especially for young children or ones with significant issues

CRP Mission, Vision and Values:

Motion: Brian made a motion to have Courtney refine and edit what's provided at the bottom to use in the MOU. Britney seconded; none opposed. The motion carries.

The Panel has the ability of modifying the purpose and background at any time. The Panel did not identify values in the section that was approved, so this will not be added to the MOU.

Memorandum of Understanding with CDH: Courtney shared her screen. There haven't been any changes since the last meeting. The only change will be adding in the missions, vision and values.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the MOU as is with the insertion of the approved vision and goals; Shannon seconded, none opposed. The motion carries.

A discussion held about the Vice Chair position. Ali was nominated. Ali accepted the nomination.

Motion: Brian made a motion to appoint Ali as Vice chair. All were in favor; none opposed. The motion carries unanimously.

Brian asked if we need to consider having a different liaison with the department?

Ali stated that this has not been an additional burden for her but will reevaluate and check in with the Panel. Brian suggested we keep things as they are.

CRP Logo for Trauma Conference: Courtney updated on the conference. Essentially, we will have different phases. Courtney shared an example of the save the date notice and presenters recruitment.

Action Item: Brittany asked if Courtney would send a list of what they presented on the last session so she can see what was already presented. Courtney will share the google drive with all the documents.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the use of the logo and reference to CRP as a sponsor or supporter of this event. Shannon second, none opposed. The motion carries.

January 2022 Meeting Planning:

Brian suggested we see the budget once a quarter. Laura Smith offered to do a presentation on the budget at any time and is happy to work with the panel on whatever they want.

Action Item: Brian asked that we put the budget on the agenda at the first meeting of every quarter.

Brian brought up having an open mic session one of these nights and open the doors to the meetings and see if anyone wants to come and share perspective.

Courtney stated it would depend on the timeline and the room we have available. We also can partner with someone else. There might be an opportunity for that in another space.

Items for Jan 2022 meeting.

- Review Bylaws and Open Meeting Law
- Term membership; Executive Committee
- Quarterly Report for Jan 2022
- Recruitment strategies

Adjourn

Brian McCauley, Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:56pm.

Minutes provided by Linda Stormes.