



Region IV Citizen Review Panel
707 N. Armstrong Pl, Boise, ID 83704
White Pine Room
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84638154043?pwd=aDZ0d2EzREhTbzZSMW9uZHBYaStOZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 3815 4043 **Passcode:** 693507

Meeting Minutes

Members: Brian McCauley, Nicole Noltensmeyer, Allison Berkson, Britney Journee, Kym Nilsen, Shannon McCarthy joined at 4:40pm. Quorum established.

Staff: Courtney Boyce, Laura Smith (CDH)

Guests: Niki Flock (DHW), Katie Fidrych (Community Member)

Total: 9

Call Meeting to Order

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

Motion: Brian made a motion to amend the agenda to two items, one for a discussion for an update on a potential candidate, and to add discussion to have a representative for Idaho Foster Care Awareness Day, after 5:35pm. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carries. The agenda is approved as amended.

Motion: Brian abstained but motioned the Panel to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.
Nicole will email the link to complete the Monthly Evaluation Form to the Panel.

Legislative Action Items

Brian presented a discussion regarding a Foster Care System Ombudsman. Allison discussed that she looked for one when she was a foster parent, which demonstrated need. Brian shared that the idea of having an ombudsman would be valuable, he was wondering if it would be a regional role or statewide position. Nicole shared that likely would determine how the state would budget for it, but there wouldn't be a drawback from having one or a team of ombudsman. Britney shared that it would likely be funded for one as a pilot, to hear the feedback from foster parents, and then it would demonstrate the need for more. Brian asked if that was something the Region IV Citizen Review Panel would like to officially support if that legislation was proposed. As an immediate follow up question, Brian asked if the Panel thought their relationship with the Department had evolved to a point where an ombudsman might be redundant, given the role of the CRPs. Courtney shared that it would be of service to have an ombudsman, as not everyone is familiar with the regional CRPs, and they don't all function to the same degree as the R4CRP. The ombudsman could be responsible for managing state

wide issues, surpassing the regional focus of the CRP, and could coordinate with other partners like multi-disciplinary teams.

Motion: Brian motioned to review legislation to support the creation of the ombudsman, and to 'open the door' to pursuing legislation with Senator Wintrow (or any other relevant persons) that would look at advancing the role of an ombudsman. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Britney said that she would be willing to coordinate with Senator Wintrow. Some questions were asked including: does she intend to facilitate that this year, does it need bipartisan support, how can the CRPs support this work, etc. This would be an opportunity to follow up with the R4CRP to see what other changes have been made.

Guidance on Foster Parent Listening Session

The next meeting will be extended by one-hour from 6 – 7pm. Nicole provided some guidance for the Panel to review. Courtney shared that at this point, CDH does not have a large enough venue to accommodate however that can be discussed closer to the date. The Panel reviewed the guidance that Nicole put together, and determined questions, entry requirements, etc. The Panel reviewed the intent for the meeting, including the audience, such as birth parents and foster youth. The Panel discussed referral processes if a case review is requested, and discussed strategies for promotion including an email newsletter and Facebook.

Courtney shared that the Panel is looking at a social media image, a flyer, a form to be developed, finalized guidance and making sure that is released all at the same time. It is also possible to do a news release as well, if the Panel would like that. The Panel decided to move the listening session to April to accommodate the DHW meeting in March, and to have it be from 5:30 – 7:00pm.

Motion: Brian made a motion to push the Foster Parent Input Meeting to April, and open that for public testimony starting at 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Kym seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the CRP logo to advertise this meeting. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Motion: Brian made a motion to extend the April meeting from 6 – 7:00pm. Shannon seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

Foster Parent Pre-service Training Curriculum

Allison shared that the Butler Institute analyzed the curriculum and shared the strengths of the current curriculum, and identified opportunities for improvement. Allison shared that there are trauma-informed principles and practices in the curriculum. DHW put together input from different stakeholders to have a workgroup to discuss updates. Allison said the stakeholders will be able to review and provide recommendations on the three national network curriculum options. Allison wanted to share that it was occurring, there is representation from the R4CRP in that process, and that Panel members can review links to different options and provide input. Allison shared there will be a meeting further to look at the pre-service training and on-going educational opportunities for foster parents. Allison shared there is a standard for Pride at 27 hours. Every five years agencies have the ability to make recommendations for updates in IDAPA, in 2023 the licensing section will be up for revision. DHW can make recommendations in 2023, but this is something the Panel can also review and coordinate with them on. Allison

discussed the balance of needing training, education, and commitment with responsibility. Brian shared that it may be of interest to the Panel to review the licensing section of IDAPA, to provide recommendations to the Panel.

Sign MOA and Amended Bylaws

The Panel will abstain from this. It is in effect with the Panel however the last formal step would be to sign. Brian will coordinate with Courtney to arrange a time to sign this.

General Election

The process is to nominate, accept nomination, vote for that person to accept the position. Brian McCauley serves as the Chair. Nicole Noltensmeyer serves as Secretary. Allison Berkson serves as the Vice Chair.

Brian was nominated for the Chair, there were no other nominations. Brian accepted the nomination.

Motion: Britney motioned to vote for Brian to remain the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair. Allison seconded. Allison Berkson, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Kym Nilsen, aye; Nicole Noltensmeyer, aye; Shannon McCarthy, aye. Brian McCauley will be the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair through January 2023.

Motion: Brian made a motion to nominate Allison as the vice chair. Nicole seconded. Allison accepted the nomination. Nicole Noltensmeyer, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Shannon McCauley, aye; Kym Nilsen, aye; Brian McCauley, aye. Allison Berkson will be the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Vice Chair through January 2023.

Motion: Brian made a motion to nominate Nicole Noltensmeyer as Secretary. Nicole accepted. Allison seconded. Allison Berkson, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Shannon McCarthy, aye; Kym Nilsen, aye; Brian McCauley, aye.

Administrative

Panel Contact Information

Courtney will be sharing the Panel Contact Member list to the Panel members, to update. The Panel will be responsible for maintaining that sheet henceforth, under the duties of the Secretary. Courtney sent that over to the Panel.

CDH Roles Timeline

Courtney reviewed the CRP/AA timelines.

March Meeting

- DHW Administration Meeting
- Quarterly CRP Leadership Update 15 min
- Ombudsman Britney Update 15
- Idaho Voices for Children Update 15
- Executive Session Case Reviews/ Panel applicant 30 min

These items are pending with a revised timeline closer to the meeting date.

Potential Candidate Discussion (amendment)

Courtney and Brian discussed the process for candidates, between the CRP and CDH support.

Representative for Idaho Foster Care Awareness Day (*amendment*)

Brian asked the Panel who was available and interested to attend this as it was asked of the Panel to participate and chair information to the public about the CRP.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve Nicole Noltensmeyer to attend the Idaho Foster Care Awareness Day and represent R4CRP in an official capacity. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carries.

The Panel discussed case review assignments, including previous assignments, qualifying criteria and when to review previously reviewed cases.

Adjourn

Brian McCauley adjourned the Region IV Citizen Review Panel meeting at 5:42pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Courtney Boyce.