



**Region IV Citizen Review Panel  
707 N. Armstrong Pl, Boise, ID 83704  
Bluebird**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members:** Brian McCauley, Allison Berkson, Nicole Noltensmeyer, Britney Journee, Shannon McCarthy, Alisha Merrill. Merritt Dublin absent.

**Staff:** Courtney Boyce and Jason Shaw (CDH), Heather Slavin, Niki Flock, Lance McCleve, Cameron Gilliland (DHW)

**Call Meeting to Order**

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

**Motion:** Brian made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as written. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

**Motion:** Brian made a motion to amend the agenda, with the executive session moved to the end of the agenda due to Alisha not having the required background check and training at this time. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

**DHW Leadership Visit**

Lance went through some questions he had about data requests from the CRP. Lance clarified the scope of a request regarding a list of reports case workers can access. CRP members asked questions on how reports are generated and disseminated. Lance discussed a request for timelines on case data. One of the points that the Panel raised was their inability to see real-time data on where the child is currently living. Lance answered questions on a request for a summary of when TPR's are filed. He needed to know whether the data requests were for aggregated numbers on any given case, or on average. The Panel clarified that the data request was for what was being submitted to the court.

The Panel requested to know how many social workers were assigned on a case and for school changes during the pendency of a case. The Panel determined this request was made for specific cases, rather than an average for all open cases. The Panel had sent a case file

cover sheet mockup to Lance, which is being reviewed to see how it can be generated and delivered with the case file.

There were also questions regarding a request for data on the count of safety referrals for each case, and whether that was in aggregate or on an individual case. The Panel clarified that it was for specific cases including a request to know if the child had reentered the system. The Panel also requested information on all previous and current safety referrals for each primary caregiver of the child of concern, and it was confirmed that this is currently on a case-by-case basis.

The Panel also requested data for how many cases include drug and alcohol use by the primary caregivers as a contributing factor for removal, failure to reunite, delaying reunification, and reentry into care after reunification. This was in response to data from one region during a statewide meeting showing that a high percentage of their cases had drug and alcohol use as a contributing factor in the outcome of the case. This data request is an attempt to determine if this is a common trend across the system.

The Panel requested data on a systemwide summary of the cost of legal representation, and how many did and didn't have representation. It was clarified that this data request was both statewide, and on a region-by-region basis.

The Panel discussed a data request for foster parent statistics, including information on how many were still active, how many had left, and how many years they were a foster parent. It was clarified that the request was for data on Region 4.

DHW discussed IDHW Foster Parent Survey results as an analysis is being with initial results being shared within a couple weeks.

Alli asked about the possibility of getting in-home care for young children coming into the foster system who are exhibiting suicidal or extreme violent behavior, and for the birth and foster parents involved. There is currently no mental health help for children in the 6-8 age bracket. The Panel also discussed getting families who are at risk for needing out-of-home placement, who have a relative willing to do guardianship that doesn't know the legal process, some sort of referral to connect them with counseling or legal advice. There is currently work being done to make the counseling services available. It was planned to further discuss the possibility of legal advice for the guardianship process.

Alli shared information on an Idaho Children and Families Institute Conference in April that she's attending, and proposed registering to attend as a representative of the CRP. The idea met with approval from the Panel.

### **Foster Parent Survey**

The Panel discussed a survey for foster parents and decided to receive the list of questions that DHW's survey asked, in order to inform their survey.

### **Senate Testimony**

Shannon gave a quick summary of her time with the Governor's Task Force. Six of the seven Citizen Review Panels in Idaho attended. Based on each Panel's speech, many of the concerns for the Region 4 Panel were mirrored by many of the other Regions. Concerns were raised regarding a lack of communication, needs not being met, and training provided not matching up with what families were actually experiencing.

Brian testified in front of the Joint Child Protective Oversight Committee about two weeks ago. He was given 30 minutes to speak, which was substantially more than had been allotted previously. A lot of discussion was had regarding frustrations with obtaining data and creating data-driven actionables. There was also discussion around culture and safety referrals, and the overall state of the system. Many members of leadership in the Idaho Congress were present.

### **Shared Drive Discussion**

CDH is going to setup a Teams group for the Panel to use, which won't require Microsoft Office 365 to utilize. This group will allow document sharing, though Word and Excel documents will work better than other types of files. Once that Teams channel is set up, it will be shared with the Panel. The channel will be HIPPA compliant.

### **Executive Session**

**Motion:** Nicole moved that the Panel, pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206, convene in Executive Session to discuss items exempt from public disclosure. Brian seconded. The motion was confirmed by roll call vote. Shannon McCarthy, aye; Nicole Noltensmeyer, aye; Allison Berkson, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Brian McCauley, aye.

The Panel entered into Executive Session at 5:33pm to discuss items exempt from public disclosure. During this session, the Panel received information on cases.

**Motion:** Nicole moved that the Panel, pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206, exit Executive Session at 6:00pm. Shannon seconded the motion. The motion was confirmed by roll call vote. Shannon McCarthy, aye; Nicole Noltensmeyer, aye; Allison Berkson, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Brian McCauley, aye.

### **Adjourn**

Brian McCauley, Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:01pm.

*Meeting minutes prepared by Jason Shaw*