



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

**Tuesday, November 1, 2022
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Members: Brian McCauley, Katie Fidrych, Allison Berkson, Merritt Dublin, Nicole Noltensmeyer, Britney Journee, Shannon McCarthy

Staff: Courtney Boyce and Jason Shaw (CDH)

Call Meeting to Order

Brian McCauley, the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

Motion: Britney made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as written. Nicole seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the November agenda as written. Nicole seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

Family Welfare System Concerns

The Panel discussed an instance of a judge recommending guardianship with a non-biological family that isn't moving towards adoption after having the child for two years and establishing permanent guardianship instead. The panel is curious about how often this happens, specifically in Ada County. The current situation only requires lawyers in court for children over 12 years old. The Panel intends to continue discussing this at the next meeting and is considering recommending extending that protection to children under 12 years old as well.

Panel Recommendations

The Panel discussed the current lack of feedback for judges on the end result of their rulings. Other stakeholders have expressed an opposition to this. As written, statute requires periodic case review, and includes a review of court actions. The Panel feels that current policy doesn't satisfy the statutory requirements. The present lack of feedback is felt to be inhibiting process improvement and makes it impossible to know the long-term effect of current decision making patterns and policies.

Lance discussed initiatives at DHW that are working towards also providing feedback. The Panel will discuss their intent with the prosecutors who are trying cases to get their input, and coordinating with DHW to see how their efforts can tie in together and work towards that long-term improvement. More discussion will be had going forward on this recommendation.

Foster Family Survey

The Panel discussed the idea of doing exit surveys for foster families when they leave the foster system to see what is causing them to leave. DHW does an annual survey that addresses some of those questions. Consideration is being given to extending the survey to cover that as well, but no final decision has been made yet.

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. Britney seconded. The motion was confirmed by roll call vote. Nicole Noltensmeyer, aye; Merritt Dublin, aye; Katie Fidrych, aye; Allison Berkson, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Shannon McCarthy, aye; Brian McCauley, aye.

The Panel entered into Executive Session at 5:23pm 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 5:58pm. Brian seconded the motion. The motion was confirmed by roll call vote. Nicole Noltensmeyer, aye; Merritt Dublin, aye; Katie Fidrych, aye; Allison Berkson, aye; Britney Journee, aye; Shannon McCarthy, aye; Brian McCauley, aye.

New Member Recruitment

The Panel discussed the recruitment of a new Panel member to take over Katie's position when she departs. Katie is currently helping find a replacement, and CDH is working on the administrative process.

CDH Administrative Update

Courtney Boyce has been promoted at CDH and will be staying to help with CRP work. Jason will still be responsible for administrative support as previously planned.

Adjourn

Brian McCauley, Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:07pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Jason Shaw