



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

**Tuesday, October 4, 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: Heather Slavin, Nikki Flock, Rebecca Sprague (CDH) and Jason Shaw (CDH)

Call Meeting to Order

Brian McCauley, the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as written. Merritt seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the October agenda as written. Merritt seconded. None opposed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Report Review

The Panel began reviewing the Q1 FY23 report to finalize recommendations before submission. The first recommendation was regarding information on the child's history being provided in reports. Heather asked whether all case workers were not including certain information in their reports for the foster parents. Nikki clarified that only certain workers weren't including it. The second recommendation was regarding child fatality/near fatality reporting. The items listed in the report are not an exhaustive list of reportable items, but the Panel was most concerned about the items that were listed.

Motion: Allison made a motion to approve the report. Nicole seconded. None opposed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Developing Recommendations

The Panel discussed short-term rentals and the unique challenges those housing solutions have faced historically. Certain staff members work in them full time, and some work temp or on-call. A problem was witnessed on Saturday at a group home involving a housing situation

that was not conducive to the children. An inability to get more detailed background information on one of the children who was just placed contributed to conflict between the children. The situation was also complicated by the staff member running the house not being adequately trained for the situation she was in. Heather clarified that if the child is placed late at night, the person placing the child isn't always able to get information they would otherwise obtain, and that a follow-up would happen to work towards getting that missing information.

Nikki discussed problems caused by the lack of Safety Assessors. They currently have 4, but should have up to 20. This has caused delays of up to two months of safety checks that need to be done. Brian suggested doing exit interviews with foster families when they leave the system to gather more information on what causes them to leave. Brian raised the possibility of reducing the education requirements for case workers to allow for a larger candidate pool to help address the backlog, and allowing for a certain level of experience to substitute.

Executive Session

Motion: Nicole moves that the Panel, pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206, convene in Executive Session to discuss items exempt from public disclosure. Merritt 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 5:38pm to discuss items exempt from public disclosure. This session discussed cases as it pertains to Idaho Safe Haven Law, determining standards on collateral and infants that test positive for substances at birth.

Motion: Nicole moves that the Panel, pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206, exit Executive Session at 5:58pm. Brian seconded the motion. The motion 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.

Adjourn

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

Meeting minutes prepared by Jason Shaw