

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
2009-2012

The recommendations submitted for 2009-2012 have been modified to reflect the findings of the 2006-2009 review and the current needs of Idaho's child protective system. The goals and strategies address ongoing and new priority areas. They are broad in their focus and are the vehicles through which a variety of changes to Idaho's system for investigating and prosecuting child abuse and neglect can be made. They include improving the system for cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate and state-tribal involvement. Many of the recommendations allow for innovative approaches and techniques which will improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial action in cases including child physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. During this next three-year period, the Task Force will work on goals and strategies reflected in the new recommendations and strategic plan that is submitted below:

| <b>GOAL 1</b>   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Continue development of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) in each Idaho county in accordance with Idaho Code Section 16-1609. Support development of training in core competencies for professionals involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect.</b>  |                      |
| <b>STRATEGIES</b>   | <b>TIME FRAMES</b>   |
| a. Provide annual area MDT training to promote the continued formation of MDTs and enhance existing MDTs.   | Ongoing, Annually    |
| b. Encourage MDT formation and functioning at the prosecutor's seminars which meet semi-annually. Prepare handouts for the prosecutor's meetings with information to promote initiating MDTs or enhancing their current function.   | Ongoing              |
| c. During the next three years, invite state representatives from professional offices such as the Prosecuting Attorney's Association, Idaho Medical Association, Idaho Education Association, Idaho State Police, and the Department of Health and Welfare to share training strategies and concerns involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. | Ongoing -- 2009-2012 |
| d. Using federal Criminal Justice Act funds, continue to provide funding resources that are available for training MDTs.  | Ongoing              |
| e. Invite appropriate statewide victim witness coordinator(s) to address the strengths and weaknesses of the statewide victim witness coordinator program.  | 2009                 |
| f. Review and encourage Child Protection Social Worker training on the legal system, including Burden of Proof, how to testify, difference between civil and criminal cases.  | 2010                 |

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK  
 STRATEGIC PLAN  
 2009-2012

| <b>GOAL 2</b>   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Review and improve current and proposed legislation pertaining to the child protection process.</b>  |                    |
| <b>STRATEGIES</b>   | <b>TIME FRAMES</b> |
| a. Review proposed legislation relating to child abuse and neglect, communicate conclusions to the governor, and make recommendations to legislators or other appropriate entities. | Ongoing            |
| b. Review the CPA and if appropriate, make recommendations for revision.  | 2009-2010          |
| c. Follow up on the Educational Neglect 2009 legislation and support implementation.  | Ongoing            |
| d. Review the proposed new interstate compact and make recommendations for ratification by Idaho.   | 2009-2010          |

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
2009-2012

| <b>GOAL 3</b>  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Evaluate and improve the investigation and prosecution process for civil and criminal cases involving child abuse and neglect.</b>  |                    |
| <b>STRATEGIES</b>  | <b>TIME FRAMES</b> |
| a. Present an annual award to promote the profession of a child protection prosecutor as being a valued position within Idaho's legal system.  | Ongoing, Annually  |
| b. Review CASA's funding structure and implementation of consistent standards and training throughout the State.   | January 2010       |
| c. Invite victim witness coordinator(s) to address the strengths and weaknesses of the victim witness coordinator program.   | 2010               |
| d. Evaluate, develop, and distribute materials to educate the public and those involved in the legal processes related to child abuse and neglect.   | Ongoing            |
| e. Distribute printed brochures regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect as defined in the Child Protective Act to those agencies or systems who do or who do not work directly with child protection teams. | Ongoing, Annually  |
| f. Annually, receive a report from the Supreme Court Committee Child Protection Committee to identify and monitor practices within the legal process, including status of DHW as a party.                                    | Ongoing, Annually  |
| g. Continue to encourage and support the development of child advocacy centers in Idaho.   | Ongoing            |
| h. Evaluate disproportionality in Child Protection cases in Idaho and findings from the 2006-2009 report as it relates to Native Americans.  | 2010               |
| i. Explore how the sharing of information between agencies and within DHW can be improved and streamlined to protect children.   | Ongoing            |
| j. Explore ways to improve law enforcement and child protection systems for immediate placement of children, including how to determine the location of children when parents are being arrested.                            | 2010-2011          |
| k. Continue to receive reports from DJC on Peer Restraints process.  | Ongoing, Annually  |
| l. Reduce court-related trauma to children by helping them understand their role in court.   | Ongoing            |

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK  
 STRATEGIC PLAN  
 2009-2012

| <b>GOAL 4</b>   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Re-establish a Statewide Fatality Review Team to examine child deaths that may be a result of child maltreatment.</b>  |                    |
| <b>STRATEGIES</b>   | <b>TIME FRAMES</b> |
| a. Continue to seek technical assistance as needed from the National Resource Center on Child Fatalities to assist in reestablishing and implementing a statewide Child Fatality Review Team. | Ongoing            |
| b. Promote the establishment of state statutes to meet the needs of the Statewide Child Fatality Review Team.   | 2011               |
| c. Fund the start up costs and semi-annual meeting of the new State Child Mortality Review Team.  | 2011               |
| d. Seek out funding sources for the development and distribution of a Statewide Child Fatality Review Annual Report.  | 2011               |
| e. Evaluate and make recommendations to support the use of forensic pathologist services in Idaho.  | 2010-2011          |

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK  
 STRATEGIC PLAN  
 2009-2012

| <b>GOAL 5</b>   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Review Idaho's foster care program to identify its strengths, weaknesses, and future needs.</b>  |                    |
| <b>STRATEGIES</b>   | <b>TIME FRAMES</b> |
| a. Review the recruitment, licensing, and training process for all alternate care providers in all types of alternate care settings, including streamlining.  | 2009-2010          |
| b. Monitor the increase in foster homes and encourage and support the recruitment and retention of additional foster homes.                                   | Ongoing            |
| c. Review the process for placing children in alternate care settings.  | 2009-2010          |
| d. Review the reimbursement/benefit rate for alternate care settings.   | 2009-2010          |
| e. Review access for children in foster care to basic services, including but not limited to medical and mental health services.                              | 2009-2010          |
| f. Determine what checklists are available or needed for licensing a foster home, i.e., environmental safety checklist and foster parent readiness checklist. | 2010               |
| g. After determining the availability of licensing checklists, recommend the development and distribution of information to potential foster parents.         | 2010               |

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK  
 STRATEGIC PLAN  
 2009-2012

| <b>GOAL 6</b>  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Identify how societal issues affect child welfare in Idaho.</b>   |                    |
| <b>STRATEGIES</b>  | <b>TIME FRAMES</b> |
| a. Evaluate the number of incarcerated parents who have children in the child protection system and review how the system works with incarcerated parents. | 2010-2011          |
| b. Review the process for investigation and the judicial handling of crimes that involve technology and the internet (e.g., pornography).                  | 2009-2010          |
| c. Review the effects of domestic violence on the child welfare system.  | 2010-2012          |
| d. Evaluate the number of child protection referrals that involve incest in Idaho and the issue of underreporting.   | 2010-2012          |
| e. Review the effects of the economy on the child welfare system (e.g., increase in crime, system stresses, fewer Medicaid providers, etc.).               | 2009-2012          |