



The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk
September 13, 2024
Virtual

(V) Nadine McDonald, Juvenile Justice (Chairman)	(V) Jennifer Tachell– Educator (Vice-Chairman)
(V) Andie Blackwood- DHW, Family & Children Services	(V) Susan Bradford, MD – Pediatrician
(V) Lena Biondolillo- Children with Disabilities	OPEN- Child Advocate Attorney
(V) Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, PhD– Mental Health	(V) Hon. Steve Clark- Civil Magistrate Judge
(V) Curtis Carper- Law Enforcement	(V) Kyle Bringhamst- Prosecuting Attorney
(V) Maddi Aimes– Foster Youth	(A) Tahna Barton – CASA
OPEN – Homeless Education Liaison	OPEN- Criminal Magistrate Judge
(V) Jill Robertson– Parent	(V) Joshua Wickard- Public Defender
(V) Susan Nalley– Victim Services Coordinator	(V) Teresa Vance- Administrator of the Courts
(V) Mindy Peper – Task Force Support	Indicates Absent (A) Virtual (V)

Guests: (V) Karla Kinzel with IDHW

Meeting Purpose

Monthly meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk (CARTF) to discuss budget updates, membership changes, subcommittee updates, and planning for upcoming conferences and meetings.

Key Takeaways

- Budget situation has improved; \$49,000 needs to be spent by end of September from grant phase 21
- Judge Brett Ferguson approved as new criminal magistrate representative
- New "One Department" approval process at DHW will significantly impact spending and travel approvals
- Subcommittee memberships updated; strategic planning and conference committees actively seeking new members
- Planning underway for San Diego conference attendance in January and CARTF conference in October 2025

Topics

Welcome and Minutes

- **Motion to accept the July 2024 minutes. Motion made by Vance, seconded by Carper, all in favor and so moved.**

Budget Update

- Previously thought to be overspent, but actually have funds from previous grant phases
- Current grant phase (21) has \$49,000 left to spend by end of September
- Next fiscal year budget is \$140,070.47
- **Motion to spend up to \$49,000 on promotional projects, CFRT reports, community resources. Motion made by Blackwood, second by Wickard, all in favor and so moved.**
- Kinzel and Blackwood explain new "One Department" approval process at DHW and how it may significantly impact ability to quickly approve expenses
- *Action Item: Peper to work with Kinzel on getting quotes for promotional items, publications, and CFR report printing*

Membership Changes

- **Motion to accept the nomination of Judge Ferguson to represent Criminal Magistrate seat on CARTF. Motion made by Robertson, seconded by Tachell, all in favor and so moved.**
- Still seeking candidates for homeless youth advocate and child attorney positions
- *Action Item: CARTF needs to continue reaching out to contacts for recommendations*

San Diego Conference Planning (January 25-30, 2024)

- **Motion to continue exploring CARTF member attendance at the San Diego Conference in January 2025. Motion made by Wickard, seconded by Tachell, all in favor and so moved.**
- Early bird registration of \$700/person expires November 30
- Challenges with new approval process may impact ability to register in time for early bird rate
- *Action Item: Conference committee to determine attendees and submit justification for approval to One Department and out-of-state travel*
- *Action Item: Kinzel to prepare travel cost estimates for October meeting*

Subcommittee Updates

- Conference: Secured October 9, 2025, date for CARTF conference at Riverside Hotel
- MDT: Survey nearly finalized, planning distribution to prosecutors and child advocacy centers
- Grants: Next cycle due in 10 days, anticipating applications
- Child Fatality Review: Continuing reviews, discussing ways to expand scope

- *Action Item: Kyle to work with Teresa on finalizing and distributing MDT survey*
- *Action Item: Grants committee to review applications before October meeting*

Public Defense System Changes

- Major transition to state system occurring October 1
- Concerns about maintaining adequate staffing and representation, especially in rural areas
- Uncertainty around case management systems and access to records
- Legislature likely to monitor impacts closely
- *Action Item: Plan to revisit public defense system changes at January meeting, potentially inviting someone from state public defender's office*

Next Steps

- Action Item: Subcommittee members to reach out if interested in changing assignments
- Action Item: Conference committee to determine San Diego attendees and prepare justification
- Action Item: Blackwood to invite new DHW leadership (Jean and Monty) to October meeting
- Action Item: Grants committee to review applications before October meeting
- Action Item: Peper to invite citizen review panels to present at October meeting
- Action Item: Blackwood to prepare budget update for October meeting
- Action Item: Kinzel to prepare travel cost estimates for San Diego Conference for Oct meeting
- Action Item: Peper to continue ordering resources to spend down \$49,000
- Action Item: Vance and Bringhurst to finalize MDT survey and send out