

**District IV Citizen Review Panel**  
**707 N. Armstrong Pl, Boise, ID 83704**  
**Tuesday, June, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**  
**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91319387109?pwd=MDgzazFETFJzbUNvdXQzbkhLc1NNQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 913 1938 7109

**Password:** 800721

Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm.

**Panel Members:** Brian McCauley, Darcie Bobrowski, Nicole Noltensmeyer, Shannon Pearson, Kym Nilsen, Melissa Mezo. Teri Murrison with planned and excused absence with panel consent from May 2020 meeting.

**Staff:** Courtney Boyce and Laura Smith from Central District Health. Misty Myatt from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and liaison to the District IV Citizen Review Panel.

**Guest:** Ivy Smith from Idaho Foster Youth Advisory Board

**Motion:** Melissa motioned to approve the agenda for the meeting, Nicole seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Motion:** Nicole moved to approve the minutes, Shannon seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**Idaho Youth Foster Advisory Board Member**

Brian thanked Ivy for participating in the District IV Citizen Review Panel meeting. Brian provided an introduction, to himself, his role on the panel, and what the panel does. Brian requested that Ivy provide the panel with a background of IFYAB, and what their organization does.

Ivy responded that IFYAB was established in 2012 or 2013. IFYAB has been working with legislatures and city officials to advocate for policies and legislation that improves the foster care system. Ivy specified that the board does not lobby, but provides a lot of advocacy and education. Ivy discussed that IFYAB was instrumental in the Sibling Bill of Rights, that provided more opportunities for siblings in foster care to stay in contact. Ivy discussed that there were a lot of difficulties with siblings being placed together, and this would allow (for example) older foster youth to be in contact with younger siblings, to know more about their placements. Ivy discussed that IFYAB works with the IDHW with coordinators, that help guide and implement the projects of IFYAB. Ivy discussed that the Sibling Bill of Rights required coordination with IDHW attorneys, so that proposed legislation is accurate and does not cause problems with other bills. Ivy discussed there is regional representation within IFYAB as it consists of current and previous foster care youth. Ivy discussed Foster Care Awareness Day, an advocacy day where representatives of IFYAB meet with Senators and State Representatives to discuss

projects. IFYAB also works with state representation by going to committee meetings and testifying on behalf of the group.

Brian asked if IFYAB is able to implement policy effectively within the department, without having to legislate policy?

Ivy responded yes, that not all policies are legislated but the department is willing to work with us to implement policies. Ivy discussed that IFYAB also provides a lot of guidance procedures, for example - how the department interacts with LGBTQIA youth in the foster care system. Ivy discussed the collaborative nature of IFYABs relationship to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. There were further questions regarding the structure of IFYAB, where there is one representative of each region within IFYAB, and supported by full time employees of IDHW where their dedicated position is to support IFYAB. The department assists with setting goals, monthly calls, and organization.

Brian discussed the panel's role on reviewing cases from children that have been under the departments care for a prolonged period of time. Brian discussed that the CRP works to identify systemic issues within the cases. Brian wondered if there are similar issues that IFYAB would like the CRP to advocate for, focus on, or explore further within case reviews.

Ivy discussed youth exiting the foster care system, by 'aging out.' Ivy discussed that the national statistics for aging out youth is troubling, including issues with healthcare, homelessness, and incarceration. Ivy discussed the experiences of those youth, as they may have multiple placements in addition to new case workers.

Ivy was asked to clarify 'aging out.' Ivy discussed that foster youth can adopted or have guardianship, but this would not be 'aging out.' Provided the example of a youth placed in a foster home until 18 and then removed from the home, as they are now an adult no longer under the supervision of the department. Ivy discussed Title Four funds from the government help support youth that have aged out. Ivy stated the way our legislation is currently written that the department can until 21 years old, assist with housing funds. Ivy discussed a current project in IFYAB is improving federal funds for housing assistance, healthcare, and ensure assistance for youth aging out that are in a program such as technical/vocational/college, and/or working 80 hours a month. Ivy discussed that this is a secondary step between preparing foster care youth for adulthood, in a way that doesn't necessarily happen until after they are 18.

Ivy was asked if there are there life skills classes that discuss finances, etc.? Ivy stated that the classes are called Independent Living, and they are weekly or bi-weekly. These are classes that foster parents bring them to. Ivy stated that she turned 18 in 2016, and when she was in those courses they were not about technical skills such as building credit or doing taxes, but how to recognize a healthy relationship, build a resume. The class facilitators may be open to suggestions regarding what topics are most beneficial, in order to build upon the curriculum.

Darcie asked Ivy to share her story as a youth in foster care. Ivy discussed that school was a source of consistency and stability as she was able to stay at the same school regardless of placement. Ivy also discussed after-school activities and volunteer work, where she found a passion for community service and advocacy. Ivy discussed her experience working with Casey Family Programs. Casey Family Programs work with IDHW by focusing on older youth in foster care and help prepare youth for adulthood. Ivy said that they are private institution with own funding, and while department workers do the best they can with the resources they are given,

in some ways Casey Family Programs are able to do more with increased resources. Ivy discussed that her caseworker that transformed her experience in foster care. Ivy emphasized the importance of interpersonal relationships, and the continuous relationship with a trusted adult regardless of whether or not they are in foster care. Ivy said that this feeling of care that superseded 'being a case,' was incredibly beneficial for her.

When asked about her experience with multiple placements, Ivy related that this was likely because she was staying with friends or friends of friends, as the department attempted to place her. These were homes that were not set up to be foster homes. Ivy discussed an out-of-state reunification attempt that was not successful, before moving back to Idaho where she stayed in a shelter home, before an established foster home. Ivy discussed her difficult experience regarding communication around hearings and legal representation.

Brian requested that Ivy speak to the IFYAB board, about a list of top concerns they would like to share with the District IV Citizen Review Panel. The panel is grateful to Ivy for discussing her role within IFYAB, and as previous youth in foster care in the state of Idaho. The panel hopes to continue to build a relationship IFYAB and other child-serving organizations, in order to partner, collaborate, and share knowledge that will contribute to the CRP's work improving the child welfare system in Idaho.

**Follow up:** IFYAB will provide a list of top concerns regarding foster care youth in Idaho, to share with the District IV Citizen Review Panel

**Action:** Misty, as the IDHW liaison for the CRP, will gather regional data regarding youth aging out of the child welfare system in Idaho. Misty will provide this information to the District IV CRP.

## Case Assignments

Misty provided Darcie and Courtney with the list of case assignments prior to the meeting. There was clarification of the format of the spread sheet, that included the child's name, client ID, resource parent name, and contact phone number. All of these cases are from Ada County. Misty asked to clarify the county of removal request. Courtney discussed that at the end of the year, when we provide reports to the department as well as to the Board of Health at CDH, we hope to show that there was definitive representation from other counties when analyzing case reviews. By reflecting the number of cases in other counties, we are showing that that CRP is demonstrating accurate trends representative of all counties. Based on the number of cases that occur in other counties, we know statistically there will a larger pool that is related to Ada County, but hope to have representation where possible when randomly providing case information. There are seventeen cases this month and will be divided accordingly. Darcie will speak with Teri, to discuss her ability of taking on case reviews during the month of June.

Misty discussed the information that Region I requesting from their liaison. This includes the court petition number, date of removal, if they were removed at the same time as other siblings, if currently placed with siblings, the total number of placements, permanency plan options, termination information etc. This information was discussed as it pertains to the data that the CRP is collecting from, and if this information would be helpful to be provided to the panel when providing case information. This information was requested, and will be provided to the panel when providing case review information.

## **CRP Direction Summer 2020**

Brian discussed that we previously were working towards an event in June, and that has been postponed. Brian wanted to know if we wanted to consider another time period for opening up communications with foster care parents, youth etc. Some panel members discussed that in July and August, school will be starting, people will be working towards vacations or time off. Shannon advocated for September as an open-mic night concept, as was previously discussed. As it pertains to the meetings, it was discussed what the format will be for the upcoming meetings. The panel will continue with Zoom meetings in July and August, and will work towards an event in September.

## **Sustainable Statewide Structure**

Brian requested to wait on that conversation, and opened up the agenda for discussion to the panel on anything they would like to address. Nicole discussed the Patriot Center in Emmett. Nicole discussed her awareness of the Patriot Center, and her concerns of foster care youth being placed there including second-hand stories of bunk houses, no running water, and kids needing to shave their heads. Misty stated that the Patriot Center for adolescent males, and Hay's House are the options for placement in Region IV. Jasper House is in Region III but sometimes children from District IV, will be placed there. Misty stated that the Patriot Center is a high risk restricted center, where cases are staffed every single month with the treatment providers, in an effort to get them out as quickly as possible. Misty emphasized that they are actively looking for permanent placement options for these children as well, with most having significant mental health and behavioral health issues. Misty discussed that she was not aware of a policy that heads have to be shaved, and wondered how this would be alignment with licensing, and would look into that for the panel. Misty said that as of this time, there are ten children under IDHW's care that are placed at the Patriot Center. Regarding the trauma-informed care approach, it may be beneficial to learn more about foster youth experiences within these group homes and these are a vulnerable portion of the population. Furthermore, it may be beneficial to learn more from group homes, learning their method of treating foster care youth, how their methods and policies are trauma-informed, and what types of interventions are being implemented.

**Action:** Misty will provide licensing information for adolescent group homes, where children IN District IV under IDHW supervision may be placed. It was requested to provide information on contracts for everyone that IDHW works with, and then identifying specifically which ones are located in Region IV.

## **Adjournment**

For the July agenda, it was discussed that members of IFYAB would be contacted to share their experiences in group homes, with 15 minutes or so, reserved on the agenda. Meeting minutes and meeting notices, would also be shared with Family Advocates. The meeting adjourned at 5:23pm. The next meeting will occur Tuesday, July 7 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, via Zoom.

*Meeting minutes in May 2020 and June 2020, prepared by Courtney Boyce.*

*In accordance with District IV Citizen Review Panel bylaws, all members reviewed bylaw information including conflict of interest and code of conduct forms. This was done in the May 2020 meeting. All panel members provided their electronic signature indicating consent to the District IV Citizen Review Panel bylaws and relevant forms. This information is provided in the June 2020 meeting minutes to inform the public.*

Shannon McCarthy	06/03/2020	10:05 AM
Nicole Noltensmeyer	06/02/2020	5:32 PM
Brian McCauley	06/02/2020	3:55 PM
Kimberly Nilsen	06/01/2020	9:45 AM
Melissa Mezo	05/29/2020	12:18 PM
Darcie Bobrowski	05/29/2020	9:11 AM
Teri Murrison	05/13/2020	5:24 AM

Meeting minutes prepared by Courtney Boyce.