

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2014
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW20
MEMBERS: Chairman Wood(27), Vice Chairman Perry, Representatives Hancey, Henderson (Chambers), Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude, Rusche, Chew
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: LeAnn Simmons and Elli Brown, Idaho Voices for Children; Jane Zick, Idaho AE4C; Maureen Durning, Butterfly TTT LLC; Daleen Nelson, Idaho REYC CCHC Program; Rob Lowe, DHW; Ericka Medalen, H&W; Lori Fascilla, Giraffe Laugh
MOTION: **Chairman Wood(27)** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Vice Chairman Perry made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2014, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Roger Sherman, Executive Director, Idaho Children's Trust Fund (ICTF), appeared before the committee to present information on the Fund, which began in 1985. He explained that the blue pinwheel is the national symbol for the aspiration that all children will grow up free from abuse and neglect. The ICTF Board consists of ten members, seven from each judicial district, and three individuals who are either elected officials or from state departments.

A recent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study done by Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicated long-term health effects and increased risky behaviors directly related to childhood abuse and neglect. Additional studies have determined that children's developmental abilities are also impacted by neglect and abuse.

In 2010 the national cost for child maltreatment was \$80 billion. That same amount could have sent one million children to college (at \$80,000 per child), or paid the salaries of two million teachers (at an average salary of \$40,000), or paid the salaries of one million six hundred thousand police officer (at an average salary of \$50,000). The CDC estimates a lifetime cost of \$210,012 for a single case of non-fatal child maltreatment. At that amount, Idaho's cost for the 987 maltreated children in 2012 would be over \$200 million.

Child abuse and neglect are preventable. 1990 to 2010 national and Idaho statistics for sexual and physical abuse cases show a significant decline as a result of programs addressing their issues. Unfortunately, the number of cases of neglect in that same time period show only a 10% nationwide decrease and a 6% increase in Idaho.

Mr. Sherman stated the seven state regions fund a variety of organizations that focus on what adults can do to change the abuse and neglect statistics for kids. He described a few of the programs, such as Darkness to Light, Babysteps, and Circle of Parents, which foster parental support and empowerment. Mountain Home Air Force Base has been very involved in programs designed for their particular stress situations. ICTF is also working with the Department of Corrections to provide a smoother transition when incarcerated parents return to their families.

Major focuses to prevent abuse and neglect include awareness, education, strengthening families, and strengthening communities. Collaboration and coordination with cross agencies and systems, both public and private, promote connectivity.

Sources of funding include tax return donations, interest on the trust fund, grants, direct donations, and the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Federal Grant (CBCAP). The ICTF uses half of their annual funds to cover costs and deposits the remaining half into a long-term trust.

Responding to Committee questions, **Mr. Sherman** said there are several successful programs that can increase their effectiveness by working across systems. Working with young or teen mothers is proving very fruitful. Increasing high school parenting programs would be great to get kids thinking about the issues of parenting while learning. This would address the shaken baby syndrome incidences, which are increasing. Community partners are important to make an impact and touch families around the state.

Mr. Sherman explained that more children die from neglect than abuse. Neglected children have serious physical, emotional, and mental problems, even into adulthood. They are more likely to have depression and attempt suicide, with feelings that no one cares about them. They are finding a connection with neglect and maternal depression, which is a potential area for programs.

The increasing poverty level is also an issue when the inability to provide for their family causes depression and neglect. Although the least understood cause, it makes up 70% of total maltreatment cases. ICTF is targeting programs that build protective factors and parental resiliency through social and emotional support.

Mr. Sherman described their small staff, which is comprised of an Executive Director, a part time Administrative Assistant, and a part time Grants Manager. ICTF exists as a catalyst for funding, training, and providing connections across the state. They have no additional staff around the state.

ICTF is included on state income tax forms, along with other groups, as a voluntary tax donation recipient. **Mr. Sherman** explained that grants range from \$3,000 per year to three-year grants totalling \$40,000. Their internal paperwork process is very streamlined and their focus is that of a catalyst for large and small organizations to help strengthen programs for children and families.

Evaluations are done by the groups and the ICTF though protective factor surveys. This can encourage expansion of existing programs or implementing new ones. **Mr. Sherman** said it is amazing what is done with small amounts contributed to eager organizations and he is hopeful that pending legislation will allow larger grants.

Mr. Sherman said he would provide the trust fund balance information to the committee.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Representative Wood(27)
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary