

Resource Family Training Board Charter Idaho Child Welfare Partnership

Challenge: Despite the fact that Resource Family training is required for all new Idaho foster parents, many do not participate in initial and ongoing training and the training offered is inadequate. Additionally, there is a lack of connection between the assessments of prospective foster and adoptive partners.

Purpose: To insure availability, sustainability and preparation of a well-trained Resource Family pool.

Partnership activities are based on the following premises:

1. Collaboration is the most effective means of achieving long term systems improvement.
2. Communication between partners is strengthened and services improved through on-going collaboration within the partnership.
3. Addressing the overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system is essential.

Partnership Goals: To improve Child Welfare practice in Idaho by:

1. Improving retention
2. Providing quality education
3. Using data to inform practice
4. Integrating best practice into the workforce
5. Providing quality training programs
6. Improving recruitment
7. Mitigating disparate outcomes for children and youth of color

Delegated Authority: The Board has the authority to research options, make recommendations and, after consulting with the Operations Board, implement recommendations related to day to day operations. Recommendations that represent changes and expansion of the partnership will require Administrative Board review and approval.

The Board has authorization to appoint standing or special work groups to address special assignments or projects.

Board Membership:

ICWRTC Training Coordinator (Convener)
Foster Care Program Specialist
PET Contract Monitor
BSU Child Welfare Representative
Program Managers: Liaisons to Program Committees
Casey Family Developer
University Representative
Foster Parent/Alumni designee
Adoption Program Specialist
Chief of Social Work Liaison

Roles and Responsibilities: The ICWRTC Foster Parent Training Coordinator is designated the Convener and Chair of this Board. The Convener/Chair is responsible for arranging meetings and conference calls, taking minutes, distributing minutes and reports, developing the agenda, running the meeting, making assignments and serving as a liaison to the Partnership Operations and Outcomes Group.

All members assigned to the Board are responsible for serving as liaisons to the stakeholders they represent. This entails providing updates on group discussion and recommendations, seeking input from Programs on recommendations, coordination implementation issues and problem solving.

Meeting Norms: The Board will negotiate its own norms based on the "Principles for Partnership for Family Centered Practice." These principles are as follows: everyone deserves respect; everyone needs to be heard; everyone has strengths; judgments can wait; partners share power; and partnership is a process.

Meeting Frequency: This Board will meet monthly through conference calls. When possible, two of the meetings will be face to face with one held in conjunction with the annual Partnership meetings.

Reporting Requirements: Board minutes will be posted to the Partnership web page and will serve as the reporting documents to the Administrative Board. Reports on improvement projects and outcome measures will also be submitted as needed to the Evaluation Board. Liaisons to the Program Committee will make progress reports as part of a standing committee agenda item. Format and timelines for these reports will be negotiated at a future date.

Fiscal Responsibility: Travel, per diem and lodging expenses will be the responsibility of the ICWRTC, Region or University Partner. ICWRTC will assume costs associated with meetings, such as meeting room, equipment rental and refreshments.