

ICJC Sex Crimes Subcommittee – Regular Meeting

February 26, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Meeting Location: Office of the Idaho State Appellate Public Defender, 322 E. Front St., Suite 570, Boise, Idaho

Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

Erik Lehtinen, Director, Office of the State Appellate Public Defender
Tracy Basterrechea, Chief, Meridian Police Department

Members Present (14):

Tracy Basterrechea	John Dinger	Stu Hobson
Erik Lehtinen	Roger Sherman	Ivie Smart
Dr. Lisa Bostaph	Aleshea Boals	Collin Elias
Trina Allen	Dr. Megan Smith	Jean Fisher
Meredith Heer	Jean Fitzgerald-Mutchie	

Members Not Present (2):

Elizabeth Spenner
Scott Rowley

Other Attendees (2):

Danielle Chandler
Emma Saulnier

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introduction of members

Erik Lehtinen, Stu Hobson, Collin Elias, Roger Sherman, Emma Saulnier, Danielle Chandler, Jean Fitzgerald-Mutchie, Jean Fisher, John Dinger, Ivie Smart, Aleshea Boals, Trina Allen, Chief Tracy Basterrechea, Dr. Lisa Bostaph, Meredith Heer, Megan Smith

2. Explanation of the history, role, and function of the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission

The Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (ICJC) was created by a 2005 Governor's Executive Order. Made up of 27 members from three branches of government and the community, the ICJC and its subcommittees address important criminal justice issues and challenges, and develop and propose balanced, cost-effective, best-practice solutions to achieve a safer Idaho.

3. Explanation of the history, role, and function of the Sex Crimes Subcommittee

Prior iterations of this group have worked on reworking statutes, including rape and sex abuse crimes. They also repealed outdated sex crime statutes. In this 3-year iteration, ICJC's strategic plan directs this group to work towards the prevention of sex crimes.

4. Discussion of the Subcommittee's goals and next steps

A member expressed interest in identifying effective prevention mechanisms to reduce the number of young people committing crimes and entering the justice system.

A request was made to add an agenda item to the next meeting to discuss current efforts, challenges being encountered, and gaps in available resources.

It was noted that there are decades of survey data addressing forced sexual contact. Additional adult data is available through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which includes questions regarding sexual violence occurring before age 18. Updated data will not be available until 2027.

The state's opt-in structure was identified as a factor impacting data collection.

The importance of safe, stable, and nurturing families was emphasized, along with discussion about how to break intergenerational cycles.

A question was raised about the limitations of this subcommittee. The Chairs confirmed that the group is not required to focus specifically on legislation.

Discussion occurred regarding the gap between parents serving as providers and protectors of children, while not necessarily being experts in technology.

It was noted that the Department of Health & Welfare is unable to reach the entire state due to funding limitations and is therefore targeting specific populations.

A societal blind spot was identified: abuse can be perpetrated by trusted individuals within families, faith communities, and other community settings.

Research referenced the appropriateness and timing of conversations with children about sexual safety. Other countries were noted as leading in developmentally appropriate approaches to these discussions.

True prevention was described as addressing known risk factors.

A public health example was shared, referencing the reduction of SIDS deaths through prevention education campaigns (e.g., visual reminders such as images placed on ambulances), demonstrating that prevention messaging can be effective.

It was noted that many parents may be reluctant to have direct conversations about sexual safety and that difficult conversations are necessary. The development of protective language that feels more comfortable to families was suggested.

A member emphasized that parents care deeply about their children and their neighbors' children, and that discomfort with certain terminology does not reflect a lack of care.

A transportation safety campaign ("Drive Well Idaho") was referenced as an example of successfully shifting messaging to more positive language.

Discussion included how to teach children about boundaries and healthy relationships.

Problematic sexual behavior among children was identified as a topic to address in future meetings.

The group discussed exploring social norms, science, and strategies for shifting societal perspectives.

Ongoing work within faith communities to prevent child abuse was acknowledged. Discussion included leveraging social capital statewide and equipping faith leaders with information to support their congregations and small groups. Pornography was identified as a frequently cited concern among faith leaders. A train-the-trainer model was suggested as a potential strategy.

It was noted that initiatives requiring legislative appropriations are often difficult to advance and may take years to gain sufficient support.

Concerns were shared regarding public messaging encouraging community members to closely supervise children. Similar concerns were noted in related child welfare review discussions.

The group will aim to reconvene in one month and may move toward a hybrid meeting structure. Presenters and agenda items will be identified via email in advance.

The group was reminded that meetings are subject to public record requirements and open meeting laws.