

ICJC Sex Crimes Prevention Subcommittee – Regular Meeting

September 10, 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 Chairman: Erik Lehtinen, Director, Office of the State Appellate Public Defender

Members Present (13):

Erik Lehtinen

Dr. Laura King

Trina Allen (left early)

Jen Rupe

John Dinger (joined late)

Roger Sherman

Aleshea Boals

Molly Kaczmarek

Stu Hobson (left early)

Cassie Graham

Collin Elias

Jean Fisher

Anthony Henry

Members Not Present (4):

Tracy Basterrechea

Elizabeth Spenner

Scott Rowley

Dr. Megan Smith

Other Attendees (3):

Angela Weeks

Raelynn Davis

Elizabeth Todd

Meeting Agenda:

1. Preliminary matters

Jen Rupe notified the group that a new ICAC Education Specialist has been hired and will be joining the group next meeting.

2. Approval of August 6, 2026, regular meeting minutes

Chair Lehtinen notified the group that the July 9, 2026, minutes need approval because the subcommittee did not have a quorum last meeting.

A correction was identified in the July 9, 2026, minutes. Roger Sherman moved to approve the July 9, 2026, minutes with an amendment to the number of Other Attendees as well as the August 6, 2026, minutes, seconded by Aleshea Boals. The motion passed.

3. Presentation and discussion: Camp Hope - Det. Angela Weeks (Ret.)

Angela Weeks presented on Idaho's Camp Hope America.

Angela explained that Camp Hope is a nationally recognized program that started in San Diego, California and the Idaho location opened 14 years ago. Children are referred to Camp Hope from the Nampa Justice Center, Nampa Police Department, Canyon County Prosecutor's Office, and more. Children that are referred to Camp Hope are often exposed to domestic or sexual violence.

It was discussed that Camp Hope is a 4-day adventure-based, therapeutic, summer camping trip at Trinity Pines in Cascade, Idaho. The program aims to build hope and resilience by pushing Camp Hope children to believe in themselves, others, and their dreams. It was emphasized that the Camp Hope program is evidence based. Idaho's Camp Hope has been a part of Hope research that shows if you increase a child's resilience, their Hope scores will increase as well. Angela explained that increasing a child's Hope score does not mean they won't experience challenges, but it means they have the tools to bounce back from adversity and not be drawn back into cycles of violence.

Camp Hope's Pathways program was presented to the group. It was emphasized that a week at camp was not enough time, so the Pathways program was designed to provide year-round mentorship. It was discussed that in addition to the Pathways program, they offer training for basic life skills such as cooking, eating etiquette, basic mechanics, banking/investments, taxes, conflict resolution, and more. An example of a conflict resolution activity was presented to the group.

Camp Hope's Summit leadership camp was mentioned. It was explained that Camp Hope recognized many children were aging out of the program and they wanted to continue to provide connection and mentorship for older children. The leadership camp is designed for Camp Hope graduates to come back and mentor the newest generation of campers. An example of a Camp Hope graduate that later became a keynote speaker on behalf of the program was provided to the group. It was emphasized that Camp Hope's goal is to help children and young adults identify pathways, show them that what happened to them is not their identity, and surround them with cheerleaders.

Raelynn Davis spoke to the group about her experience as a Camp Hope graduate. Raelynn expressed that Camp Hope became a home away from home. A silent, safe home. The program changed the trajectory of her life and taught her she had control of

her own emotions. Raelynn explained that camp gave her confidence, hope, and taught her that she will always be more than her trauma.

A core aspect of Camp Hope, challenge by choice, was explained to the group. They want Camp Hope children to learn that they can overcome challenges without being forced to participate in activities. An example of a challenging activity was provided.

A member asked how children are referred to Camp Hope. It was reiterated that children can be referred from the Nampa Family Justice Center, Canyon County Prosecutor's Office, counselors, and more. The group discussed that Camp Hope will only take children that have been in counseling to ensure they are safe and ready to participate in the program.

A member asked if Camp Hope has the capacity to handle all referrals. It was discussed that Camp Hope does not have the staff or resources to take every child that is referred to the program. It was added that they keep traditional camp at 40 children, and their summit/leadership camp at 20. The group discussed that every community in Idaho should have a Camp Hope program. The program is always looking for resources and grants to increase capacity and provide additional services to the community. An example of a service they offer to families and how it changed their lives was provided to the group.

A member asked Raelynn how Camp Hope impacted her life at home. Raelynn discussed that the time between the first and second year of camp was the hardest as she was resistant to utilize the skills she learned. It was added that the consistency of attending the Pathways program outside of camp helped her gain the confidence to self-regulate and use her coping mechanisms.

A member asked if children involved in the Camp Hope program come back every year. It was discussed that there was a lot of turnover when they first started the program, but Camp Hope children are invited back every year, and now that they have developed more connection with the campers, most come back.

A member asked if Idaho's Camp Hope program follows a national model. It was explained that the traditional camp and Pathways program are national models, but the Summit leadership camp, life skills program, and advisory committee are not national models.

A member of the subcommittee shared their experience as a Camp Hope child. The group discussed how Idaho's Camp Hope program has improved by listening to their advisory committee and Camp Hope graduates. It was emphasized that the best people to provide honest feedback about the program are those who have completed it.

The group discussed how Camp Hope works with licensed therapists to add individualized therapeutic components to every camp activity. All members of their staff understand the intention behind every game or conversation, even if the kids don't see it. It was emphasized that this addition is way beyond the national standard.

A member asked what it would take to have a Camp Hope program everywhere. The group discussed that there are several barriers, but it is not impossible. All Camp Hope programs must be affiliated with Camp Hope America, adhere to the Camp Hope model, have funds or sponsors, and more. Examples of sponsors and the things they have donated to Idaho's Camp Hope or Camp Hope America were provided to the group. Examples of the commitment and services offered to families in the community were added.

The group discussed what happens after Camp Hope children graduate and/or age out. It was emphasized that nothing magical happens when you turn 18. Examples of Camp Hope graduates that continue to seek guidance from the program were mentioned.

A member asked what children at risk or victims say a prevention program should include. Raelynn discussed her work with YouthROC and provided an example of important conversations she has with her peers that are otherwise stigmatized. It was emphasized that the best way to get an answer is to ask a child that is dealing with it and to look at the behavior.

The group discussed how public health systems strongly encourage behavior modification. Appropriate behavior skills can be taught to children but it is hard to pinpoint what will push them to put those skills into practice. It was added that Camp Hope children take a Hope survey before camp, at camp, and 30 days after camp to identify how effective the programming is on a child's Hope scores. It was emphasized that the Nampa Camp Hope children have come in with the lowest starting Hope scores in the country and left with the highest.

It was discussed that Camp Hope continues to update their model to meet the needs of the children they mentor. For example, suicide prevention was incorporated into their model for high-risk children after they tragically lost someone to suicide.

It was noted that Idaho's Camp Hope currently operates on \$175,000 a year, at roughly \$2,200 per child for camp alone. On average, the state pays \$34,000 per inmate. It was emphasized that we can put money into prevention or pay for it later.

Examples of Camp Hope graduates sharing their accomplishments were provided.

A video of Camp Hope children was shown to the group. Additional examples of challenging activities were mentioned. It was noted that all children that attend Camp Hope must stay in a cabin, no tents, and must be given exactly the same thing as every

other child. Angela shared examples with the group highlighting the importance of giving identical items to every child.

4. Discussion of upcoming SCPS meetings

Members discussed the goals of this subcommittee. A member asked if the group's goal should be primary or secondary prevention. It was mentioned that the group should aim to promote positive childhood experience and behavior, but the focus should be on upstream prevention. Members continued to discuss sexual violence prevention and education. It was emphasized that child sexual abuse will remain an ongoing crisis without intervention and prevention efforts. The subcommittee will continue to work on identifying the need and how to achieve upstream prevention.

The subcommittee will meet next on October 8, 2026. The group will hear from CAPSA regarding their role in the Idaho Preventionist Network. The following meeting is set for November 5, 2026. The group will hear from the Idaho Network of Child Advocacy Centers regarding their implementation of the Darkness to Light model. Members discussed meeting frequency moving into the holidays. The subcommittee will plan on taking December off and reconvening in January.