ICJC Sex Crimes Prevention Subcommittee – Regular Meeting

October 8, 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 (14):

Erik Lehtinen
Dr. Laura King
Trina Allen
Jen Rupe (left early)
Jair Carrero
Scott Rowley
John Dinger (left early)
Roger Sherman
Aleshea Boals
Dr. Megan Smith
Molly Kaczmarek
Stu Hobson (joined late)
Cassie Graham
Collin Elias

Members Not Present (4):

Tracy Basterrechea
Elizabeth Spenner
Jean Fisher
Anthony Henry

Other Attendees (3):

Abi Van Wagenen
Misty Hewitt
Elizabeth Todd

Meeting Agenda:

1. Preliminary matters

   Chair Lehtinen reminded members of the committee that the Darkness to Light training is coming up and encouraged members that are interested to attend.

   Jair Carrero, the new ICAC Education Specialist for the Idaho Attorney General's Office, introduced himself as a new member of the committee.

Chair Lehtinen mentioned the so-called "Cornell Seven" case that has garnered significant media attention lately, using that case to emphasize the importance of the committee's prevention work. Members discussed the reporting surrounding the Cornell case, as well as that concerning a recent incident at a Boise-area high school. It was emphasized that there seems to be a systemic issue that needs to be addressed as society teaches youth that this behavior is acceptable or even encouraged to fit in. Members discussed the importance of this subcommittee, and the prevention work many organizations do, but noted there is a clear need for something more.

2. Approval of September 10, 2026, regular meeting minutes

   Molly Kaczmarek moved to approve the September 10, 2026, minutes, seconded by Collin Elias. The motion passed.

3. Presentation and discussion: CAPSA's sexual violence prevention efforts and involvement in the Idaho Preventionist Network – Abi Van Wagenen & Misty Hewitt

   Abi Van Wagenen and Misty Hewitt presented on CAPSA's sexual violence prevention efforts and their role in the Idaho Preventionist Network.

   Misty provided an overview of the services CAPSA offers in southeast Idaho (Franklin and Bear Lake Counties). It was explained that CAPSA offers comprehensive services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence such as a 24/7 crisis line, advocacy and support services, emergency shelter, children's services, therapy services, and more.

   The 24/7 crisis line was presented to the group. It was mentioned that the crisis line received more than 8,000 calls last year, more than 200 of which were from Franklin and Bear Lake Counties. The crisis line can be used for many things including determining if a survivor's situation qualifies for CAPSA's services.

   The advocacy and support services provided by CAPSA were discussed. All CAPSA employees are trauma informed and provide casework or legal advocacy services to point survivors to the necessary help. It was emphasized that CAPSA starts by believing victims, as that can make all the difference.

   CAPSA's emergency shelter services were discussed. It was emphasized that emergency shelter is a critically important service they offer. Statistics regarding domestic violence and homelessness were provided. 50% of homeless survivors say domestic violence made them homeless, 80% of survivors say domestic violence factored into their homelessness. CAPSA partners with local hotels to house individuals when their shelter is full. It has

also developed many properties to provide long-term housing with a scaled approach to rent payment for stability.

The children and therapy services provided by CAPSA were discussed. Children who witness abuse are 2.6% more likely to be in an abusive relationship. CAPSA offers skill building and ensures each child's perspective is heard. Free individual and group therapy services are offered for children, teens, and adults on both an emergency and ongoing basis. It was emphasized that free, confidential therapy services play a critical role in healing from abuse.

CAPSA also provides sexual assault advocacy services by partnering with Franklin County Medical Center. Sexual assault advocacy services consist of responding to forensic examinations and providing information and support.

Abi Van Wagenen presented on CAPSA's role in the Idaho Preventionist Network. Abi's team aims to increase protective factors and decrease risk factors to achieve primary, upstream prevention. CAPSA provides youth education on important topics, such as healthy relationships and being an upstander, in schools and other community settings. It was emphasized that not a single presentation, job, or conversation can make the change needed to prevent cycles of violence; we need long-term community change. It was added that CAPSA has been around for 50 years and its history has shaped how they think about prevention.

CAPSA's Youth Council was discussed. Youth Council is a peer mentor group designed to give young people an active role in prevention. Other youth prevention efforts were mentioned. CAPSA and Hope Squad collaborated on healthy relationships week to teach students about the importance of confidence, boundaries, recognizing relational harm, and consent. It was emphasized that youth prevention is important, but we cannot put the responsibility of prevention on youth, adults need to take ownership as well. Parents and caregivers are some of the best prevention partners.

A member asked if CAPSA struggles to get permission to present in Idaho schools. It was discussed that there is hesitancy, but they have found ways to approach this issue using the foundation they have built in Utah.

CAPSA's rural expansion into Rich County, Utah and Franklin County, Idaho was presented to the group. It is a slow process of developing strong local partnerships, introducing education and prevention information to encourage people to utilize services, and showing up consistently to build trust and funding. Examples of additional community engagement activities were provided. It was emphasized that rural expansion requires patience, flexibility, and strong local relationships.

CAPSA's role in the Idaho Preventionist Network (IPN) was discussed. Through CAPSA's work in prevention they have learned that upstream prevention can be difficult to sustain in isolation. It was emphasized that it is important to have a space where people can share what prevention efforts have worked well and what prevention efforts have not. It was added that the Idaho Preventionist Network was designed to create a place for people that are doing this prevention work to problem solve, reduce duplication, and share ideas across the network. Prevention resources that are provided to those in the Idaho Preventionist Network were presented to the group.

A member asked if the resources provided are modeled after something in Utah. It was discussed that they have been developed uniquely to Idaho.

A member asked about the recruiting phase of the Idaho Preventionist Network and if they have a public list of people/organizations that are participating. A list of people and organizations was provided.

A member asked about the focus of the Idaho Preventionist Network and what types of organizations can participate. It was discussed that any organization can participate but CAPSA's area of expertise is domestic or sexual violence.

A member asked what CAPSA sees as their most pressing need in Idaho and/or if there are areas that have more needs than they can provide. It was discussed that funding is always a need, but they have found that our society needs more supportive services to those with vulnerable mental health issues. It was added that supporting victims of domestic or sexual violence that have severe pre-existing mental health conditions can be challenging as resources are limited.

4. Discussion of upcoming SCPS meetings

The subcommittee will meet next on November 5, 2026. The group will hear from the Idaho Network of Child Advocacy Centers. The subcommittee will then take a break for the holidays and plan to reconvene in January.

Members discussed whether the subcommittee should continue to hear presentations from local organizations or if the group should take a different approach. It was discussed that learning is helpful, but some members are ready to start thinking about what the subcommittee should do. A member asked about the timeline and what the finished product should look like. It was noted that the timeline is three years from when this group started but expectations for the finished product were not clearly defined. Members discussed where this group should focus and how broad the subcommittee's definition of

sex crimes should be. The group would like to spend some time defining the issue and then figure out what the first step to prevention is.