

ICJC Sex Crimes Prevention Subcommittee – Regular Meeting

April 30, 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 (13):

Tracy Basterrechea

Erik Lehtinen

Elizabeth Spenner

Trina Allen

Meredith Heer

Scott Rowley

John Dinger

Roger Sherman

Dr. Megan Smith

Stu Hobson

Ivie Smart

Collin Elias

Anthony Henry

Members Not Present (4):

Dr. Lisa Bostaph

Aleshea Boals

Jean Fitzgerald-Mutchie

Jean Fisher

Other Attendees (1):

Elizabeth Todd

Meeting Agenda:

1. Approval of March 26, 2026, regular meeting minutes

An error was identified in the minutes.

John Dinger moved to approve the March 26, 2026, minutes with a correction to add Dr. Lisa Bostaph as a member not present, seconded by Tracy Basterrechea. The motion passed.

2. Presentation and discussion: IDHW's Sex Offense Prevention Work (Collin Elias)

A Chair proposed the committee amend the agenda to receive Collin's presentation first and Meredith's second in the interest of timing.

Dr. Megan Smith moved to amend the agenda, seconded by Tracy Basterrechea. The motion passed.

Collin Elias presented on the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare's Sexual Violence Prevention Programs.

The presentation discussed the CDC Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Grant. The RPE program aims to prevent sexual violence by providing funding to all 50 states, and US territories. It was noted that it is a population-based formula. The amount depends upon the population. Idaho receives \$338,000 annually.

Collin discussed the RPE approach. The focus is primary prevention, and the goal is to stop sexual violence before it occurs. Programs address risk and protective factors linked to sexual violence.

Examples were provided for individual, relationship, community, and societal risk and protective factors. Individual risk factors include substance abuse and hostile attitude towards women. Individual protective factors include knowledge of consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships. Relationship risk factors include peer pressure to engage in sexually aggressive behavior. Relationship protective factors include supportive family relationships. Community risk factors include weak institutional policies or enforcement of sexual harassment and limited access to prevention education or support services. Community protective factors include safe school and workplace environments. Societal risk factors include norms that support male dominance and female subordination. Societal protective factors include media messaging that promotes respect and consent.

It was emphasized that human behavior is shaped by interactions between individuals and their environments.

A member asked if there are studies that show if these risk and protective factors truly affect sexual violence statistics.

It was discussed that attitudes change but not a lot of behaviors change. Programs need to get into hands-on skills and/or developing new skills.

An article was mentioned as future meeting agenda item to touch on the subject at hand.

Another question was posed about research and statistics. Substance abuse and how it relates to an increase in sexual violence was provided as an example.

The committee discussed how funding is a challenge. It was stressed that there are a lot of communities that are underserved. Rural areas are not being touched because there is not enough funding. A member would like the group to discuss how programs can approach rural communities in the future.

A member mentioned the Green Dot program. It was explained as a program at colleges that teaches students about the bystander effect. It was added that the program encourages students to avoid risky environments and/or to stand up when sexual violence occurs.

It was mentioned that it is easier to see effectiveness in smaller populations.

The group continued to discuss the challenges of seeing real behavior change rather than just attitude change. Studies show a change in knowledge, but what needs to happen is a culture change. Students and adults can learn about prevention, but when they return to their families, the learned behavior continues. It was emphasized that communities need change, or we will not see a behavior shift. The challenge is determining how we support families, so the patterns do not continue to repeat.

Collin's presentation continued.

It was mentioned that the CDC's approach is to work collaboratively with schools, police departments, and non-profits to guide implementation and evaluation. Further, they analyze relevant state and community data for informed decision making.

Four Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) subrecipients of the RPE grant were discussed. Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), the Women's and Children's Alliance (WCA), Citizens Against Physical and Sexual Assault (CAPSA), and the Idaho Preventionist Network.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) serves Ada County and offers two programs – Safe Families for Children and Parent Café Meetings. The Safe Families for Children program supports families in crisis to reduce the risk of foster care involvement. Services include case coordination, parent mentoring, navigation, transportation, clothing, housing, and coaching. The Parent Café Meetings offer a welcoming space for peer-to-peer support. The meetings are held every two months for about three and a half hours. Dinner and daycare are provided so parents can share, connect, and support one another. It was added that both LCSNW's programs received \$50,000-\$60,000 from the CDC's RPE grant.

The Women's and Children's Alliance (WCA) serves Ada County and offers culturally appropriate sexual violence prevention education delivered by trusted peers and adults and an intergenerational program to address generational gaps. It was noted that the WCA

distributes some RPE funding to TANTA, a refugee organization. The WCA's approach is to offer youth-facilitated campaigns and workshops, to conduct home-based visits and community conversations, and to build skills, knowledge, and community capacity.

Citizens Against Physical and Sexual Assault (CAPSA) is based out of Utah but serves Franklin and Bear Lake Counties. CAPSA offers rural areas financial literacy and economic empowerment education as well as sexual and domestic violence prevalence and prevention education via workshops and campaigns. The programs are implemented in partnership with employers, the business community, and schools to reach adults and youth.

The Idaho Preventionist Network is a new program that has a statewide focus area. The program consists of a network of partners addressing sexual and physical violence prevention to share resources, program models, and more. The group meets once a month and maintains a resource platform.

A member asked about thoughts on the Idaho Preventionist Network. Members discussed that the program in theory is great, but it is still very new and only time will tell.

Another member asked about the difference between the Idaho Preventionist Network and the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. Members discussed the transitions taking place at the Coalition and noted that the difference is not known at this point.

Another member asked about the make up of the Idaho Prevention Network. It was noted that it is just starting but the make up is multi-disciplinary.

The committee discussed fragmentation. There are many programs out there. Some are grant funded, some are not. There is a lot of dividing attention/resources and competing. A member cited Ada County Victim Services Center as a self-sustaining model and discussed how they bring in lots of other organizations. Members discussed the different ways the committee could approach change but emphasized that this is a tough conversation because every group/program has good intentions.

3. Presentation and discussion: ICAC's Role in Prevention (Meredith Heer)

An announcement was made that Meredith Heer will no longer be a member on the committee as she is leaving the Attorney General's Office.

Meredith Heer presented on the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and its role in prevention.

Background was provided on Meredith's position and the ICAC Task Force as a whole. As an Education Specialist, she is tasked with creating materials and educating the community on what ICAC does and how these crimes can be prevented. The ICAC Task

Force is located inside the Attorney General's Office and consists of three investigators, three analysts, four forensic investigators, and several full-time affiliated partners around the state.

ICAC is a federally mandated, grant funded program with 61 locations across the U.S. There is one in every state, but some have more than one – it is based on population.

All ICAC cases come from cyber tips and/or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). ICAC is the clearing house for all cyber tips. After evaluation, they either keep the case or pass it out to affiliates around the state as appropriate.

Statistics on the growth of cyber tips in Idaho were provided. The number of cyber tips in 2024 nearly doubled in 2025 from 3528 to 6117. ICAC receives around 500 cyber tips per month.

A member asked why they have seen such growth. The group discussed how NCMEC uses AI to triage tips which greatly increases the speed of the process. Idaho was the second or third state to pass generative AI legislation for finding child sexual abuse material (CSAM). It was added that ICAC is getting better at catching these crimes. The increase in cyber tips has resulted in more arrests as well. In 2025 there were 135 task force arrests, 70 of which were ICAC alone.

A member asked if ICAC receives tips about child sexual abuse. It was clarified that their scope is very limited to those producing/distributing CSAM.

The increase in headlines surrounding the arrests was mentioned. People often ask why they are seeing it so much more. It was emphasized that it is not just about Idaho's population growing but we are catching more crimes. It can be hard for the public to understand why the numbers are so high and what they are supposed to do about it.

Online risk and inappropriate content were discussed. The challenge is figuring out how to package the education materials to make it digestible for parents and children. It is important to discuss these issues at age-appropriate levels, but children have become so desensitized to these issues. It is important to break it down, not overwhelm. It was emphasized that redirecting fear to empowerment is very important for educating parents.

Different types of online threats were listed. Child enticement and undercover chat operations are huge. Financial Sextortion is major issue.

Statistics regarding sexting were provided. 19.3% of teens have sexted, 34.8% of teens have received a sext.

Sextortion was discussed. 200 reports of it last year. When tips are received, an analyst does an immediate welfare check because suicide is very high in those situations.

Sextortion was compared to the “Prince of Nigeria” scams. They demand money and it feels very real. Most common in low-risk children who have more to lose. Educating children and parents on this issue is a priority.

A member asked if they run into discomfort concerns when confronting the educational sex conversations. The group discussed different school areas that do not seem interested in having the conversation and other school areas that are very interested. Members explored the variety of reasons ICAC runs into these challenges. It was emphasized that if only the people that care about it, care about it, we will not see real change. Parents that are not interested in the conversation are the ones that need to learn most.

It was mentioned that booths in various public events have been incredibly helpful for ICAC education efforts. It is voluntary for people to learn in a more casual environment. The ICAC website also contains a lot of resources. Schools, churches, etc. can request a presentation or grab training materials if they are not interested in a presentation.

A member asked about “to catch a predator,” vigilante videos on the internet. The group discussed the issues with these operations. It was emphasized that these sting operations should be turned to the proper channels. People may consider them entertaining, but they are not appropriate.

Prevention efforts were discussed. The ICAC education specialist aims to provide communities with guidelines for internet safety. When a child should be given a phone, what apps to avoid, Chromebook safety, common things that kids do, etc.

4. Discuss subcommittee presentation at the next (May 29, 2026) regular ICJC meeting

Ashley Dowell, the chair of the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (ICJC), has requested that this subcommittee present at the next ICJC regular meeting on May 29, 2026.

The group discussed what they could present to the committee. Presentation could focus on the challenges that this subcommittee is facing.

Members discussed where this group is going and what the main area of focus should be.

A member suggested the group give highlights of presentations the subcommittee has seen so far, challenges they continue to discuss, and potentially ask ICJC for additional guidance. The group agreed that sharing what has been presented on and discussed so far is the best direction for the presentation.

Members were reminded that all ICJC meetings are open to the public and they are welcome to attend if they are interested.

5. Schedule next subcommittee meeting (possibilities include May 28, 2026, or June 4, 2026)

The group discussed when they should meet next. Committee could meet the day before the regular ICJC meeting on May 28, 2026 but it could also be good to discuss the meeting the following week on June 4, 2026.

The committee agreed to meet June 4, 2026.