



Southeastern Idaho Public Health

Citizen Review Panel

Pursuant Public Health District #6

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

Members present: Bob Thomas, Melanie Durfee, Amber Gerber

Melanie is unable to attend the complete meeting exiting at 9:21a.m.

SIPH Facilitator: Effie Jones

IDHW Facilitator: Nichole Knowles

Visitor: Samuel Montanez

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Minutes

Minutes for June, July and August meetings were sent prior to this meeting for individual review by members. Bob Thomas made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes as written; Amber Gerber seconded motion. All in favor; motion passes.

Announcements/ Updates/ Training Moments

Bob shared that the statewide Quarterly meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10; he has a conflict with the scheduled meeting and asked for a volunteer to report for region 6 at this meeting, Amber accepted this task.

Bob reported on a Track B meeting he attended, and the topic of sibling separation discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Amber to report at September CRP statewide meeting for region 6 on Wednesday.

Executive Session

Pursuant to IC74-206, motion to move into Executive Session made by Melanie Durfee; seconded by Amber Gerber; all in favor, motion passes to move into Executive Session at 9:17 a.m.

Two cases were reviewed by one panel member. Please note: one member exited the meeting early, new member no case assignment this month. Issues identified: hard to track genome account for absent parents, numerous accounts of police/judicial interactions for parent. Continued multiple mental health and behavior issues for biological mothers leading to an unsafe environment for children/teen and no indication of how cases are moving forward. *Note:* cases review time is approximately 3 hours spent on each case reviewed.

Case assignments to be sent electronically to members. Motion made to move out of Executive Session made by Bob Thomas; Seconded by Amber Gerber.

Exited out of Executive Session at 9:31 a.m.

Panel Discussion(system):

- Region 6 has 143 open cases, with 185 children in foster care situations aa of August 31, 2025. It was reported that this has been an upward trend since October 2024 where there was a total of 155 children in foster care.
- Legislative Budget cutbacks affecting schools, IDHW and other community support for foster children.
- Reporting “current” trends on cases that have lengthy timelines recorded.

Meeting Dates

Due to the next meeting scheduled date falls on a holiday; the next meeting will be on Monday, October 20,2025 at 9 a.m. The September 8,2025 meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.