

Illinois Children and Family Services Advisory Council
September 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes Amended October 27, 2015

In attendance:

Council:

Tim Egan, Chair
Jill Glick, Co-chair
Judge Patricia Martin
Robert Bloom
Erin Merryn
Billie Larkin
Naomi Jakobsson
Jay Paul Deratany

Not in attendance:

Senator Mattie Hunter
Marge Berglind (unable to attend due to prescheduled Board of Directors meeting)

DCFS Staff:

Director Sheldon
Lise Spacapan
Michelle Jackson
Andrew Flach
Jason Woodside
Mike Ruppe
Teddy Savas

Tim Egan called the meeting to order.

Membership discussed:

- Senator Julie Morrison resigned from Council
- Some members never went through full Senate confirmation process
- Others terms have expired, Director and Governor's office to look at these for possible reappointment
- Those with unexpired terms will continue through the course of their term
- Judge Martin recommended Sheriff Dart's office, Child protection Warrant Unit at the court
- Director asked the Council for recommendations, send to Teddy
- All recommendations will be reviewed by the Director, Andrew and Governor's office for consideration to serve on this Council
- Andrew Flach will review the statute for compliance with recommendations
- All recommended appointments will go through Governor approval and Senate confirmation

By Laws:

- Committee established, Jay Deratany and Jill Glick to review existing draft by-laws for development of new by laws
- Legislation to be sent to Jay and Jill

Organizational Structure

Clusters formed around Senior Deputies:

- Jody Grutza: Strategic Planning and Innovations
- Cynthia Tate: programmatic functions, QA, clinical, training, well-being
- Carolyn Ross: budget, grants, contracts, IT, personnel
- Mike Ruppe: operational functions
- Andrew Flach, Chief of Staff: Communications, legislation, advocacy
- Jeremy Harvey (former DCFS youth) Strategic Planning and Innovations, matching foster youth to employment opportunities
- April Curtis (former DCFS youth) Strategic Planning and Innovations, matching foster youth to employment opportunities
- Michelle Jackson: monitoring, to remain reporting to the Director

RFP for Therapeutic Pilots:

- Council raised the issue of allowing for profits respond to the RFP for therapeutic foster care

RFI:

- Michelle Jackson to get Council RFI information, what Dept. is monitoring and assessment tools
- RFI to be sent to Council for review and comment prior to sending to providers

Residential procedures:

- Director requests Council review and provide comment to new residential procedures out for review

BH Update: Lise Spacapan, General Council:

- Department is close to an agreement on the process going forward: 4 experts will not serve as monitors but as experts only
- Andrew Bridge will serve as point person to work with the expert panel

Changes to Procedure 300:

- Rolling out in October, looking at 3 moths for full roll out
- Changes pushes decision making to the lowest level, supervisor and investigator
- Clarifies and streamlines decision making process
- Issue raised regarding time frames for review of procedures, need to make sure procedures are reviewed by the right people with sufficient time allowed (agenda item for next meeting)
- Revised procedure 315, Placement and Visitation, will send to Council for review and comment when ready

Administrative Law Judges (ALJ'S):

- Jason Woodside assigned to work with ALJ's
- Great many indicated reports are overturned on appeal
- Lessons learned from appeals posted on D-net, provide Council with document
- Provides feedback to staff as to why investigative decisions are getting overturned
- Using as teaching opportunity for investigative staff to learn from past mistakes

Investigative Concerns:

- Jill Glick: serious concerns regarding investigations of serious harms with regard to slow to respond, lack of expertise and reworking the system.
- Partnerships with child abuse pediatricians

Child Fatality Website:

- Roll out within the next week
- Most extensive transparent look at child fatalities in Illinois that the Department has undertaken

Death Review Process:

- Director working with Jill Glick on this process
- Recommends this be outside of the Department
- Recommends all deaths in Illinois be looked at
- Focus: What can we learn from child deaths in order to work towards prevention, not blame
- Co-sleeping, AG believes there is no statutory authority to investigate all co-sleeping deaths; suggests violating 4th Amendment by doing so
- Director, position of Dept. is to investigate all co-sleeping deaths
- Lise Spacapan, legal developing a legal opinion of this
- Revised Procedure 300 does include an appendix on co-sleeping yet, will have on once legal issues are ironed out

Next Steps:

- Next meeting October 28 from 2 to 4 teleconference
- Council to provide agenda items to chair Tim Egan
- Tim Egan and Director Sheldon to schedule meeting to set up agenda for next meeting
- Council to get recommendations for membership to Teddy
- April Curtis and Jeremy Harvey to be included in Council
- Provide legislation to Jay and Jill (done)
- Provide residential procedures to Council for review and comment (done)
- Provide lessons learned from ALJ's to council for review (attached)
- Council will need an identified person for minutes (can rotate this between members and meetings)