

Illinois Children's Justice Task Force
February 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes
McLean County Child Protection Network
Bloomington, IL
With phone conference available to other areas

9:37 a.m. - Meeting called to order by Char Rivette, Chair. She asked members, DCFS staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

Members attending: Judith Brucker, Billie Larkin, Judith Bukowski, Don Rose, Tammy Bates, Jill Glick, Ruth Lane, Char Rivette, Hon. Steve Sawyer, Dr. Channing Petrak, Paul Hamann, Virginia Zic-Schlomas, Laurie Riehm, Dr. Mary Dobbins, Hon. Charles Reynard and Jamie Friye.

Members not attending: Rich Russo, Evan Owens, Donya Adkerson, Pat Dempsey, Terry Carmichael, Julie Cummings, Dan Callahan, Kathy McNamara, and Hon. James Radcliffe.

Guests: Akadia Kacha-Ochana from Juvenile Protection Agency

Conference caller(s): Annette Milleville, Steve Budde.

DCFS Staff: Mary Dreiser, Regina Young, Meryl Paniak, Nora Harms-Pavelski.

Review of minutes from November 16, 2015: Motion to approve minutes made by Paul Hamann; seconded by Virginia Zic-Schlomas. Minutes approved.

Opportunity for public comment per OMA: None at this time.

Task Force Administrator's Report:

Betsy Bier has resigned from the task force due to not being able to make the time commitment. Charlie Reynard has retired as judge as of December 31, 2015 but will continue on the task force. Paul Hamann and Ginny Zic-Schlomas will represent the task force at the National Citizen Review Panel Annual Conference in Glendale Arizona. They will report back to the task force on any relevant information.

We will need to recruit new task force members soon to replace those members whose terms are expiring, making sure to fill every mandated category. We will also need to do some succession planning for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Char will be forming a small committee to focus on recruitment. Task force members may provide recommendations for new members to the small group committee.

Mary Dreiser and Char Rivette will be attending the required grantees meeting in Washington, D.C. If we have sufficient funding, one task force member may attend as well. If interested, please contact Mary by 2-29-16.

Mary Dreiser has upcoming knee replacement surgery and will be taking some time off of work. Please get your travel vouchers in as soon as possible after this meeting so they can be processed before she takes medical leave.

Mary Dreiser reviewed with the task force members the approximately 200 page Annual Report and Grant Application for 2015 which was approved by the federal project officer in the fall and recently bound for dissemination. In addition to our task force, this report will be distributed to key staff in DCFS and select legislators. Please notify Mary Dreiser if you need additional copies.

Final Approval of MDT Legislative Report:

Char Rivette thanked Steve Budde and Akadia Kacha-Ochana for all their hard work on this report. It was reiterated that Steve Budde was unexpectedly required to assume major responsibility for the drafting of MDT report. She also thanked the small work group.

Please review "The Urgent Need in Illinois for Unit-Based Multi-Disciplinary Teams to Investigate Child Abuse" for typos and clarity and let Char Rivette know about any changes a.s.a.p. The final draft will be ready for publication on Friday.

Steve Budde also thanked the small group and is looking forward to hearing comments from the task force on the MDT Report.

Char Rivette opened the floor to comments and noted the questions and concerns and the appropriate revisions will be made. She will then submit to the proof reader and distribute it.

The small MDT work group reviewed and drew its inspiration from MDT models developed by a number of other states, i.e., Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania.

Judge Sawyer recommended the following revision: "The State's Attorney shall have the authority to attend forensic or other witness interviews conducted pursuant to reports of child abuse or neglect and to suggest questions to be posed during said interviews. "

The report was approved by the task force.

Break out into three standing committees for Citizen Review Panel Recommendations

Committee Reports back to larger group:

Chairpersons from each of the three standing committee (Don Rose, Judge Reynard, and Laurie Riehm and Dr. Glick) presented their Citizen Review Panel recommendations to the task force.

Each committee needs to submit a typed version of their recommendations to Mary Dreiser by e-mail within one week.

Working Lunch – Committee & Status Reports:

Needs Assessment Committee presented by Chair Don Rose:

We are going forward with developing training for juvenile court judges, law enforcement and SAOs regarding child abuse investigations, as recommended by the committee. Approximately \$40k is available for this purpose. Task force members were invited to make proposals for funding. No proposals have been received by the committee. Don would like to see training in at least all four DCFS regions. Dr. Glick & Dr. Petrak expressed interest in providing judge's training. Meryl suggested reaching out to the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). Dr. Dobbins and Judith Brucker are also willing to assist with the judge's training. We need

someone to step forward to take on the training and line up professionals who are willing to present. Dr. Dobbins agreed to do this.

DCFS Legislation presented by Meryl Paniak:

Meryl provided a packet outlining the 2016 DCFS Legislative Initiatives. The legislative session has not ended. Meryl predicts that this will be a very back-ended session, meaning that most of the action will happen in April/ May. About 10-12 more bills will need to be monitored following the preparation of the packet provided to the task force today. House bills have to be filed by tomorrow. Senate bills are due on February 19, 2016.

DCFS Child Protection presented by Nora Harms-Pavelski:

Procedure 300 training is nearly complete. DCFS is in the process of doing make-up training now. They are also in the midst of a hiring blitz. The goal is 10:1 (10 investigations per month, per investigator). The governor has given DCFS discretion over new hires. The focus right now is front-end investigations. The biggest struggle has been getting CMS to grade applications in timely manner. Foundations training has been re-structured. The first Foundations class has now been through the Residential Simulation Lab and gave positive feedback on the experience. Eckerd Rapid Response is now underway. They are looking at some pilot projects. They are also working on improving their partnerships with private agencies.

Other Business:

The Champions of Children Conference, funded in part by Children's Justice, will be held April 4-5 of 2016 in Oak Brook, IL. Space is limited, so get your reservations in soon. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Billie Larkin.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. Next meeting will be May 11, 2016 at the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Friye, CJTF Secretary