

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

SCAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2015 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Chairs: Diane Scruggs and Cynthia Savage

DCFS Liaison: Valerie McDaniels – valerie.mcdaniels@illinois.gov

Call-In Number: 1-888-494-4032; Access Code: 4975411084

**Visitor: Keith Langston, Director's Office
George Vennikandam, Deputy Dir. of Regulation and Monitoring**

In Person Attendees: *Valerie McDaniels, Diane Scruggs, Roy Harley, Mary Hardy-Hall,*

Teleconference Attendees: *Jackie Sharp, Michael Holmes, Patricia Martin, Cynthia Savage, Maria Glisson, Sergeant Jay Hall, Veatrice Crawford, Joe Hemphill, Doris Houston, George Vennikandam, Keith Langston, Theresa Matthew, Linda Karfs,*

Absent: *Mary Bennett, Elaine Bailey-Johnson, Delilah Nelson, Mary Jane Forney, Andrena Spence,*

Introductions: Today's meeting will be as follows: routine business will be discussed. Afterwards, members will grab their lunches; and be prepared to make the final selection on the 2016 Prevent Child Abuse Awardees.

Review of Minutes: Minutes from 9-10-14 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Lutherbrook Update: George gave a brief overview of the monitoring of Lutherbrook. Diane asked if Lutherbrook was not equipped to handle severity of children's problem. George said DCFS needs to do a better job of looking at each agency when placing children. Diane said she understood but there are also exceptions to placement in emergency situations – is there is any way when placing child out of character for the agency, i.e. could extra support be identified and put in place so it puts the agency in less jeopardy? George said when placing a youth that needs that exceeds an agency's typical programming, we ask for additional funding for agency staff to work with youth one on one. It was asked if there was a timeframe for corrective action plans. George said corrective action plans are reviewed quarterly. Mike Holmes asked if the report is having any impact on the series of residential hearings. Is the report connected to the hearing? George said no – this is simply the most updated report. A question was asked at what point does DCFS terminate an agency because they are not performing to standard or getting back into compliance. George said if they are on Level 3 – they are put on a high degree of monitoring and a corrective action plan will be put in place. He said corrective action plans are set at 30 days up to 3 months and if no progress is made, an intake hold can be implemented and a conversation held with the agency as to further placements and future business with DCFS. See the attached for additional information from George.

State of DCFS: Keith reported that shortly after the election in November 2014 Governor Quinn formed a transition team that has been working with the incoming administration. No specifics have been released yet, but information will be made public in the near future. Keith said the department has been fairly quiet – there have been a number of holiday events throughout the state – both external and internal – and believes that employees are ready to get back to work across the state providing for the children and families in DCFS care. Keith announced the following employee changes: Marcia Williams is retiring after 25+ years with DCFS. Marcia began in DCP and was most recently in the Office of Policy and Advocacy. Karen Hawkins, Deputy Director of Communications, has left DCFS. Karen had been with Department for 14 months. Linda Davis has assumed the role until the position is filled. Keith said the Director would like to extend her thanks to the entire SCAN committee for meeting goals and extend a welcome to the new members of the SCAN Committee. Diane said Department is in a state of limbo and with any new administration there will be changes. Keith said the Governor’s Office has been in transition for the last several years, so kudos to the SCAN Committee for hanging in there and getting ready to embark on another change. He said it will be interesting to see the changes on all of the Committees. Keith stated the Director has made a concerted effort to connect with all of the Committees required by legislation and it will be interesting to see the changes happening in the Department. Michael stated that the way people view DCFS and services provided are critical and with people leaving and moving around, at some point the Department needs to figure out a way to present what the Department should look like. He said he’s never seen the Department take a position that “this is what DCFS should be like.” Valerie said in her experience new administration has reached out to all staff through welcome meetings. Diane said the Department’s overall position has only been clear in probably three different administrations – that this is what the Department is about and the direction we are moving in as opposed to being reactionary. Diane asked Keith if there is anything in the future the Committee needs to be ready for. Keith said the Director is committed to reenergizing the Citizen Review Panel Committees and the folks that represent those Committees and to reconvene and/or begin discussions around better communication – that’s what should be highlighted in the annual reports and trying to figure out what committees and are doing and remove any overlapping before annual report is printed. Diane said there was a time when Chairs/Co-Chairs met for quarterly discussions. Valerie said they are in the process of revitalizing those quarterly meetings. Keith he will help in reaching out and reestablishing those meetings

Results of Case Review (November 5, 2014): Allegation 60 was discussed at the November 5 Case Review. There were a number of concerns/questions raised re: case opening process and the finding process. Valerie will meet with Diane and fine tune the review document and present the final review at the February 18, 2015 meeting. Diane said this is the first time for Valerie and her approach in preparing the report was more “what does this means for the Department” and the report needs to be fine-tuned specifically for the Committee.

Update on Illinois Citizen Review Panel (May 18-20, 2015 in Portland, OR): Valerie discussed the upcoming National Citizen Review Panel meeting in Portland, OR from May 18 -20, 2015 – Diane said she has found that very few committees of the panels are required by legislation and very few have a direct pipeline to the director of their agency. She said at the meeting you get to hear what happens in other areas (issues and solutions). She said that some panels have more citizens’ vs professionals on their Committees. Several Committee members said they are interested in going if Diane cannot go. Valerie said she has a one-page document she will send to the committee re: the conference.

Pending Legislation Review: Valerie discussed DCFS Spring 2015 Legislation Proposed for 2015 (document provided to members prior to the meeting) Valerie said a presentation at Illinois Citizen Review conference regarding the proposed legislation. Diane asked for a list of the criminal convictions that can be waived. Diane asked for the results of the demonstration of the Differential Response models. Doris said the reports may be on the website of UOI-Champaign Child and Family Research Center. Judge Martin suggested the DCFS Legal Department be spoken to re: #9. Diane said that the pending legislation information will be presented to the committee for comment before it is presented to the legislature. Doris asked where the proposals on the list are at in the legislature (i.e., bill #s, who proposed change, etc.). Val said she would find out that information and send to committee.

Announcements: No new announcements.

Other Matters: None.

Diane adjourned the routine business portion of the meeting for members to grab their lunches for the other half of the meeting.

The meeting reconvened approximately 1:00 PM. Roy Harley gave an overview of the 2016 Grant application, teams rating and selection, etc., processes. It was explained that it would six grants awarded in the amount up to \$20, 000.00. It was further explained that the applications were sent out 10/1/14 with a return date of 12/1/14. On 12/3/14, small subcommittee met in Springfield to review all applications to ensure rule requirements were followed as requested. It was noted that some organizations did not follow the rules, late applications, etc. All the applications were divided and assigned to 11 teams. The teams were mailed the applications to come together the applications.

During the application selection process, each team of two revealed their scores for each assigned application. The applications with the highest rating were selected and a voting was intended to occur, however one team needed to present and was unable to do so at the meeting. It was decided at that another sub-committee would met to go over the remaining applications from the remaining team. It was stated that all the grant applications were presented with good proposals.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 3: 45 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2015 FROM 9:30 AM – NOON
LOCATIONS: DCFS Offices at 100 W. Randolph, Chicago and
406 E. Monroe, 7th Floor, Springfield

Video Conference Rooms