

# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## SCAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2015 – 09:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Chairs: Diane Scruggs and Cynthia Savage**

**DCFS Liaison: Valerie McDaniels – [valerie.mcdaniels@illinois.gov](mailto: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:** *Mary Bennett (Springfield)*

**Teleconference Attendees:** *Veatrice Crawford, Delilah Nelson, Keith Langston, Mary Hardy-Hall, Doris Houston, Cynthia Savage, Joe Hemphill*

**Absent:** Valerie McDaniels, Roy Harley; Doris Houston had to sign off at 10:33am; Mary had to leave at 10:55am.

**Introductions:** Today's meeting will be as follows: routine business will be discussed.

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes from 01-05-15 meeting were reviewed. Keith noted that his title was incorrect and needed to be changed to Special Assistant to Chief of Staff. Everything else was approved.

**State of DCFS:** Keith reported that there is a new director, George Shelton, and he has officially been in office for 12 days. He is from Florida and holding the position of acting director who was selected by Governor Bruce Rauner. Keith read a short biography about Director Shelton. He stated that Director Shelton doesn't plan to make many changes, but will make a few. He will bring the hot button issues to front. Keith also reported that the Deputy Chief of Staff is Elizabeth Kling and read her biography. Keith will report any further changes as they are known to him.

**Results of Case Review (November 2014)-Cynthia Savage:** If a case is found not indicated, would it be against any procedures? No is the answer. Observation of serious issues of abuse was discussed. Recommendations #3-sometimes look at inspections. Need to make sure that people are going down the list checking things and not just checking them off. Other recommendations: Is there anything that discusses follow-up or how follow-up occurs and is it clear in the recommendations? Number 4 should state that service were offered and will be followed up on. These changes will be made aware to Valerie McDaniels.

**Critical-Open Meeting Act-Keith Langston:** Keith stated that Valerie sent out a notice to those that have not taken the Ethics Exam. It should be taken as soon as possible. Keith wasn't clear of whom the

officer is, but stated that the exam should only be taken once a year and reported back. However, no one was selected to report back. It should be Cynthia or Diane. A motion was raised for Cynthia to be the officer and motion is carried. The question was asked: Is this a new Ethics exam or the one from last year? Some people need to do the exam from 2014 and everyone has to do the exam for 2015.

Increase Membership-Keith Langston: Keith discussed a state wide membership drive. He is not sure how many members, but Valerie would like to have about 30. There is a need to increase the number of members and the number of people who are non-professional. One observation was that there were a lot of parents and community people on the committee. We don't have that mixture. How can more of a mixture of members and ethnic diversity be recruited? We are looking for more people that are not in the field and more of the general population that are not in child protection. A good source would be to identify parents, foster care trainings, ask people that do respite services if they are interested in participating and Roy may know some parents that may be interested. Family Advocacy Centers are also a good source. Any kind of outreach that can be done in writing to recruit other members would be helpful. We could also get some fathers involved through the Urban League. Someone needs to draft a recruitment flyer. Veatrice and Cynthia will work on that and maybe present it at the next meeting. Every member can help recruit and nominate people according to what we are looking for. Right now some people are not be active and need find out if they want to stay on. Valerie wants the committee to be 30 people strong, so between now and next meeting, people can be nominated. Keith mentioned that the person from the communications department suggested that social media could be a source and he could introduce her at the next meeting. He will contact her and invite her to the next meeting. Veatrice and Cynthia could meet with her to work on some ideas. Another suggestion is to reach out to some of the college students at the universities that may interested in joining. Keith will arrange a meeting for Veatrice and Cynthia to speak with the lady from communications in the next week or so.

Subcommittee needed-Update and enhance By-laws: Cynthia is not sure where they are but they probably need to be updated. Mary Hardy, Cynthia and Veatrice will help to update them. Mary Bennett will call to see if Roy has a copy of the by-laws. If possible, an electronic will be sent to everyone so they can be updated between now and the next meeting.

Announcements: Valerie will be using the Meeting Wizard from now on to schedule future meetings. Cynthia is going to the National Citizen Conference. She has to see who else is going. Cynthia stated that it is a really good conference. They want Illinois to host it in May of 2016, but the committee is not prepared to do that. They could possibly host it in 2017. The conference includes workshops, a focus on transitioning youth and has a panel of 20 year old youth. An amount of 150 people is a sufficient number to host the conference for. It has to be determined what the details of hosting the conference will include and how it will be funded.

Other Matters:

Cynthia adjourned the meeting at 10:55am with the hopes of more members present for the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: April 15, 2015 FROM 9:30 AM – NOON**  
**LOCATIONS: DCFS Offices at 100 W. Randolph, Chicago and**  
**406 E. Monroe, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Springfield**  
**Video Conference Rooms**