

21 January 2016 SCAN Meeting

Members Attending: Elaine Bailey Johnson, Mary J. Forney, Mary Bennett, Roy Harley, Alice Staley, Delilah Nelson, Diane Scruggs, Joe Hemphill, Veatrice Crawford, Cynthia Savage, Andreanna Spence, Elizabeth “Libby” Kling and Nancie Brown.

Members Absent: Mary Hardy Hall, Honorable Patricia Martin, Michael Holmes, Dr. Doris Houston (currently inactive until Spring), Jackie Sharp, Maria Glisson and Patricia Glenn

Visitors: IDCFS Director George Sheldon, Michelle Jackson – Monitoring, Valerie McDaniels, Former IDCFS employee and SCAN Liaison, Theresa Hughes (IDCFS Liaison to the Director and Advisory Board Coordinator)

Convene: 9:35 a.m.

Director Sheldon: Discussion

Current State of the Department: Budget, Funding, Focus

Director Sheldon discussed the recent streamlining of Department Staff. Currently, Carolyn Ross is Chief Deputy and will manage the day-to-day functioning of the Department as well as directly reporting to Director Sheldon. Michael Ruppe is Senior Deputy Director of Operations. Dr. Cynthia Tate is Senior Deputy of the Division of Program Practice and Research. A Strategic Planning/Innovation division has been added to the management structure; led by Jody Grutza, this program will drive change implementation and also assure that changes are both internally and externally consistent. A Senior Deputy for Administration with experience in personnel issues and budgeting is currently being sought. The Department is committed to promoting from within where possible.

The Director believes that partnerships with advisory groups, community based agencies, committees and stakeholders are critical to maintaining a representative focus for IDCFS’ efforts. As such, he has worked closely with the Child Welfare Advisory Committee, judges, state’s attorneys and legislators to ensure alignment. He will attend the Judicial Education Conference in February 2016 to solidify and unify judges’ understanding of the laws affecting child protection. He intends to try to attend SCAN meetings as often as possible.

Director Sheldon has worked actively to maximize federal dollars, especially the IV-E funding, from which Illinois has lost an estimated \$40 million in the past two years simply because IDCFS has not kept up with the paperwork. This loophole has been closed, and as a result, support for the 18-21 age cohort, which had faced complete service cuts, will continue. The federal program requires incentivization of these youth (for instance, the youth must be enrolled either in job training, school or have a disability that would not allow such enrollment). Because of this, Director Sheldon believes that we must start independent living skills training well before the youth turns 17.

In addition to the IV-E dollars, the Director believes that Illinois can do a better job drawing down Medicaid funding. Since Medicaid billing is time-consuming, the Department is exploring a coordinated effort with DHS to develop an internal capacity to do Medicaid billing.

The Department is mandated, via the *BH* Consent Decree, to continue to pay for all necessary services. IDCFS is currently compliant with *BH* in this regard; however, the Comptroller is juggling accounts to pay what needs to be paid so payment is often not timely.

Director Sheldon advocates pushing decision-making down to the lowest possible organizational level; field decisions should not be made from Chicago, foster care waivers should not require six levels of approval. He is making strides to drive decisions based more upon outcome than by overbroad interpretation of rules. He sees trust in the field as very important to this outcome, but also believes that management must manage.

IDCFS must focus on timely permanency. Children should not be in care for longer than is therapeutically necessary. IDCFS' reliance on long-term, deep end residential care must be addressed with stepped down placements. Resources are being developed by pilot programs across the state, as well as by IDCFS Resource Specialists, that will provide a broader range of foster placements and community wrap-around services for our children. Director Sheldon believes that the state is not a good parent, and that we must become better. The movement away from congregate care is a step in that direction, and IDCFS has committed to making further strides in ensuring the safety and development of Illinois children. A PSA is rolling out shortly to address the avoidable and increasing incidence of co-sleeping deaths.

IDCFS has also rolled out and begun training on the much awaited Revised Procedure 300, which addresses Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect. The Department has also taken steps to a 2016 introduction of a Model of Supervisory Practice, which clearly delineates and defines the Departments' expectation of accountability – not in a punitive manner, but in a coaching and teaching/learning manner.

Like IDCFS, the federal government recognizes that the state does not make a good parent. A piece of federal legislation proposed by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) is gaining traction on the federal level. Essentially, the first portion of the Family First Act would create a IV-E option for states to develop prevention programs. The second portion of the Act would set forth policy regarding proper lengths of stay at appropriate residential facilities. (See Attachment for a more complete explanation of the legislation).

Tax Checkoff Dollars

Director Sheldon is supportive of the tax checkoff program and with the use of funds for prevention purposes. However, the Child Abuse Prevention Fund fell from \$133,114.15 for filing period 2013 to \$76,912.21 during filing period 2014. In order to retain the

checkoff option on the tax forms, a minimum threshold of \$100,000.00 must be met; it was lacking \$23,087.79 for filing period 2015. A small subgroup of SCAN will look into legislative options and also delve into why contributions fell so sharply.

Responding to SCAN Recommendations

Director Sheldon recognizes the impact that active committees can have on improving IDCFS' processes and realizes that many past recommendations have slipped through the cracks. While he plans to be involved in the decision making process, Director Sheldon realizes that he cannot adequately address all implementation needs. Because of this, the Strategic Planning and Innovation Team, led by Jody Grutza, has been tasked with spearheading implementation of approved recommendations. Elizabeth (Libby) will be the primary liaison with the Innovation Team; however the Director plans to be as accessible as possible regarding addressing SCANS' recommendations. Should any committee member feel that a concern is not being addressed, committee members should feel free to contact Libby for assistance.

Libby will extend an invitation to the next meeting to Jody Grutza.

SCAN Membership and Attendance at Prevent Child Abuse Conference

IDCFS will continue to cover those expenses previously covered. The annual case review will be scheduled to immediately precede the conference.

SCAN Retreat

The SCAN retreat will be planned for late spring or early summer. Among issues to be addressed are perfecting the bylaws, expanding membership and frequency/timing of meetings.

FY2017 Funding of 2016 Awardees

Roy MOVED that the SCAN Committee recommend continuing the funding of the same awardees that were funded in FY2016 awardees from the Child Abuse Prevention Fund so long as the awardees are current in their reports and deliverables. Veatrice SECONDED.

The fact that two FY2016 contracts are not current was discussed. It was determined that the awardees would be permitted additional time to update their reports and show compliance with expectations. Compliance must be attained by the time SCAN begins asking for renewal submissions.

A SCAN Committee vote was unanimous and the Motion was APPROVED.

APPROVED: The SCAN Committee recommends that IDCFS continue the funding of the same awardees that were funded in FY2016 from the Child Abuse Prevention Fund so long as the awardees are current in their reports and deliverables when SCAN requests renewal submissions.

Additional Remarks

The Child Prevention Conference, *Creating Great Childhoods: the Building Blocks of Prevention*, will be held October 20-21, 2016 at the Springfield Wyndham City Centre (formerly the Hilton).

ADJOURNED 11:35