

17 February 2016 SCAN Meeting

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

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

Visitors: Christopher Boyster (IDCFS Legislative Affairs), Theresa Hughes (IDCFS Liaison to the Director and Advisory Board Coordinator)

Convene: 9:32 a.m.

Chris Boyster, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, spoke to the committee regarding legislative initiatives and updates. Mr. Boyster’s adopted 24 year old son was a former ward and his nearly 2 year old adopted son is a Safe Haven baby.

Mr. Boyster discussed the current legislative atmosphere, which is one of distrust of DCFS. Director Sheldon is making inroads and the department has gained a better reputation amongst legislators. More work remains to be done. Additionally, we are in the middle to an historic general assembly, with a budget impasse that seems to have no end.

DCFS is currently running some legislative initiatives, among them an attempt to include foster parents as part of the fictive kin legislation. The DCFS legislative office will track up to 200 bills, determine the Department’s position on them and testify accordingly.

The Legislative Office prepares a report that goes to the governor. This report will be made available to SCAN committee members in a redacted form.

Mr. Boyster also spoke of the tax check-off problem, about which the governor’s office was approached. The governor is not opposed to legislative initiatives that would place the tax check-off back on the tax forms, but will not entertain them this year due to the impasse and current atmosphere at the General Assembly. While there is no scientific study regarding why so many funds fell off of the tax check-off status, the economy is suspected in general, and the *Chicago Tribune* articles are suspected specifically of causing at least some of the deficit. It does not appear that the contributions were counted any differently than last year.

Use of Funds

Derek Hobson has assured the committee that funds are available for FY17. The Committee will need to determine who these funds will be allotted to.

The committee might explore further grant opportunities.

Grant Monitoring

The committee discussed methods of ensuring that the grantees are doing the work expected of them. Nancie will continue to review the quarterly reports as required by the grant process. Libby has agreed to visit grantees in FY17 to monitor and ensure fidelity to the grant model. The full committee needs to take a deeper dive into grant performance.

Upcoming Events

SCAN Retreat – Ideas: revamp bylaws, discuss aging out services, aligning priorities of initiatives and units Director Sheldon has developed with SCAN’s mission, racial disparity within Department, DCFS demographics.

National Conference – To be held in Arizona. First come, first serve. Please notify Libby.

Adjourned 11:40 a.m.