

Illinois Adoption Advisory Council
October 2, 2015
10:00 a.m. - Noon
Conference Call
1-888-494-4032, access code 6742332353#
APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	DCFS STAFF
Banks, Clemmie	Blake, Karla	Eyer, Gwenn
Dillard, Laura	Bloom-Ellis, Brice	Hughes, Theresa
Faber, Karen	Bush, Kathleen	James, Vanessa
Feltman, Heather	Green, Kelly	McGlothlin, Terry
Golden, Nancy	Kurth, Jeanette	Mills, Pamela
Richmond, Elizabeth	Lepse, Ashley	Resa, Veronica
Saphir, Dawn	Loy, Holly	
Werner, Mark	Phillips, Sarah	GUESTS
Yelverton, Julie	Price, Michelle	Desroches, Tiffany
		Kuntsman-Kern, Kristie

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth called the meeting to order. Terry read the list of participants.

Minutes

Julie Yelverton made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Karen seconded. Motion carried.

Update from Statewide Adoption Administrator – Pamela Mills

Insurance Coverage for Transitioning Youth - Pamela said she did look into this issue. There is a small population of youth who graduate high school and have their case closed when they are still age 18. They would then be without insurance until they are 19. She is going to talk with the Deputy to find out if there is something that we can do in policy to make sure those kids who graduate on time are not left without insurance between the ages of 18-19. Pam has contacted Communications and they gave her information on what to do to start the informational flyer. They are putting that together. If it is a one-pager and it is submitted 30 days ahead of time it can be included as an insert.

Adoption Month in November – Pam said they are working on trying to replicate what they are doing in Rockford in other regions to have an Adoption Day where we do some finalizations. Pam met with Vanessa yesterday and pulled the cases that are waiting for termination. There are over 200. Pam sent information out to the adoption supervisors in the regions and to one DCFS attorney so she can get the names of the judges. Once we get the judges on board we will reach out to contact parents and see what other support we are going to need and how the council can help. They will also utilize the Permanency Achievement Specialists.

Pay for Success Model – Mark Werner

This is a new program that will be statewide within the next year but will start in pilot regions in November. A couple private investors wanted to invest in a program to help kids. They will invest for at least the first three years. If successful the investors will start being paid by the state to return their money. The idea is to help DCFS wards who are starting to get involved in the criminal justice system. They would receive really intensive community-based services regardless of where the kid is. There are 6-7 entry ways into the system. He will email more detailed information to council members. One

example is a ward who was just arrested on a new offense and they are starting to hit the juvenile justice system. Another is if a kid hits the detention center in one of the pilot counties. They will respond with an immediate staffing with an assignment to an agency that is part of this network. Some of the agencies involved are One Hope United, Maryville Academy, and Youth Outreach Services. They want to pilot in three places (Cook South County, Winnebago and E. St Louis area) starting November 1st and next year expand to 17 counties.

Pam asked if it would be available to adopted/guardianship youth. Mark said he brought up catching them before they re-enter the DCFS system so looking at kids including post-adopt and guardianship. Once they re-enter the system it is hard to get out of the system and costly to the state. They probably will not include this population for the pilot cases but he thinks they will consider it as we go on with the program. The University of Michigan is doing the research on this and Georgetown is doing some of the technical assistance.

Social Media and Uses for Post Adopt Families – Veronica Resa

- The DCFS Facebook page is maintained by the DCFS Communications Office. They have received messages about cases so had to shut down the messages function.
- A Facebook page can be named anything you want. Veronica suggested also having a Twitter account.
- Someone who represents your group would need to monitor and oversee the page. It takes about two hours a day to monitor Facebook.
- Vanessa suggested a Linked In Page to link members of the council and other interested professionals.
- Julie Yelverton has been in Facebook groups for foster parents and they are run by a foster parent and they can be really helpful; however, people sometimes post inappropriate things. Some of it is complaining about workers who are perceived as not doing their jobs or following the rules. So many parents do not understand the rules and don't know what services are out there. They are going on bad information and not much support from the community.
- The DCFS Facebook page is open to all partner organizations. Connecting with resources is something we try to do every day.
- Julie Cebulski and Robyn Harvey, both Lead Foster Parent Support Specialists, run Facebook pages. They might be willing to do a conference call with a committee.
- DCFS has a Linked in Page too but mostly just for job postings.
- Mark will look into starting a Linked in Page

Spaulding National Quality Improvement Study

There is a summary of the project in the September 11th minutes. Pam & Elizabeth participated in a call discussing issues and problems yesterday. Elizabeth noted that they are making great progress. They'll get another update at a meeting on Friday.

They will do a focus group with a small group the night before the November meeting. Elizabeth will be sending emails to participants from the councils. She said they will probably also give an update at the joint meeting.

Adoption Celebration

The Embracing Adoption Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th. Metropolitan is staffing the event. Karen Faber, Kelly Green and Kathy Bush volunteered to assist at the last meeting. They will start setting up around 4:30 at the DuPage office, 222 East Willow Avenue, Wheaton. Tiffany gave her personal cell phone number for the volunteers to use that evening if needed (773-793-8041).

The Adoption Month Committee recommended honoring Jim Jones for his dedication to the IAAC. Julie seconded and the motion passed. Terry will take care of preparing the certificate and Elizabeth will present it to him at the meeting.

Membership – Mark

We have candidates for four slots. That leaves us with vacancies for the following: 1 southern region adoptive parent, 2 Cook Central adoptive parents, and one co-chair.

Legislative/Policy – Nancy Golden

No Report

Committees

Terry will send out the revised committee list to be updated via Email. Committees will need to work together to identify resources needed, i.e. staff support, etc. Elizabeth asked that the committee's set a goal to meet prior to the November meeting. Nancy particularly asked for Terry's help with legislative information.

Joint Meeting Agenda

Council leadership met via conference call and compiled two draft agendas, one optimistic re: budget decisions, the other a little less hopeful. We'll ask the Director to give the "State of the State" address, re: budget, reorganization, staffing, etc. We're looking for updates re: policy, the Spalding grant, legislative issues, etc. Debra Dyer will be invited to give an update from the Guardian's office. We talked about inviting the new senior deputies so we can get to know the new leadership and leadership roles.

Other topics suggested:

Quality Parenting Initiative

Trust Based Relational Intervention – Kathleen Bush

ICPC Approval Process – Marilyn Arnold

DCFS external web site – how to navigate

TASK LIST

Elizabeth will send out notes re: stakeholders,

Jeanette will send out notes re: the Adoption Celebration

Terry will send out committee lists.

Next Meeting – Friday, November 13, 2015 – Sheraton Lisle