

**SWFCAC Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES
April 24, 2015 ~ 9am – 10am
Conference Call**

SWFCAC Members Present	SWFCAC Members Absent
Pauline Barlow	Lee Coffman
Gladys Boyd	Edith Cruz
Charlene Burris	Judi Enix
Allison Cugier	Irma Dixon
Kelly Fargher	Stephanie Jones
Laura Hart	
Doreen Henry	
Darrin Holt	Guests
Doreen Henry	Elizabeth Richmond
Kurt Kalas	
Cathy McCoy	DCFS Staff
Mark McDaniel	Marilyn Arnold
Kellye Norris	Gwenn Eyer
Sarah Olson	Vanessa James
Carol Sheley	Terry McGlothlin
Michael Simpson	Jataun Rollins
Pamela Webb	

Welcome & Introductions – Sarah Olson, SWFCAC Chair

Final SWFCAC Reports to Director – Sarah Olson

There were no final reports to the Director. The monthly report to the Director from the SWFCAC Chair was emailed to SWFCAC members.

Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2015 Meeting

Mike Simpson made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2015 SWFCAC meeting. Doreen Henry seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Status of Agency Reviews - Gwenn Eyer

Gwenn reported that all agency reviews have been conducted and all materials have been turned in. Transcripts have been prepared and sent for final comments and/or signature.

Annual Partnering with Parents Summit – May 6 - Terry McGlothlin

The Summit will be held at Northfield Center in Springfield on Wednesday, May 6th from 9am-3pm. The SWFCAC will meet along from 9-10am, then participate in a parent café style meeting from 10-12 with the PWP councils, share lunch from 12-1pm, and then meet alone again from 1-3pm. There will be committee meetings during the 1-3pm portion of the meeting.

PRIDE Training Update - Terry for Sharva Hampton-Campbell

PRIDE is anticipated to roll-out July 1st, after another small delay. Several foster parents, including some past and present members of this council, participated in taping of Session 9 at Governor's State University this week.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Adolescent Issues – Mike Simpson

The committee is waiting to see what happens with the new budget.

Legislative/Policy – Darrin Holt/Cathy McCoy

Cathy reported that the Policy Committee is going to meet at the PWP Summit. They're going to review the implementation plan process and agency review questions to see if they need to make revisions. Darrin reported with regard to the Legislative Committee that people are still advocating against cuts to 18+ but there's still no decision. It has been suggested that contracts will not be in place by July 1, placing many agencies and programs at risk of not being paid for services they're providing after that date.

Foster Parent Support Specialists - Edith Cruz

No report

Respite - Gladys Boyd - No report

Reports from Other Councils/Committees/Workgroups:

CWAC – Allison Cugier

They met last week and their focus is on the cuts and what will happen. There's continued talk about the Tribune article re: residential facilities and DCFS' response to monitoring these facilities, i.e., the use of Agency Performance Teams (APT) to monitor the contracts. They discussed the need for "live data." The Director is pressing to update data systems, making them all work together. Allison reported that the Director is putting committees together in kind of a concurrent plan, developing options to be used depending on whether or not the Governor's 18+ budget cuts take place. Some committees are working on ways to maximize federal funding to maintain some of these programs. Ali noted that if the cuts do happen, statutes will need to be revised to reflect the 18-year-old limit on remaining in care.

IFAPA - Gladys Boyd

The Illinois Foster Adoptive Parent Association met April 11th from 9 – 2 at the 1st United Methodist Church in Pontiac. 27 attended. They discussed a conference and the State Fair. (State Fair information re: tickets will come out in Illinois Families Now & Forever and it's unlikely that the State will provide bus transportation to the fair.) They also discussed the cuts for 18+. Gladys plans to gather more information to share at their next meeting. They also recognized during the meeting that some foster parents are totally unaware of implementation plans. Vanessa noted that the upcoming issue of IFN&F has an article that will prepare foster parents for taking an active role.

PII Workgroup - Sarah Olson

They have a call scheduled for next week.

P315

Marilyn said that P315 is still on target and should be out next month for review. Once they get revisions they will tweak it as needed and then begin training. She noted that she was recently assigned to a workgroup to look at 18-21 year olds, providers, programs, and the impact of funding cuts.

Regional Reports

Northern Region – Judi Enix, Cathy McCoy - No report

Southern Region – Mark McDaniels, Michael Simpson, Sarah Olson

No report. They are not being notified of meetings. Terry will follow up with Derek Hobson. Vanessa reported that the Southern Region IFN&F reporter said that Emma Swanson said that upcoming meeting dates had not yet been determined.

Central Region – Carol Sheley, Lee Coffman, Stephanie Jones

Carol reported that they have a call coming up next Tuesday. They're using support group meetings to get the icebreaker information out, and provide some information on permanence and sibling policy.

Cook North - Edith Cruz, Irma Dixon

No report.

Cook South - Kellye Norris, Pamela Webb

Kellye reported that she and Pamela attended the meeting. Deanna Hall discussed an upcoming cooperative Foster Care Symposium on May 1st for Foster Parent Month. During this event they'll work on recruitment and offer training on parenting and the impact of social media.

Cook Central - Doreen Henry and Charlene Burris

Charlene reported that she will attend the meeting next Monday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m. at DCFS in Maywood.

Rapid Response Meetings

Carol attended a portion of the meeting in Springfield. She was placed in the "Residential" discussion group, where they discussed length of stay and why it is so long. They discussed systemic deficiencies and next steps. Darrin participated in a meeting for POS managers and directors. Their meeting focused on data needed to do their jobs better and what would be needed to keep children safe while in care. They discussed what would be needed for return home in 12 months or adoption within 24 months. Charlene, Irma and Kellye's focus group also addressed residential care, from a community partner perspective. They looked at the same issues Carol reported, and noted the lack of interagency/ interdepartmental cooperation as a component in longer stays. They discussed how to prepare youth for discharge.

FY'16 Elections

SWFCAC Officer Ballots will go out in approximately one week to be returned at the June meeting.

This year is the 20th anniversary year of the signing of the Foster Parent Law.

Adjourn**Next Meetings:**

May 6, 2015 – PWP Summit, Northfield Inn, Northfield Drive, Springfield

June 19, 2015 – Hilton Indian Lakes Resort, 250 W. Schick Road, Bloomingdale