

Illinois Adoption Advisory Council
Eastland Suites, 1801 Eastland Drive, Bloomington
February 5, 2010
10:00 – 3:00
APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	DCFS STAFF PRESENT
Julie Cebulski	Karen Wardlaw	Donsetta Blakely	Ray Gates
Claudia Dancy-Davis	Mark Werner	Kathy Casey	Shaun Lane
DeAudrey Davis	Kim Wheelock	Julie Fritzler	
Rosa Dust	Linda Wolter	Tamara Guy	GUESTS
Ruth Jajko		Dorothy McGhee	Marlana Dokken
Betty Johnson		Kate Monte	Pam Langhoff
James Jones		Judy Pence	
Pat Kelso	MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE	Breanne Radtke	OTHER STAFF VIA PHONE
Billie Ray Lewis	Nancy Golden	Michelle Seidl	June Dorn
Maripat Oliver	Derek Jeske	Jackie Sharp Akins	Shelly Knuppel
Elizabeth Richmond	Roman McCray	Carol Sheley	
Karen Taylor	Lisa Myles	Margaret Vimont	

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth welcomed council members and guests. Everyone introduced themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

Reinstatement of Parental Rights Legislation - Shelly Knuppel

Shelly joined the meeting by phone. She spoke about Public Act 96-0600, effective 8/21/09.

- 1) Allows reinstatement of parental rights, under conditions
- 2) Amends several statutes, including Juvenile Court Act
See handout for details.
- 3) Now allows "continuing foster care" under conditions, including child's wishes if old enough.

AAC members raised concerns regarding the goal being overused. They discussed the possibility of a procedure or a policy transmittal to clarify how to do this work. Shelly said the rule is on Shaun's desk and any request for a procedure must come from a Deputy Director. Linda advised we train staff on this and asked how this affects performance-based contracting and how it affects our reaching federal benchmarks for permanency. She suggested this be tailored to a very narrow population.

Per Shaun Next Steps:

- 1) Issue policy with Information Transmittal stating terms of statute.
- 2) Develop procedures over time that will inform training.

The Council recommended DCFS train staff on these changes and practice-related issues. Shaun will follow up.

Adoption Celebration 2009-11/21/09

Lisa Myles and Derek Jeske reported on the celebration at the Winnebago County Courthouse. Both attended. They said everyone enjoyed the celebration and all went well.

Adoption Month Celebration 2010

Elizabeth read the letter sent to request the Governor's Mansion for November 19, 2010. Lisa and Derek will co-chair the committee to plan this event. Lisa suggested having space for kids. Karen, Julie, Pat & Elizabeth volunteered to serve on the committee. ***Ray will ask Terry to set up a conference call before the next AAC meeting.**

Director's Leadership Data Summit - Shaun Lane & Jim Jones

Shaun said that on the first day research was presented, and on the second day they discussed the Department's initiatives that have grown out of the research.

Two themes came from the first day:

- 1) Commit to permanency - Dr. Griffin, children's hope declines with multiple moves.
- 2) There is a smaller population of kids in care but their needs are more intense.

2nd day highlights:

- 1) Talked re using Statewide Provider Database to link families to services.
- 2) Trauma informed practice focus, including learning collaboratives. Will soon add field support for direct service supervisors, public and private.
- 3) Director talked regarding Differential Response, to create alternate response for low-risk cases coming to the hotline.
 - Womazetta Jones is the Project Director.
 - Safety assessment will be done by DCFS.
 - Community provider does services with family.
 - Service is intended for 90 days
 - Paradigm shift is differential response services are voluntary.

Jim talked regarding factors such as parental resiliency, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, social and emotional competence of children and healthy parent/child relationships.

Update on Differential Response Committee - IAAC and SWFCAC - Shaun

- 1) Recognizes great resource of foster and adoptive parents
- 2) Seeks ways individual foster and adoptive parents can be a resource in communities and to Differential Response families; perhaps a peer/mentor relationship or a role at parent cafes in communities.

Karen suggested we develop parent cafes for adoptive parents. Ray described foster parent cafes.

Agenda - **Invite Strengthening Families to talk regarding Adoptive Parent Cafes.**

Adoptive Families Today Relationship Enhancement - Marlana Dokken & Pam Langhoff

Marlana and Pam described their free program designed to enhance relationships, and they distributed materials with details. Marlana lead the group through an exercise to determine strengths. They also have two adoption support groups through their adoption preservation program, and they present educational seminars on adoption-related issues.

Working Lunch - Committee Reports:

Membership - Mark

Mark said there are still two openings for adoptees. He asked members to help recruit. He has reached out to the RAs and youth in DCFS scholarship programs. We also need recommendations to replace members who will be completing their second term in June 2010.

Post Adoption Clearinghouse - Mark Werner

Working with permanency and post permanency cases

Want to remember families

Most recent recommendation resulted in recent meeting with CCBYS

He wants to meet again to identify issues for the Director, i.e., a pilot Master Adoptive Parent's program, an Adoptive Parent Café and ways to prevent kids from re-entering the system.

Training & Support Groups- Kim

Karen described over 1,200 people on web based training.

Eventually will go into Foundation Training.

Kim wants to look at support groups.

Adoption Training Subcommittee - Elizabeth

2/23/9:30-11:30, JRTC and call-in

Kim will join, as will Karen and Ruth

OLD BUSINESS

Update from Division of Service Intervention - June Dorn

June announced position changes, including vacancy of Cook County Post Adoption Administrator. Legertha Barner accepted a position in licensing effective March 1st. There are three other positions that also need to be filled, 2 clerical and 1 Spanish Child Welfare positions.

June said they had a meeting with Deb McCarrel and CCBYS 1/28 in Wheaton and will meet downstate in March. The meeting went well and folks got to know one another.

June said they are submitting a maintenance budget for FY11.

Report from Office of Foster Parent Support Services - Ray Gates

SSI - Ray said that Joyce Loy reported that parents with children that are in need of SSI can apply three months prior to losing their subsidies.

Caregiver Institutes - There will be four Caregivers Institutes; 3/6-Chicago; 3/13-Centralia; 3/27-Danville; and 4/24-Waukegan. There will be a youth panel, remarks from the Regional Administrator, a video from the Director and a presentation by LANS on Teamwork. Foster parents will receive 5 credit hours for attending. Registration was announced in Volume I of the IL Families newsletter. We may need help to boost registration.

IFAPA Conference - This is scheduled for August 27-29 @ Marriott Oakbrook, and includes 2 nights free lodging, with shared rooms. No children will be permitted. The conference will have a Health Fair, exhibits and vendors and 7 banks of 9 workshops, for a total of 63 workshops. Registration begins in May in Volume 3 of the Illinois Families newsletter.

Approval of Minutes from 11/20/09 Joint Meeting

Mark Werner made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ruth Jajko seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Suggestions for Next Meeting

Budget Update

Strengthening Families/Presentation on Parent Cafes

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. due to the weather. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 9th at the Northfield Suites, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702.