Illinois Adoption Advisory Council
Friday, September 10, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, 3202 E. Empire Street, Bloomington, IL
APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	DCFS STAFF PRESENT
Julie Cebulski	Kate Monte	Claudia Dancy-Davis	Ray Gates
DeAudrey Davis	Sarah Phillips	Julie Fritzler	Kevin Houser
Rosa Dust	Elizabeth Richmond	Tamara Guy	Vanessa James
Karen Faber	Carol Sheley	Derek Jeske	Shaun Lane
Nancy Golden	Karen Taylor	Betty Johnson	Cheryl Lawrence
Ruth Jajko	Karen Wardlaw	Lisa Myles	Jean Maher
James C. Jones	Mark Werner	Maripat Oliver	**GUESTS**
Billie Ray Lewis	Linda Wolter	Pat Kelso Scott	Kara Meisenheimer

Welcome and Introductions
Elizabeth welcomed council members and guests. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Elizabeth welcomed new members Karen Faber and Sarah Phillips and they explained a bit about their backgrounds and interests.

NEW BUSINESS
Bylaws – Mark explained the bylaws changes that had been discussed at two previous meetings. He described the elimination of certain positions of membership. He noted that the proposed changes had be sent to members attached to an email. ***Mark made a motion to accept the bylaw changes as proposed. Billie seconded the motion. Elizabeth asked for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.***

Subcommittee List
Changes were made to the subcommittee membership list. The Chapin Hall Committee has completed their task so that committee will be dissolved. *Changes will be given to Terry and the list will be updated and shared with members.

Report from Division of Service Support – Shaun Lane
Shaun introduced Cheryl Lawrence as Statewide Foster Care Training Administrator. She has early-years experience with PRIDE and extensive other child welfare and child welfare training experience.

Differential Response (DR) - Shaun explained he had previously discussed this with the council and is providing an update. He reminded all that DR is a method for responding to low risk hotline cases and is voluntary. A safety assessment is done by DCFS who is accompanied by a community agency worker who provides services if they are determined to be needed and if they are accepted. A case is not opened unless something changes. These situations are concentrated in specific neighborhoods. DCFS is now contracting with agencies to do this work; and training of DCFS and community-based staff will be completed by September-October. There will be a random controlled study of effectiveness, and the launch date will be within the first half of this fiscal year, after policy is in place.

Budget – There has been an increased slow down in payments. Board payments have been on time. DHS payments are slower, and the delay is likely to increase as the fiscal year goes on. This is

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affecting many community agencies. DCFS is processing vouchers in a timely manner, but we can't control the Comptroller's Office. The vouchers get there and must wait until there is money in the state's checkbook before checks can be cut. The DCFS budget is solid in comparison with other state agencies, partly because of the effective work we have done to claim additional (federal) money, but additional reductions could still come.

JJ Merger – We are proceeding on a "shared services agreement" such that we provide services to DJJ. This could result in a full-scale merger at some point, and a full merger may require legislation. Arthur Bishop has been appointed Acting DJJ Director and he is working closely with Director McEwen. We need big culture changes to incorporate a trauma-informed rehabilitation approach; E.g., aftercare workers, formerly knows as parole agents, will not drive cars with cages or carry firearms. They will be appropriately trained. They will become familiar with providers in the communities in which they work. They will begin working with families at admissions and work with these families through and after the adolescent's discharge from detention. They will carry 20-30 cases, versus the former caseload of 70-80 parolees. There is no new money, so we are trying to capture more federal dollars. We are trying to reduce by one-third to one-half the rate of recidivism (parole violations). This has many benefits, and one is that it frees up money.

Shaun answered questions about budget pressures and progress we have made in claiming Title IVE and other funds.

Report from Office of Training - Cheryl Lawrence

Cheryl described her past experience with DCFS as well as the current work she is dong to bring herself up to speed. She said she is looking for ways to improve what we are currently doing. Ray asked her to help us move back to putting the training calendar in newsletter inserts. She agreed.

Report on Post Adoption/Adoption Preservation Services - Kevin Houser

Kevin introduced himself as the newly appointed Post Adoption Supervisor in Central Region. He reported that the Springfield worker vacancy is to be filled in October. He said they are currently dealing with 25 kids whose adoptive parents have died. The only budget cut for the Division of Service Intervention so far has been the APAL contract. They may end in September or October and the money would be directed to differential response and some APAL homes that are not accessible. APAL targeted kids 13-16 years and their families to ascertain needs for services.

Kevin observed that the IFAPA Conference was well attended, and Post Adoption taught a track of workshops there. He distributed a handout on permanency rates.

Nancy Golden updated the Council on the Original Birth Certificate legislation (HB5428). The Department of Public Health's voice mail message states that they are 18 weeks behind requests for original birth certificates. Nancy said she would share statistics regarding requests for Original Birth Certificates.

Report from Office of Foster Parent Support Services - Ray Gates

IFAPA Conference – Ray asked members who attended and worked at the conference to share their thoughts about it.

Elizabeth thanked the members who volunteered at the conference. Sarah, Carol, and Billie Ray described their facilitating and the great value of the conference. Ruth said she had presented, and praised the workshop facilitators whose good work made her job much easier. Ruth said the exhibits

were poorly placed, with the room being next-to-impossible to notice. As a result, not many caregivers benefited from the exhibits, and the exhibitors felt like their time and effort had been wasted. Nancy Golden agreed. Elizabeth said we need an adoption advisory council display so the Council can have a proper exhibit. Karen has some pieces. Ray explained problems with placing the exhibits.

Jean explained training of the ten relative families.

Shaun discussed the Deputies panel that he participated in. He observed that the conference had positive energy and a great level of organization and volunteer support, and he praised Ray's office and the Training Office for their leadership in developing and rolling out the conference. Ray noted IFAPAs help.

Ray explained that the overall conference evaluations that had been completed at the Sunday lunch had been left at the hotel, and he said that Brooke Taylor had rescued these evaluations by mailing new ones to participants asking them to please return them by mail.

Ray said it took 537 people to put on a conference that was this well-received. He praised not only the planning committee, volunteers and the administration, but also the caregivers who attended, saying they made it the great success it is.

Shaun described the DuQuoin State Fair picnic, saying it too was well organized, well attended, and it had a sense of energy and enthusiasm.

Caregiver Training Institutes - Ray explained that the planning committee had two conference calls and the program committee one. There will again be four institutes on Saturdays from 9am – 3 pm during March and April. We hope to have the first one on March 5 at 6201 S. Emerald and the second institute at the Holiday Inn Mt. Vernon on March 19. We are looking for a site in Joliet, and we are waiting for central region to advise as to a city in which they wish us to place their institute.

Membership Update – Ray gave the membership update, and then he reminded the members who represent the council on the grandparent's task force that he had reached out to get details about their next meeting in Springfield.

Adoption Month Celebration

Ray discussed contacting the Governor's Mansion about extending our end time for the celebration from 2-5 pm. Shaun said the Department had, on Wednesday, inquired at another level in an attempt to get a timely answer. Elizabeth asked if we could extend at least till 3pm for joint meeting. If we get it until 5pm we need to know by 10/1 so we can invite local parents. Elizabeth asked Kevin Houser to get mailing addresses and she said we will work with Jenny to prepare and send invitations to local families who have adopted.

The council discussed ideas for the celebration.

*Invite adoptive families to come and make a lifebook page.

-*Ask for support from Michael's and/or Hobby Lobby.

-*Ruth/LSSI staff will educate adoptive parents on lifebooks and provide handouts.

-*Ask Jenny to make the scrapbook pages.

*Have OITS come print photos of the Governor posing with families.

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Plan B - Ray will contact the IL State Librarian and request space at the State Library from 2-6pm, with families attending from 3-6pm. The council would like to offer cookies or cake and punch.

Plan C – Have cake at the mansion from 10am-2pm.

*DeAudrey will check on having the Heart Gallery photos brought down and displayed.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes from 04/09/2010

Page 2, add Julie Cebulski to adoptive parent café committee. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes with this correction. Nancy seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports

Legislative – A report from Dana Yowell, DCFS Legislative Liaison, is in member packets.

Membership – Mark said there are vacancies for two adoptees at large, and adoptive parents in Cook North and Cook Central.

Newsletter – Vanessa noted she devotes at least 1 page to adoption/guardianship.

Post Adoption Clearinghouse – Mark said he wants help for parents to find resources in the community, and in the past June Dorn said she would have her staff trained on the Statewide Provider Database. Mark reported on federal law that can keep kids on their parents' health insurance until age 26. He will seek clarification on keeping medical cards for adopted youth until they are 26. Kevin said all downstate post adoption staff has been trained on the SPD.

IAAC Brochures – Linda Wolter - Elizabeth suggested adding the blurb that was distributed at the IFAPA Conference AAC exhibit to the IAAC web page.

Training and Support Groups – Carol – Regarding those serving all adopted children considered to have special needs, training will be expanded from 9-10 hours to meet requirements to claim federal funds. Adoption Conversion Training will be required and will include full disclosure regarding what adoption means and what services stop when adoption has occurred.

Parent Cafes – Karen and Carol – *They will let Angela know if we want café at 6pm on 11/18 with dinner at 6:30. Carol, Rosa, Ruth, Sarah, Karen F., Karen W., Elizabeth, Billie Ray and Mark will participate. *Ray will ask Angela if she and Robyn will facilitate and invite SWFCAC members. Ray said the Parent Café would be held at the State House Inn Springfield, which is where council members will lodge that night.

*Ray will email Joan Nelson Phillips to offer Linda Wolter to assist on the PIP as she volunteered to do this. Elizabeth and Jim called for more discussion. There being none, they called for a motion to adjourn. ***The motion was made by Billie Lewis; seconded by Mark Werner; no discussion; the motion passed at 2:30 pm.***

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Agenda Suggestions for Next Meeting

Meeting agenda for 10/1

*Ask Vince Champaign about what DHS is doing about the new medical insurance reform, specifically that your birth children can now stay on your insurance until age 26, and how does that affect foster/guardianship/adopted youth?

*Ask Shaun to talk regarding placement stability research

Meeting agenda for 11/19

*Medical cards

*Differential response – Director or Womazetta

*Legislation – Ray will ask Dana if there is anything to report on veto session

*Budget

*Placement Stability – Nancy Rollock's research

*Global vision for training – Cheryl Lawrence

Adjourn

Carol made a motion to adjourn. Linda seconded. The motion passed.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is a conference call on October 1st from 10am-noon.

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