

Illinois Adoption Advisory Council
Friday, October 1, 2010 @ 10am
VIA CONFERENCE CALL
Call-In Number – 1-877-402-9753, pass code 9031574#
Minutes (Approved 11/19/10)

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	DCFS STAFF PRESENT
Julie Cebulski	Betty Johnson	Nancy Golden	June Dorn
Claudia Dancy-Davis	Kate Monte	Tamara Guy	Gwenn Eyer
DeAudrey Davis	Lisa Myles	Billie Ray Lewis	Ray Gates
Rosa Dust	Sarah Phillips	Maripat Oliver	Vanessa James
Karen Faber	Elizabeth Richmond	Pat Kelso Scott	Cheryl Lawrence
Julie Fritzler	Karen Taylor	Carol Sheley	Terry McGlothlin
Ruth Jajko	Karen Wardlaw		GUESTS
James C. Jones	Mark Werner		Paula Pohlhammer
Derek Jeske	Linda Wolter		

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Elizabeth & Jim welcomed everyone to the call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adoption Month - Lisa Myles

Lisa said the committee met briefly and discussed several issues around the event.

Invitations – *Jenny Florent is working on designing the invitations. There is a list of approximately 238 adoptive families in Sangamon County. (Some may be duplicate listings.) The committee needs to determine how to distribute the invitations and who to invite. The logo with the hearts and hands will be used. Terry sent the invitation to Jenny to be drafted using language proposed by Elizabeth.

Reading List - Cheryl Lawrence sent Ray a list of reading materials and web sites. Ray sent it to *Jim, Elizabeth & Lisa for approval. Members and guest speakers will read books to the children/families.

Life Books - *LSSI will provide staff and purchase/organize materials to help children create life book pages. There will be other activities regarding life books, such as an area to inform parents what life books are all about and how to create them. *Ruth said her staff are working on the specifics and have talked about purchasing a folder to hold 3-hole punched papers and labeling the front “My Mini Life Book”; it could then be decorated. Ruth said one of their staff volunteered to have her digital camera and printer on site. The pictures can be used to put in their life book pages. Rather than presenting a live life book presentation for parents, Ruth’s staff suggested manned displays so that parents could stay in the same room as their children. *A looping video could also be shown on a television in the same room. Ruth will work with Gwenn on the details and rules of the facility.

Heart Gallery - *DeAudrey said they will get the Heart Gallery there, and she needs to know the time for set up. *Ray asked DeAudrey to work with Gwenn Eyer, who is organizing space needs at both the Governor’s Mansion and the State Library. Gwenn can be reached at 217-245-1013 or via email at geyer50331@aol.com.

Balloons – Gwenn said we are NOT to use balloons in the State Library.

Lodging – Council members who live at least 75 miles away from the State Library, and will stay until 6pm to work at the event, are eligible for Friday night lodging if they need it.

Volunteers - *Terry will send an email out to council members to ask them if they will work, and what they prefer to do – be a reader, help with Life books, be a greeter, serve cake and punch, and to confirm whether they need lodging. The following members responded on the call for volunteers:

Lisa Myles - read

Karen Wardlaw - stay until 6 and will do whatever but prefers not to read

Julie Fritzler & Joel- stay until 6, read or help with life books

Claudia – stay until 6, help with life books

Linda Wolter – stay until 6 and do whatever

Derek – stay until 6

Ruth Jajko – and her staff will be there to help with life books

Julie Cebulski – stay until 6

Sara Phillips & Marc – stay until 6

Karen Faber – stay until 6, will help with anything

DeAudrey Davis– stay until 6, prefers to read

Betty Johnson – stay until 6, will help with anything

Rosa Dust – stay until 6, will help with anything

*Terry will check to extend the time to have the meeting room after the Parent Café in the basement meeting space Thursday evening so that volunteers can help Lisa organize materials if needed.

Bookmarks – *Lisa is making these.

Space at State Library - Gwenn has not seen the library space yet but *she will walk it next week. Her contact, Sally, described the layout as having two rooms off the Atrium. One has club chairs with a rug on the floor, which she thought would be a great place for the reading. The other has a conference table that would accommodate 20, which might work for creating life book pages. Gwenn suggested a podium in the atrium area for presentations. The atrium has chairs but no tables.

Speakers - Ray said that possible (brief) presenters might be:

Anne Craig – Director of the IL State Library and also an adoptive parent

Director McEwen – confirmed to come to the meeting at the Governor’s Mansion. *Shaun will discuss with him the event at the State Library and whether he is able to attend.

Secretary of State Jesse White – Ann Craig is working on getting him to come and possibly bring some of his tumblers to provide a short performance.

Governor – has also been invited but cannot confirm until the week of the event.

Other Suggestions:

*Linda suggested having the children document some kind of message about being adopted. The council decided to have the kids write or draw on cut out people. They can be strung together and hung in the Director’s Office, or wherever appropriate, etc. *Elizabeth will send Terry the cut out and *Terry will copy on to white card stock *for members to cut out.

*Video Message –Vanessa volunteered to make a video message from the kids. They can hold up their cut out figure and talk about adoption. She will develop a few questions to ask them. *Vanessa will check with June to see how this video could be used. *Vanessa will check with Kendall to determine what approvals or releases we need to have signed ahead of time.

*Lisa suggested having clowns.

*Have a resource table to provide information on adoption support services.

Next Committee Call - The Adoption Month Committee *will meet via conference call on October 7th @ 2:15.

*Terry will send out a reminder.

Adoptive Parent Cafes – Karen/Carol/Julie/Julie

Karen said *we are still scheduled to have a café on November 18th, the night before the joint AAC/SWFCAC meeting. Terry read the names of those who were signed up for the parent café. Those who asked to be added were – Julie & Joel Fritzler, and Sarah & Marc Phillips. Mark Werner asked to be taken off the list because he cannot arrive in time to attend the Parent Café.

Ray said the Parent Café hosts, *Angela Barber & Robyn Harvey, will use the standard parent café questions at the café on the 18th. After experiencing the cafe, *council members will work on forming café questions specific to adoptive parents. *Elizabeth said that we would like input from the spouses who attend the café as well.

Ray said that Strengthening Families Illinois has a rule that anyone in the room for the parent café must participate. They do not allow observers.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Linda Wolter/Julie Fritzler

Linda attended the Springfield meeting earlier this week. There were over 100 in attendance. There were several different presenters discussing topics on new adoption laws, homelessness, etc. *She will do a write up and send it to Terry to share with the Council. *Linda is going to work with Barb Schwartz to identify a location for the next meeting. *She might facilitate having it at Concordia University, where she works, so the location would be free.

Julie attended the Mt. Vernon meeting in June, and said it was very well attended. They ran out of room for people to sit. They thought that might be because this was one of the first times that there has been this type of meeting this far south. Julie said a lot of concerns came up from lack of resources in the Southern Region for this population. The facilitators had a hard time keeping everyone on track. She said she is not sure when the next one will be, but it was worth it to attend.

Ray said he spoke with Barb Schwartz and she said the next meeting will be in early December probably in the Chicago area. Ray encouraged Linda and Julie to contact Barb Schwartz to keep apprised of when the next meeting is coming in an area they would like to attend. Elizabeth asked *Linda and Julie to get information on meetings to Terry so she can share that with other council members. *Elizabeth asked if Julie and/or Linda could put together a list of top 10 concerns that come from the meetings.

Legislative/Public Policy - Nancy Golden (Paula Pohlhammer)

Paula reported for Nancy. She said Nancy had emailed the original birth certificate statistics to Terry to be sent to council members. She also gave a report from Dana Yowell as follows: Most bills have been settled for this year. A few bills will be discussed during Veto session which will be Nov 16, 17, 18, 30 and Dec 1 and 2. These will be the bills the Governor vetoed or Amendatorily vetoed. A few others may pop up closer to Veto session. These pop up bills are usually a hot item at the time. Adoption related bills are not expected during Veto Session.

Ruth said the Child Care Association anticipates a civil unions bill that might have some adoption language in it. She thinks they are having a meeting on October 11-12 on the topic. *She will learn more about it and get that information to Nancy.

Membership -Mark Werner

Mark reported that Nancy Golden recommended an adoptee, Dawn Saphir, who also works for Midwest Adoption Center. Terry said the letter of appointment and recommendation form has been sent to the Director for approval. There are three other vacancies – Adoptee, Cook North Adoptive Parent, and Cook Central Adoptive Parent. *Ray will follow up with Jackie Bright for Cook North and *Terry will follow up with Joyce Hall for Cook Central. *Mark said he will also mention it to both of them when he sees them next week.

Newsletter - Maripat Oliver

No report.

Post Adoption/Clearinghouse - Mark Werner

Ray said Shaun followed up with Daniel Fitzgerald. Daniel referred the question to Vince Champaign. Ray checked with Vince, who said he was going to be on a Webinar about the topic the following Monday. Ray has been trying to follow up with Vince, but he is apparently out of the office. *Ray will follow up again on Monday.

Respite - Kate Monte

The IL Respite Coalition had an event in Burr Ridge, a festival for families. Coming up is a quarterly training, which will be some time after the National Convention in Baltimore in November. They have a DCFS grant and also got a federal grant to raise awareness, identify gaps, and direct folks to services. \$200,000 over a 3-year period. Ray said Regina Young is the DCFS contact.

Training & Support Groups – Carol Sheley

No Report

UPDATE FROM DIVISION OF SERVICE INTERVENTION – June Dorn

DCFS was recently awarded two discretionary grants –

- 1) Initiative to reduce long term foster care - 5 years, 25 million
- 2) Diligent recruitment of foster homes – 5 years, 400,000 per year.

*June will find out who the contact people are for these two grants.

UPDATE FROM DIVISION OF SERVICE SUPPORT – Shaun Lane

Ray said that Shaun was unable to be on the call because of another obligation. Shaun asked Ray to share information on the Medicaid card issue mentioned above.

REPORT FROM DCFS TRAINING OFFICE – Cheryl Lawrence

Cheryl said that she worked on a reading list for the adoption celebration and sent it to Ray this morning.

She is working on adoption certification training. They must add a 10th hour, which might be dialogue and/or child-specific training. They are creating a form to document this 10th hour.

An adoption recruitment resource event will be held November 13th from 12-3 at 6201 South Emerald. Cheryl is hoping to give foster parents training credit to attend. Having information before the training occurs helps Training ensure that foster parents will get their training credits before the training occurs, instead of having to work it out after the fact.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 2010 MEETING - Council

Linda Wolter made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR JOINT MEETING WITH SWFCAC

- *Medical insurance changes based on new laws – Vince Champaign
- *Differential response – Director or Womazetta Jones
- *Legislation – Ray has asked Dana to attend and report on veto session
- *Budget - Shaun
- *Placement Stability – Nancy Rollock’s research
- *Global vision for training – Cheryl Lawrence
- *New Grants – June Dorn
- *New legislation on adoption – Linda Coon talked about? *Linda Wolter will get info to Terry.

*Jim & Elizabeth will talk to Angela & Heather to finalize the agenda. Terry will set this call up after the 10/15 SWFCAC meeting has occurred.

ADJOURN

Jim made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Linda seconded. Motion carried.