

Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Meeting
January 28, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
DCFS Training Office, 227 S. 7th Street, Springfield, IL
Approved Minutes

Members Present	Members Absent	DCFS Staff	Guests
Donsetta Blakely Gladys Boyd Ray Chasteen Claudia Davis Heidi Darville Sylvia Flory Vicky Kline Judith McAtee Uli Senz Adrienne Welenc Mary White Geraldine Wilson	Ruth Jajko Jim Jones Jim Lane Erma Lee Andrea Miller	Alston, Janise Byrd, Michael DeLeonardo, Diane Dyer, Mary Eyer, Gwenn Gates, Ray Ingram, Andrea Jackson, Diane James, Vanessa Maher, Jean McGlothlin, Terry Minter, Steve Petrick, Lynda	Backstein, Cindy Peterson, Arleen

HOSPITALITY - DONSETTA BLAKELY

Donsetta welcomed everyone, stated that the meeting would be recorded to assure accurate minutes, and that this meeting is covered under the Open Meetings Act.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS - ADRIENNE WELENC

Adrienne welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Adrienne read a letter of resignation from Ellen Kazaras, Cook North representative.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from 11/19/04 Meeting - Council

Mary White made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Geraldine Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Administrative Business - Adrienne Welenc

Adrienne said that she had informally met with Arthur Bishop and he agreed to set up a meeting to discuss the clothing vouchers issue.

Adrienne sent around the signature form for information sharing. Each member needs to identify the degree to which he/she is willing to share personal contact information in public view.

Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship Waiver Extension – Adrienne told members that there was information in their packets on this program. The program offers a limited package of transition services to a regionally targeted group of foster teens. Carolyn DePalma volunteered to assist on the committee.

FINAL REPORTS TO DIRECTOR - There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*Policy Committee

- ◆ Heidi and Uli briefly trained regarding revisions in the agency review process. New manuals were distributed to all members.
- ◆ Assignment of 2005 Agency Reviews - Adrienne announced the leads/partners that were assigned to each agency. Agency review packets were distributed to the Lead for each agency if they were present.
- ◆ Adrienne requested that the Policy Committee develop an alternative method to train members that were absent today on the agency review process.
- ◆ Review of the 2005 Implementation Plan Process - Concern was expressed regarding the incomplete plan submissions – one plan came in with all supporting documents, sign-offs, etc. but no plan.

REGION	AGENCY	LEAD	PARTNER
Cook	ABJ	Ray Gates	Jerry Welenc
Cook	Ada S. McKinley Community Services	Ruth Jajko	Jim Jones
Cook	Bethany Christian Services	Adrienne Welenc	Donsetta Blakely
Central	Bethany for Children & Families	Ray Chasteen	Judy McAtee
Southern	Catholic Social Services of Belleville	Vicky Kline	Claudia Davis
Cook	Centers for New Horizon	Donsetta Blakely	Erma Lee
Cook	CHASI	Donsetta	Geraldine Wilson
Cook	Chicago Commons Association	Ruth Jajko	Gladys Boyd
Central	Children's Home Association of Illinois	Ray Gates	Joyce Loy
Central	Counseling and Family Services	Mary White	Carolyn DePalma
Cook	DCFS Cook Central	Heidi Darville	Jim Jones
Cook	DCFS Cook North	Ruth Jajko	Sylvia Flory
Northern	Easter Seal Rehab Center of Will-Grundy County	Mary White	Carolyn DePalma
Southern	Family Care of Illinois	Claudia Davis	Vicky Kline
Central	Family Services Center of Sangamon County	Andrea Miller	Mary White
Cook	Generations Community Services, Inc.	Gladys Boyd	Erma Lee
Cook	Hephzibah Children's Association	Adrienne Welenc	Donsetta Blakely
Central	Hoyleton Youth and Family Services/Lifelink	Vicky Kline	Claudia Davis
Cook	Hull House Association	Sylvia Flory	Jerry Welenc
Cook	Kaleidoscope, Inc.	Uli Senz	Jerry Welenc
Cook	Lutheran Child and Family Services	Ray Gates	Erma Lee
Cook	Lydia Home Association	Uli Senz	Jim Jones
Cook	New Life Social Services	Heidi Darville	Sylvia Flory
Cook	The Children's Place Association	Adrienne Welenc	Geraldine Wilson
Cook	Unity Parenting & Counseling Center	Gladys Boyd	Donsetta Blakely
Cook	Universal Family Connection, Inc.	Geraldine Wilson	Gladys Boyd
Central	Webster-Cantrell Hall	Andrea Miller	Mary White
Cook	Westside Holistic Family Services	Uli Senz	Heidi Darville
Central	Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley	Joyce Loy	Judy McAtee

*Adolescent Issues - Andrea Miller – No report due to Andrea’s absence

*Archives - Ray Chasteen – No report

*Youth Advisory Board Liaisons - Andrea Miller – No report due to Andrea’s absence

*System of Care/SASS - Claudia Davis

Claudia stated that she went to the meeting, which was primarily about agencies trying to fix their own problems and difficulty working together. They discussed the high volume of calls and how the holiday affected the numbers. They are working on getting the flow chart going to secure services and complete the paperwork. The stakeholder meeting is currently focused on working out operational issues including billing problems. Uli stated that Dr. Lyons has done a lot of evaluations and added that they will be doing consumer surveys in the future.

*FPSS - Vicky Kline

Vicky stated that this committee has not had any recent meetings or conference calls. She is concerned about the hours that are allotted for Foster Parent Support Specialists. Discussion surrounded many contractual issues including the following: addendums that were issued after FPSS’s had signed the contract, some of which included notice of membership in the bargaining unit, there was no communication about supervision, etc. Larry Chasey has responded to Vicky’s email regarding some of the contract issues, but there are still several concerns. Ray will work with Arthur to set up a conference call within the next couple of weeks. With the unavailability of FPSS’s, foster parent representation is now absent on RQC’s and QI’s. Since the support is not available for court, ACR’s, etc. foster parents may not be attending. Vicky indicated that there is also a communication lapse now regarding placements and home situations.

Cindy Backstein indicated that out-of-county placements are occurring in Sangamon County, and suggested that it’s because of the absence of FPSS’s.

*PA92-0295 Records to Schools - Ray Chasteen

Ray Chasteen said he has received a couple of school surveys. He emailed the implementation questions out again to committee members and is recommending that interviewers ask all eleven questions. He recommended being persistent in getting the interviews set up. Adrienne stated that the educational liaisons have offered their services in making appointments.

AAC/YAB/CWAC Report - Janise Alston

Michael Byrd stated his interest in, support for, and enjoyment of serving with the Councils. As the new Cook South Regional Administrator he will not likely be able to attend many of our meetings. He read an original poem that reflected his work with our Council. He announced that Janise Alston and Mary Dyer would now staff the Councils. Janise made the following report:

1. CWAC - Judy Zaleski has been appointed as the new DCFS Training Director.
2. SACWIS training is going on with the five agencies and they are using some template cases to train Integrated Assessment as well. June 30, 2005 is their deadline, but workers are not signing up in a timely manner in some areas.
3. Adoption Advisory Council will meet Friday, February 4th.
4. Youth Advisory Board – brought in guest speakers for leadership training to help them learn to be advisors and advocates for all youth throughout the state, not just their own personal issues. They have several regional meetings scheduled throughout the state.

Michael stated that the NPR report on sibling rights is available for download at www.wbez.org. Go to the Audio Library link → News link → 12/24 Report on Sibling Rights

Heidi asked about the video on the children that are aging out of the system. Michael stated that it is a Chapin Hall production that will be re-shown on March 4, 10:00 – 4:00 and the Director will again be present to answer questions.

Working Lunch - Implementation Review Debriefing

During lunch there was discussion on the 2004 agency reviews. The discussion centered on agency staff that did not keep their appointments. Some interviews had to be conducted by phone. This year it will not be acceptable. If an interviewee does not show up, another staff person will have to take their place in the interview. No phone interviews will be accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

Adrienne said that Joan Langan has requested that the SWFCAC appoint foster parent members to represent the SWFCAC on the Child & Youth Investment Teams training committee. Adrienne appointed Donsetta, Vicky, and Judy to the committee.

Communications Director Report - Diane Jackson

Diane Jackson introduced herself as the new Deputy Director for the Office of Communications. She explained that some of the roles of the Office of Communications are that they liaison with *Illinois Families Now and Forever*, are responsible for the internal DCFS website, D-Net, the DCFS website, and they serve as the official spokespersons for the agency. They are currently focused on coordinating the public relations aspect of their work – they want to talk about the good work everyone is doing. Ms. Jackson said she was here to learn about SWFCAC and the good work that SWFCAC does. Upcoming special events include Foster Parent Appreciation Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Adoption Month. She stated that she looks forward to helping shape a favorable image for DCFS and working cooperatively with the various arms of the agency, focusing on people rather than systems. Call or Email her with success stories and other good news. She can be reached via phone at 312/814-8436, or email at DJackso1@idcfs.state.il.us.

State of DCFS Report - Andrea Ingram

Andrea recognized Michael Byrd, the newly appointed Cook South Regional Administrator. She then distributed handouts entitled, *The Lifetime Approach – the Next Phase of Child Welfare Reform in Illinois* and *Child and Youth Investment Teams*. The number of children in care has dropped from 50,000 (1997) to 18,000 children. The belief is that we will hover around this number for a while and as a result can focus on manageable caseloads. There is the possibility that people may “compete” for children – providing absolutely the best services and programs for them, focusing on the mental health aspects. She recommended that SWFCAC members check out the following website: www.acestudy.org. Kaiser Permanente’s Department of Preventive Medicine in San Diego, California, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working on a system to take into account the trauma work needed and mental health needs of children when they walk in the door. This program stems from the Chapin Hall Study including information regarding trends in residential care. Upwards of 1/3 of youth entering residential care have not yet received specialized service of any sort besides standard foster care, and have a history of multiple moves. This program includes systemic responsibility for every child, including those who are “aging out” of the system so that our focus can move from permanency issues to thinking about “well-being.” Beginning by

February 1st, **all** new intakes will receive Integrated Assessment screening. SEE *The Lifetime Approach* HANDOUT for more information.

Andrea then discussed Youth Investment Teams, the new system for delivering essential services and interventions to children and youth in state care. This program works to separate the “resource” discussion from the “identification of needs” discussion. (It will prohibit trying to fit the child into available resources, and will focus instead on exactly what services **this** child needs.) Resource allocation will be managed through a Centralized Intervention Resource Match, using statewide resources. This time approach will allow the child/youth to access services, wherever they are in the state. This is still a work in progress with a plan to implement by mid-March, 2005.

The basics include the following:

- Streamlining Processes
 - Facilitated Team Decision Making
 - Authority to Access Full Service Array
 - Centralized Investment Resource Match
 - Process Triggers/Trigger Evaluation
 - Transitional Living/Independent Living
 - Accountability
 - Continued Vitality of Service Recommendations and Mandates
- (SEE *Child and Youth Investment Teams* HANDOUT for more information).

Judith McAtee asked whether foster parents will be involved in the decision making process and where there will be an appeal process. Andrea responded that there is no assigned decision-maker, but the process is based on a team working toward consensus with a trained clinical facilitator, with certain professionals in the room carrying “more weight” in the final outcome.

Vicky Kline asked if there would be a way to identify that some resources have been previously identified yet not delivered for budgetary or other reasons. Andrea replied that those issues would be identified through this process.

Uli Senz asked Andrea to identify committees/programs this will encompass. Andrea stated that this program will be collapsing the PRT, Spec Review process, ILO/TLP, Pregnant and Parenting Teens, etc., and two placement disruptions within 18 months will be the trigger.

Sylvia asked about the linkage between Integrated Assessment and this process, with regard to residential placement. Andrea said this will only work effectively when they get SACWIS up and running. All of the IA screeners have only recently been hired. February 1st is the date to have everyone up and running. The clear direction is that if a child needs special services or to go to residential care, he/she needs it now.

Cindy Backstein asked about services for adoption or guardianship placements, and Andrea responded that this is only for children and youth in care.

Vicky Kline asked about the two unplanned moves trigger and requested a list of other triggers. Andrea stated that there are other triggers that needs to be refined, so this is the trigger they will start with. They have a six-month goal to refine the other list. She indicated that some of the other triggers are built around educational issues, shelter issues, aggressive behavior, etc.

Uli asked about the impact of the 14-day notice change of placement. Even with the notice, some of them will send the case to the screener for evaluation.

Foster Care Licensing Office Restructure - Steve Minter & Lynda Petrick

The foster home licensing component of the Department has moved to Placement and Permanency, Mary Sue Morsch, Deputy Director. The Department is still regionally located, but is managed statewide in an effort to standardize operations. They recently did an unofficial utilization review, and now they will look at determining how many of the homes have children in care, and then work toward identifying the reasons why homes do not currently have placements and hopefully re-engage those who are currently licensed. One of the biggest issues they're looking at is the rules and how they are working for the licensing unit and the forms and files. Adrienne asked about the rumor that they are revising 402, and Steve indicated that they are not reinventing the wheel, but rather trying to refine rules for standardization. Sylvia Flory asked about the timeframe for bringing in foster parents as committee members. Heidi Darville reminded Steve that SWFCAC has a committee that has worked on this issue in the past. Cindy Backstein asked about timeframes for overall progress and recommendations. Lynda stated that the committee has just been formed but they hope to have recommendations this spring. This project should carry over into POS through Agency and Institution Licensure. The foster home licensing process has always been more of a technical process, but they want to change the way they do business by building relationships and changing the way the process is handled. They are questioning the nearly 2000 foster homes currently on hold to determine why the numbers so high, why homes are on hold, or if it a bookkeeping(recordkeeping) issue. Lynda indicated that some of those homes might be viable resources for our children. Steve also stated that they are working with training their staff.

Vicky expressed her concern that the evolution of the licensure system may phase out the need for FPSS's. Lynda expressed that that is certainly not the intent but In some areas there are no FPSS's so licensing staff may have to assist foster parents more.

Someone suggested that there is a Family Development Plan that exists to assist in discussions with Foster Parents about training needs or areas where they want or need to improve their skills. Lynda stated that they are aware of mutual assessment training tools that have not been implemented.

Adrienne requested that Steve & Lynda return in March with an update and they agreed to attend. She asked about their plan/progress on filling the vacant COOK manager position. Steve Minter indicated that he hoped to be able to post the position soon. She also requested that if they decide to proceed with changes they notify SWFCAC in advance.

Vanessa James stated that she often gets calls from foster parents who wish to change their licensing agency. Lynda stated that if they have no kids in care they just need to identify the agency they want to move to and begin the process with them. If they have children in their home and it's going to be a case transfer, they need to work with the APT.

Steve's phone number is 312/328-2721 Lynda's phone number is 217/278-5300

Family Support America/Voices Project - Arleen Peterson

Arleen is working for Voices for Illinois Children to create a core-marketing tool to be used to support the targeted recruitment of more families to become involved in foster care. Her job is to do the outreach to the communities and to the agencies. Focus Groups will be convened to work on this project on the following dates:

April 12 Grand Boulevard/Bronzeville

April 13 Humbolt Park
April 14 Barrington/Carpenterville
April 26 Marion/Mt. Vernon
April 28 Peoria

Arleen would appreciate input regarding volunteers for these groups. A small stipend will be available to participants. Materials will be available statewide to DCFS and POS.

Diane DeLeonardo asked how this recruitment campaign would be connected to licensing. Arleen stated that this is now only a recruitment campaign.

Family Circle of Support Project in Peoria - Diane DeLeonardo

Circle of Support is a model foster parent training and support cooperative designed to support community-based foster care. The launching of the model coincided with the cuts in the training budget, and local POS agencies started getting really excited about the idea of pooling training and support resources. One monthly meeting is held in each of three neighborhoods. They've been doing it with three zip code areas, and have been very successful. Agencies participate in various ways – one agency provides pizzas, another provides childcare, another provides trainers. The foster parents define what the training should be, and they work with the local community college. The college sends out notices, takes registrations, and certifies training credits. Rock Island has a nice group going. Cook Central had a nice strong start, but has faced challenges in keeping it going. Donsetta Blakely stated that in her area they want foster parent support groups run by the parents and that staff should participate on an invitation only basis. Vanessa stated that she would be willing to compile a support group directory for Illinois Families Now and Forever. Information should be forwarded to her at VJames@idcfs.state.il.us 312/814-6824.

Region V Conference Info. - Gladys Boyd

Gladys shared registration information regarding the first regional conference including Illinois foster, adoptive, kinship and guardianship parents, both DCFS and POS. As a foster parent she is organizing bus travel, shared rooms, etc. National Foster Parent Conference information is available at the national website. They are also trying to set up group travel for the national conference.

Scoring Implementation Plans Update - Gwenn Eyer

Many plans have been scored, and score sheets submitted. Gwenn thanked the Council members for their commitment. Those who still have plans outstanding need to get them scored and returned to Gwenn or Nancy by Wednesday, February 23rd.

Next Meeting/Agenda; Closing Issues - Adrienne Welenc

Gladys Boyd asked for time to address an IFAPA handout she had distributed regarding the ongoing subsidy forms dialogue between IFAPA and DCFS. The Chairperson stated that she would consider adding it to the next agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2005 in Bloomington.

Uli Senz made a motion to adjourn. Judy McAtee seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.