

**Adoption Advisory Council
Minutes (Approved as amended 4-4-08)
February 1, 2008, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Eastland Suites, 1801 Eastland Drive, Bloomington, IL**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	
Vera Coleman for Jackie Sharp Akins	Donsetta Blakely	Michele Seidl
Gwenn Eyer	Dr. Robert Bloom	Carol Sheley
Betty Johnson	Kathy Casey	Gretchen Schulert
Alan Marcus	Patricia Cooper	Ron Tyler
Dave Matthews	Mary Debose	Karen Wardlaw
Krista McCoy	DeAudrey Davis	Kim Wheelock
VIA PHONE	Diane Dominguez	Linda Wolter
Derek Jeske	Derek Jeske	
Joyce Loy	James Jones	
Lisa Myles	Patricia Kelso	
Elizabeth Richmond	Susanne Loss	
DCFS STAFF PRESENT	Judy Pence	
Ray Gates	Roman McCray	
Terry McGlothlin	Dorothy McGhee	
VIA PHONE:	Kate Monte	
June Dorn	Gina Samuels	

Note: Due to a winter storm, attendance was not possible for many council members and presenters. Much of the business scheduled for this meeting was postponed to a future meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth participated by phone and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those in attendance and on the phone introduced themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Butterfly - Niambi Jaha

This presentation was postponed until the June meeting.

Report from Office of Service Intervention - June Dorn

June was able to arrange for Jeanne Howard to do some training for the Maintaining Adoption Connections (MAC) programs. She will provide three trainings over the next three months to go over adoption preservation core curriculum.

June said they are awaiting final sign off with Farmers Resource Center to provide the type of APAL outreach service to the bulk of the Southern Region and several counties in the east central part of Central Region. They will not target just 13 and 16 year olds, but will reach out to all families with teenagers 13-18. They will utilize the same APAL

forms used in Cook and give the same kind of reports. They will serve some of the collar counties around St. Louis, but not the major metro areas.

June said they are requesting the federal government to consider a two year extension of the subsidized guardianship waiver or it ends in December 2008. She said there has not been an increased significance in permanency because of these things, but that could be because it has taken so long to get additional training going. The final clean up of web based training is being done now. June said that Peggy Slater and Jennifer volunteered to put together a one page 3-fold brochure that can be widely distributed.

Report from Office of Foster Parent Support Services - Ray Gates

Caregiver Conferences/Institutes – Ray distributed flyers with information on the upcoming conferences and institutes to those present. He said the conference at Lisle is full for February 22-23. The second conference will be March 7-8 in Fairview Heights. Betty Johnson volunteered to staff the AAC exhibit table in Lisle. Terry will send an email to council members to find a volunteer for Fairview Heights.

Ray said there will be four institutes this year – 3/1 – 6301 S. Emerald, Chicago; 3/15 – Embassy Suites, E. Peoria; 4/12 – Holiday Inn, Sterling Rock Falls; and 4/26 – Hawthorne Suites, Champaign. None of the institutes are at capacity at this time, but Chicago is about half full. Registration at the institutes opens at 8:30 a.m. and training ends at 3pm. Caregivers can earn five training hours. A light breakfast and full lunch will be served. Youth panels will start the day, followed by a presentation from the Regional Administrator and presentations on trauma. One new feature is that Operations has requested the regional foster care advisory councils have a table and a presence, with the hope that caregivers could meet their regional representatives and they could recruit new members.

Post Adoption Subsidy Issue - Ray said that when the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council met January 18th members brought up situations where adoptive parents experience a lapse between when the adoption occurs and they get their first check or a new medical card. June Dorn, Statewide Administrator for Post Adoption and Ursula Angielski, Statewide Administrator for Adoption, have been communicating about this issue. They ask that anyone that is aware of a situation like this contact them and they will take steps to research it. June may give an update on this at the April meeting.

Committee Reports:

Respite Coalition - Ray said the adoption council has suspended its participation pending corrective action that needs to be taken with the coalition.

Membership Committee

Tabled until next meeting.

Post Adoption Workgroup

Tabled until next meeting.

Adoption Month Planning

Ray said planning needs to begin rather quickly and suggested the council look in a different direction to come up with an event where we can work with other areas of the department, such as Operations.

Other Suggestions:

- *Tie in with Midwest Adoption Conference.
- *Tie in with event in Rockford - Saturday before Thanksgiving, National Adoption Day - coordinated by the DCFS adoption worker, the juvenile court, and others. Families have adoptions finalized in court that day and folks are invited from the community.
- *Gather information about events going on around the state.
- *Local events rather than one Chicago event
- *Susanne did something at the mall in Marion one year.
- *Work with the courts.
- *Put Help wanted notice in the newsletter to help us identify regional adoption celebrations being planned.

Working Lunch – Post Adoption Service Issues in Champaign Subregion – Maria Miller

The telephone connection could not be made. June and Ray will call Maria to see if this is something the subregion could work on with the Post Adoption Unit.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2007

This could not be accomplished because there was not a quorum.

Plan Agenda/Speakers for Next Meeting

Elizabeth suggested someone from the Farmers Resource Center come to the April meeting. June will invite them.

Misc. Discussions

NACAC Parent Leadership Conference

Elizabeth said that NACAC is hosting a parent leadership conference in Columbus, Ohio, for downstate parents April 11-13. NACAC will pay travel and lodging and meals for 2 parents that are involved with parent support groups or would be good at starting parent support groups. Elizabeth asked for ideas ASAP.

American Adoption National Conference

Krista said she will be presenting at the American Adoption National Conference in Portland, Oregon. She said she has attended this conference for the last 4-5 years, and the conference brings together all members of the adoption triad and promotes openness in adoption. She will be speaking on her own personal adoption story. She will share the program book link.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.