

**Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council Meeting**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**October 21, 2005**  
**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**U of I Extension Office, 1209 Wenthe Drive**  
**Effingham, IL**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>DCFS Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Ray Chasteen Claudia Dancy-Davis Ruth Dominguez Vicky J. Kline Judy McAtee Andrea Miller Uli Senz Adrienne Welenc Mary White Geraldine Wilson	Donsetta Blakely Gladys Boyd Carolyn DePalma Sylvia Flory Cecil Garner Ruth Jajko James Jones Andre Robinson	Arden Ancona Gwenn Eyer Ray Gates Bridgette Glickman Lori Gray Jean Maher Cindy McCleary Terry McGlothlin Steve Minter Vanessa James	Cindy Backstein

**Hospitality**

Vicki Kline welcomed Council members and guests and announced that the meeting would be recorded to assure accurate minutes.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Adrienne called the meeting to order at 9:15 p.m. She welcomed members and guests, asking each to introduce himself/herself to the Council.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**402 Update**

**Steven Minter**

Steven discussed proposed changes to 402, licensing standards and other work they are doing.

- ❑ Standardize the way we maintain the case filing system across the state
- ❑ Review 402 to identify items that are outdated or need to have recommended changes
- ❑ Review training procedures, looking at standardizing the collection of training hours, etc.
- ❑ Identify foster homes that have not been active for a period of time. (This goal was based on the finding of 60% non-utilization during the utilization review.)
  - Identify those not actively participating in order to reduce monitoring visits, free up staff, etc. by changing to “inactive” status.
  - They’re working on a process to move families from “active” to “inactive” status.
  - Look at training requirements for those with “inactive” status.
  - The draft plan has been forwarded to DCFS Legal for review.

When asked, Steven clarified the difference between “voluntary hold” and the “inactive” status. Adrienne pointed out the discrepancy in the process due to the restricted access to each home, because of both limited visits by workers and the reduction in FPSS hours. Steve addressed it from a financial feasibility approach, indicating that the new approach will enable families to maintain their license, but will allow staff to focus on families with children.

Ray Chasteen recommended that FPSS’s be assigned to make home visits to secure interest and availability information. Council members clearly stated their concerns that foster parents are no longer able to secure after hour supports due to the absence of FPSS’s. Steve said that they had designed their review to include in-person contact with the families more than the minimum of once or twice a year. He said that they are shifting from the overall approach of using workers as technicians to utilizing them as social workers. He stated that it is a cultural shift and that it will take time to make the paradigm shift to providing access to workers after hours. He went on to say that it is a manpower issue. Discussion also included those families who have made foster care their life but are no longer active and trying to address support issues for those families, such as “Foster Parent Emeritus” or “retired” status. It was suggested that just as in pre-service, families may be counseled out, but would be offered the opportunity to maintain “retired” status and would have access to the newsletter, invitations to foster parent appreciation events, etc. Steve said the worker’s focus is moving away from the technical measuring-up-to-standards approach to a more social approach with relationship building. It was suggested that we recognize the experience and expertise of those retired foster parents and utilize them as mentors, trainers and other supports. Andrea suggested that since FPSS’s are so limited, retired foster parents should be contacted to provide mentoring services and support at the grassroots level to help identify the active and inactive foster parents. Geri referred to the successful use of a master list of licensed homes in the past and Adrienne stated that the lists were probably developed by FPSS’s.

Ray Gates asked about POS foster home licensing and Steve clarified that POS licensing is in another division. Adrienne asked Steve for the names of Council members who had been appointed to sit on his committee and encouraged him to continue to include them as the committee moves forward. She asked for an update within the next few months or sooner as things become clearer and Steve stated that he would be happy to return to speak at a SWFCAC meeting.

Jean Maher stated that she recognizes that some training credit issues may be bubbling up and indicated that she would continue to work with agencies, colleges and regions to make the process easily accessible and clear. Steve indicated that perhaps his licensing workers could be coached to identify the steps for securing training credit.

### **Foster Parent Training**

### **Jean Maher**

Jean distributed a draft handout regarding web-based training. She stated clearly that in-person training would still be available. She indicated the need for collecting Email addresses for foster parents and stated that they will be utilizing different means to gather the information. She described the means for conducting the online training. She stated

that efforts were being made to coordinate computer access and computer labs for those who do not have access to personal computers. Andrea suggested that the draft handout be revised to clearly state that participants must have access to an open phone line at the same time that they are accessing the online training. The rollout has been pushed back to January. Jean stated that she would provide information to Ray so that Council members could preview and review the training prior to full implementation. Andrea suggested that confirmation Emails/training certificates could be distributed upon receipt of the completed form. Jean stated that trainers would be trained to coach participants regarding the actual operational details around the training. These training programs will be piloted prior to the actual rollout. Ruth expressed potential concerns foster parents might have regarding sharing social security numbers, names, etc. over the internet. Jean stated that there are other options to assist foster parents with those concerns.

Jean addressed the Integrated Assessment program, stating that the Division of Training has been developing an IA training for foster parents. She stated that Ray Gates and his staff have been providing an introduction to IA through workshops statewide and this newly developed two-hour workshop will address Integrated Assessment in a more in-depth manner.

Jean stated that although the training budget was cut last year it was not reduced for FY 2006. She indicated the need to utilize outside training resources including DCFS Education Advisors, Prevent Child Abuse, etc. and stated that they are collaborating with these resources to provide ongoing in-service training. She indicated that foster parents can access these trainings through the training calendars and local colleges, etc. The Cradle also provides online training courses at [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org)

Jean said that she had received approximately 300 returned questionnaires regarding ideas for Foster Parent Appreciation Month and she will report on the results at the November meeting. She reported that she has been working with members of the Adoption Advisory Council to revise the adoption training. She stated that the Lending Library Catalog will be expanded with added resources, including resources in Spanish. She requested recommendations from Council members for additional resources.

## **CAYIT**

## **Lori Gray**

Lori stated that she serves as an Implementation Coordinator and explained that the Child and Youth Investment Teams (CAYITs) are full-time region-based multi-disciplinary teams that are responsible for developing and ensuring the implementation of service delivery plans for targeted youth. The basis for the work is the *Child's Needs and Strengths Assessment Tool*. A facilitator ensures that the meeting moves along and makes sure that every participant has the opportunity to participate. The Implementation Coordinator works to ensure that the plans are implemented and to identify/break down barriers. Every child 12 years of age and older is expected to participate, when developmentally appropriate. The CAYIT team needs input from foster parents, past and present, experts who know the child, and all those who can offer information to show what does and does not work for each child and youth. Potential caregivers may also participate. Lori stated that they work to obtain a clear picture of tools and supports the

youth needs as well as understanding the needs of foster parents. Consensus (team) decisions are made and at the end of the meeting everyone in the room signs off in agreement and receives a copy of the report document. Lori stated that the caseworker or caseworker supervisor may request the CAYIT and said that timelines vary from region to region. She stated that the Marion/Mt. Vernon area is currently operating under a two-week window with a four-week window in the East St. Louis area. The goal is to gather the information and conduct the meeting within two weeks. When asked, she stated that there is collaboration between the Permanency Planning Division and Operations so that CAYIT is run within each region. Ray Gates pointed members to the bottom of the second page of the handout for a review of the connection between IA and CAYIT. **Please see attachment for more details.**

### **AAC/YAB/CWAC/CFS Reports**

### **Bridgette Glickman**

Child and Family Services (CFS) – Bridgette stated that there are still 13 vacancies on this Council, but they know that the Governor’s office has received their letter and hope to have a response by January. She stated that in the past they were directed toward juvenile justice issues, but that they may redesign their goals and objectives as the council is filled. Bridgette indicated that this Council had impacted policy and procedure in the early to mid 90’s, but that since 1999 or so they have had a less structured work plan and a more limited impact. Adrienne requested that Bridgette mail Terry a copy of the legislation establishing this council and a copy of their bylaws and specific membership requirements.

Ray Gates reported that there are efforts within the Department to establish a Birth Parent Council and stated that the Clinical Division is very interested in staffing this Council. He stated that he has talked to Addie Hudson, the chair of the steering committee and to Delores Robinson, her Deputy Director, to try to ensure Clinical Division participation.

Another council that is being developed is the Affirmative Action Council and Bridgette stated that SWFCAC Council members may be asked to participate in this council.

Ray asked SWFCAC members to be prepared to step up to serve on some of the councils as the opportunity arises.

Adrienne asked Bridgette to develop a flow chart of the councils, identifying councils, their goals, etc. Bridgette stated that the manual currently in development would be a good resource.

**Please see AAC/YAB/CWAC attachment**

### **WORKING LUNCH**

Adrienne stated that she had not yet had a response from Senator Feigenholtz regarding her attendance at the November 18th meeting. She said that she would call and Email her early in the coming week. There will be a conference call Monday with the co-chairs of the Adoption Advisory Council to work on the joint meeting agenda.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Minutes from the 9/9/05 meeting**

Adrienne asked for corrections to the minutes.

- Sylvia Flory switched to the "Members Present" list
- Minutes from 7/15/04 changed to 7/15/05 under old business.
- Uli's report – changed to quarterly meetings, with ad hoc teleconferences as needed.

Claudia Davis made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Mary White seconded. Motion carried and the minutes were approved as corrected.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy Committee**

**Uli Senz**

Adrienne stated that the Policy Committee is taking a well-deserved break and Uli did not report on any recent activity.

### **Adolescent Issues/YAB Board Liaisons**

**Andrea Miller**

Andrea stated that there have been no meetings and that she is waiting to get a sense of the YAB's goals, including those around the driver's license issue. She stated that she hopes to be invited to attend their meetings and Adrienne stated her willingness to assist as needed. Andrea stated that the Sibling Rights Task Force is up and running again and hearings have been scheduled for November 3, State Capitol, Springfield; November 7<sup>th</sup>, Zeke Georgie Building, Rockford; November 10<sup>th</sup>, Moline; and November 15<sup>th</sup> at JRTC, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, in Chicago. The meetings are currently scheduled for 10:00 a.m. – noon. Andrea stated that she will participate in the teleconference next Monday. She stated that they are trying to extend the current deadline.

### **Archives**

**Ray Chasteen**

No new action taken.

### **System of Care/SASS**

**Claudia Davis/Uli Senz**

Claudia stated that there had not been a general meeting. Uli reported that they have been working very hard on his SASS subcommittee and they have really worked on procedures from the screening SASS to the home SASS. There is the fear that kids and families get lost in that process, and they are putting a lot of attention on that issue. They are also focusing on outcomes and performance standards. The first annual evaluation report has been issued and the overall result is that there is a high level of satisfaction with SASS. Uli stated that Council members should report SASS questions or concerns to Uli or Claudia for follow up. He further reported that Department of Health and Family Services (formerly DPH) is looking for Medicaid consumers to work on reviewing the product of a workgroup from this initiative. He stated that they would probably need to be available for occasional teleconferences. Terry will Email the Council to seek interest.

### **FPSS**

**Vicki Kline**

Vicki stated that no further action has been taken, indicating that she will follow up on assignments from their last conference call. Ray Gates reported that Barb Piwowarski requested specific factual examples regarding situations where mistakes were made on

FPSS contracts. The committee submitted a report and Ray is working to get a response from Barb Piwowarski.

**PA92-0295 Records to Schools**

**Ray Chasteen**

Following the last meeting Mary White contacted all of the committee members, requesting their final reports. Ray Chasteen outlined the initial rationale for the development of this subcommittee and commented on the initial survey. He stated that they believed the direction of the Council was to do second interviews. He asked for the direction of the current Council regarding proceeding with the work of this committee. He stated two objectives: (1) Schools must be aware of the law (2) Schools must be complying with the law. Mary, Ruth Jajko and Ray Chasteen will continue to follow up and will work toward outlining a specific direction for this committee. Ray will prepare a summary report and recommendation for the January meeting. Committee members include Ruth Jajko, Claudia Davis, Andrea Miller, Vicky Kline, Donsetta Blakely, Mary White and Ray Chasteen.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Employee Licensing Board Subcommittee Update**

Uli stated that the policy revision has been drafted and there is an upcoming meeting in November. He shared a copy of Illinois Child Welfare, a professional journal developed in cooperation between DCFS and Loyola University.

Uli asked for updated data regarding adoption disruption. Adrienne stated that every effort would be made to secure data.

**Report from the Office of Foster Parent Support**

**Ray Gates**

Ray stated that page 31 in the packet includes the dates and locations for the nine Caregivers Institutes. He stated that we would like to have at least one member of the Council present in each regional location.

We are still working on filling council vacancies. Ray indicated that he had a call from Bob Blackwell, Central Region, and they are getting close to making a recommendation.

Ray stated that Nancie Brown is starting a new Parent Advisory Group and would be looking for Council participation on the steering committee. Information is included on page 30 in the packet. Adrienne will make recommendations.

Packet page 29 shows a list of SWFCAC accomplishments. Andrea recommended adding specific detail regarding Agency Reviews. Ray said to go ahead and send recommendations for any other additions to Adrienne. Ray Chasteen stated that his regional advisory council struggles with noting accomplishments and Ray Gates asked Terry to set up a conference call with Ray and Judy McAtee.

Ray Gates stated that David West was scheduled to attend today's meeting to report on ILO payments going directly to the youth in the foster home. Prior to his absence he called Ray to ask this council to forward recommendations regarding this issue to

Dondieneita. Andrea suggested that perhaps the foster parents could be the “rep payee” (similar to social security), paying the bills the youths generate with the excess funds being given to the youth. Uli recommended that we should have Dondieneita attend the next meeting to describe the ILO redesign and pending policy.

**Foster Parent Law Training Report**

**Vicky Kline for Bill Peyton**

Southern Region has conducted three regional trainings regarding the Foster Parent Law. This innovative training using breakout groups and role-plays would be a good addition to the Caregivers Institutes. Ray asked Vicky to tell Bill Peyton that he could call Gwenn to discuss inclusion in the Institutes.

Andrea made the motion to adjourn. Ruth Dominguez seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.