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Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx
2:00 PM February 15, 2024

Committee Members In Attendance:

Area 01 – Yvonne Anderson; Area 02 – Diane Michalak; Area 03 – Josh Dunnett; Area 04 – Not represented; Area 05 – Not represented; Area 06 – Brenda Fleming; Area 07 – Not represented; Area 08 – Not represented; Area 09 – Nancy Hinton; Area 10 – Beverlee Hiestand; Area 11 – Kimberly O’Daniel, Stacey Aschemann; Area 12 – Audrey Klopp, Dr. Kim Dixon; Area 13 – Not represented.

IDoA Staff in Attendance:

Division Manager, Brian Pastor; Deputy Division Manager, Dana Wilkerson; Interim Program Administrator, Jeanice McDade; APS Quality Assurance Administrator, Jody Kershaw; APS Attorney, Sarah Carlson; Administrative Assistant, Terry Haynor.

Guests in attendance:

Robin Morgan, HFS partner and Molly Chapman, DRS partner.

Minutes:

Dana Wilkerson, deputy division manager, started off the meeting and welcomed everyone. Ms. Wilkerson started the meeting at 2:01 pm. No members of the public were in attendance. Dana Wilkerson called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Ms. Wilkerson requested a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Josh Dunnett to accept the meeting minutes and we received a second from Stacey Aschemann. The motion carried.

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Microsoft List

Ms. Wilkerson moved on to the old business of Data Collection and the new tool in Microsoft List. Jody Kershaw, Administrator for Quality Assurance was available to discuss this new tool. This tool will include the collection of data points that are more relevant to the work that we do in our Fatality Review team.

Ms. Kershaw followed up on the new system. Included in a January 10, 2024 email was a link to Microsoft List as well as a pdf fillable form that may be used when there is no internet available. When using the fillable form, later the web based Microsoft form would need to be completed/entered. This new content is pretty much the same, just using a new format that is more user friendly and a faster process for data entry. This will also make data collection easier for creating reports. Ms. Kershaw reviewed how to handle documenting a case that carries over to 2 different meetings. Enter a note in the second discussion minutes, advising that this case was discussed in a previous meeting and include the date of the first meeting. She also asked if there were any questions regarding submitting the form and there were none. Dr. Dixon requested the email be resent to her.

Old Business

Ms. Wilkerson wanted to provide follow up on some projects that have resulted from this committee. IDoA is working with a professor from SIU Carbondale on providing a training for when caregiving needs to be reevaluated. This is a training that would help caregivers understand when they have reached the point when their caregiving is not enough – When they need to seek another alternative. This training will be recorded, and the project should have just one more meeting before completion.

Another update involved the area of discussions regarding looking at individual abusers that have had multiple reports and possibly taking a different approach in further cases. IDoA is building a report that will highlight abusers that have multiple cases. When these occur, they will be reviewed at the Department level to see if there is any information that we can give to the providers including new ideas/strategies. We will keep this committee posted on this project. There were no additional questions on old business.

New Business:

Ms. Wilkerson noted this was the first FRTAC meeting of 2024. She also advised that because of her background, her views look at things as a structured, find the root cause of the issue process. It is a good time to discuss the teams, what is working well, what isn't working as well and goals.

Dr. Dixon mentioned that her team has a good variety of members with diverse disciplines. This makes a more constructive discussion with different views. This is a good source of information to use

going forward. Beverlee Hiestand advised she is in a unique position since she is involved in two areas. She also advised that Nancy Hinton has been a great help in rebuilding the team in Area 10. Finding in person time to recruit and meet has been hard, but it is helpful. Area 09 has a good team with a more diverse group. Ms. Wilkerson asked what can this FRT committee provide to a member? An in-person explanation of what the group does, and the importance/mandatory nature of these meetings does help gain members. Josh Dunnett also commented that in person discussion and providing data was something that could affect policy/procedures in the future.

Ms. Wilkerson asked about what could be going better – We know attendance is an issue. Ms. Hiestand advised that a lot of cases have not been open for a long period which is a challenge for caseworkers. There is not much information to review. Mr. Dunnett added that most of the cases come through APS, but they have had a few cases through the coroner's office and was presented by a different viewpoint.

Ms. Wilkerson moved on to what do the FRT teams need from the Department? Do we need to come to teams and speak with the teams in person? Ms. O'Daniel added there was a need for more education regarding what APS can and cannot do within the community. There are some misconceptions regarding what APS can do and some think APS is similar to DCFS where we can simply remove a person from the situation when of course we cannot. Ms. Wilkerson added that coming up in March, there is going to be an open legislative session where the Department is going to explain exactly that. She also asked about who the target audience would be for this educational information. Ms. Aschermann added that once audience would be law enforcement. Dr. Dixon added a comment about reporting inertia. That the situation will not change in a timely enough manner to have a positive impact and not clear knowledge regarding the path of what happens next. This was all good feedback.

Ms. Wilkerson asked about goals for the next year? We have discussed some ideas here earlier so we will use these ideas going forward.

Ms. Wilkerson then moved on to area updates. These have been discussed with our General Council and we have looked at the open meetings act and going forward there will be 2 meetings. An open meeting and a closed meeting. We feel this fits the criteria and will allow more open discussion during the closed session where only committee members will attend. Mr. Dunnett added their team has done this and the process works.

Ms. Wilkerson then asked if anyone wanted to provide an update from their last meeting. Since the format going forward was changing, we will not go through each area with updates today and only ask for updates from those who choose to provide an update. Dr. Dixon shared that they had a case

where an older person passed away in the Emergency Department. There were injuries consistent with possible abuse that could have been photographed that hospital staff and law enforcement were not comfortable taking pictures of at the time. This was a barrier and she is not sure how to overcome this issue. Ms. Wilkerson advised of the grants in place with the RAAs to assist with education and law enforcement partnerships. Ms. Wilkerson advised that effective January 1, 2024, any death that is related to abuse or neglect must be reported.

Adjournment:

Ms. Wilkerson stated she will follow up on those items discussed today that required attention and asked if there was anything else anyone would like to add. No one added any comments.

Ms. Wilkerson asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Stacey Aschermann and seconded by Yvonne Anderson. The meeting was adjourned.