



JB Pritzker, Governor
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Illinois Department on Aging

Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx

2:00 PM August 15, 2024 - Open Meeting

Committee Members In Attendance:

Area 01 – Yvonne Anderson; Area 02 – Diane Michalak; Area 03 – Josh Dunnett; Area 04 – Danelle Thorpe; Area 05 – Steve Thuney; Area 06 – Brenda Fleming; Area 07 – Not represented; Area 08 – Not represented; Area 09 – Not represented; Area 10 – Not represented; Area 11 – Kimberly O’Daniel; Area 12 – Not represented; Area 13 – Not represented.

IDoA Staff in Attendance:

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

Guests in attendance:

Nicholas Richards, DRS partner and Doug Kircher, DHS-DD partner.

Minutes:

Dana Wilkerson, deputy division manager, started off the meeting and welcomed everyone. Ms. Wilkerson started the meeting at 2:00 pm. No members of the community were in attendance. Dana Wilkerson called the meeting to order and took roll call. She advised that we do not have a quorum.

Ms. Wilkerson requested everyone review the minutes from the last meeting. Without a quorum, we will not be accepting motions to accept the minutes.

Old Business - Updates

Ms. Wilkerson advised of the first issue of repeat cases. Jeanice McDade was going to provide an update. It was a recommendation several months ago that we review cases where the abuser may have been involved in more than one case. A report has been developed that generates those cases.

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Jeanice is going to review the process for these cases once they are found. Ms. McDade thanked the group for the suggestion regarding this issue. The review has started on cases where there is an abuser who has a repeat case to find out who the specific abusers are – If they are a relative, a non-relative, paid or unpaid, as well as who the victim may be, an elder adult or disabled person, we are also looking at the types of abuse. Also being reviewed are the decisions made on the case, if the case was sent for registry referral and the results of the referral. In reviewing the cases, this is being done to identify anything that APS might do differently during the investigation or the casework phase to better identify the risk to the client for any future ANE with the repeat abuser or anyone else. We are looking for ways to mitigate the risk as well as ways to stop repeated acts of abuse from the repeat abuser.

The findings so far are that most repeat abusers are family members and unpaid. This may be something to address with training to keep the client safe and the abuser so they do not continue to offend.

Yvonne Anderson had a question regarding looking at cases where the client consented to services or did not consent to services? Jeanice advised that is something that is being reviewed. Doug Kircher also advised that on the DD side of things, if a person is unpaid, it limits what they can do to assist. In addition, if a person is low functioning and they are their own guardian, it is helpful if APS can help seek change in guardianship. Ms. McDade advised that when during the review a case is identified where guardianship is necessary, that is the last resort, but we do want to keep the client safe.

Suspicious Death Reporting

Ms. Wilkerson discussed at the last meeting that our bill for requiring suspicious death reporting for all mandated reporters had passed legislation and has the governor's signature and did go into effect. All mandated reports now must report any incidence of suspicious death, so if there is reason to believe that someone's death was related to ANE, this must be reported to the Senior Help Line or the local APS provider. We are working on a training to get this information out to all mandated reporters, so be on the lookout. Please reach out to us if you do not receive this within the next few weeks. A training has also been added for investment advisors that we also need to distribute with their addition as mandated reporters.

Opportunities within the APSAC

Brian Pastor advised of a new addition to the APSAC – (Adult Protective Services Advisory Committee) Sub committees are being established within that group to look at more targeted elements of the APS program. The goal is to better involve our network partners in program development and solicit feedback to hear how you know the policies and procedures we write are interpreted and

implemented by frontline staff. We want to be sure that the work we are doing at the Department is serving those who serve the clients. We are soliciting a mix of members from IDoA staff, RAA staff, and provider agency staff statewide. Sub committee topics were selected from the APS Advisory Committee and 6 were selected:

- 1) Legislation, Administrative Rule, Procedures
- 2) Financial Exploitation and Self Neglect
- 3) Special Projects / Best Practices
- 4) Training
- 5) Case Management Portal/IT
- 6) APS Public Awareness

Provider Changes / FRTAC changes

Mr. Pastor advised that Catholic Charities consisting of the 4 providers within the Chicagoland area have made the decision to forfeit the remainder of their APS contract term. There are successor providers already in place and those changes are listed below and this is effective 10/01/2024:

- 1) Previously CC Lake County will now be covered by Lifescape Services
- 2) Previously CC Elder Protective Services; PSA 12 Sub regions 1,2,3,4 will now be covered by Metropolitan Family Services
- 3) Previously CC Elder Protective Services; PSA 12 Sub region 5 will now be covered by Sinai Community Services
- 4) Previously CC Northwest; PSA 13 Palatine, Wheeling, Barrington will now be covered by North Shore Senior Center
- 5) Previously CC Northwest; PSA 13 Hanover will now be covered by Kenneth Young Center
- 6) Previously CC South Suburban; PSA 12 Bloom, Bremen, Calumet, Rich, and Thornton will now be covered by Metropolitan Family Services

There were no questions regarding these changes.

FRTAC Changes

There was a successful bill in the last legislative session, Senate Bill 2799, sponsored by Senator Fine. The bill was signed into law and takes effect on 01/01/2025. Some changes are systemic and will require time. This bill allows us to be exempt from the Open Meetings Act requirements, which allows remote options for all FRT meetings and there is no longer an in-person quorum for these meetings as of 01/01/2025. Official business may be discussed without reaching a quorum. This also exempts the requirement to post any minutes online. Mr. Pastor clarified that this is not connected to transparency, but rather to align with other death review teams in other departments. The purpose of

exemption for all departments is to allow a free flowing discussion without concern of ridicule or comments for what was said due to the posting of those minutes.

This will also allow for the ability to meet more frequently and lessen travel to attend meetings in person. An additional provision from 2799 is that the RAAs delegation responsibility. This allows the RAAs to use their expertise of service in their areas to benefit the review and recommendations. FRT committees also may be combined when practical to do so, allowing greater flexibility.

Meeting requirements currently are 4 times annually and will change to 2 times annually. There certainly can be meetings more often as needed.

Adjournment:

Ms. Wilkerson advised that without a quorum, there will not be a closed session meeting today. The next scheduled meeting will be in November and everyone will be notified. She thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.