

Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx
2:00 p.m., November 18, 2021

Members Present:

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 2), Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03); Holly Kozinski (Area 04), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01); David Mitchell (Area 11), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Beverlee Hiestand (Area 10), Loren Carrera (Area 2), Jamie Farrell (Area 13), Amanda Kach (Area 8)

Members Absent:

Nancy Hinton (Area 9), Audrey Klopp (Area 13), Jim Allmon (Area 7), Amy Brown (Area 05), Duane Northrup (Area 05), Lana Sample (Area 05),

IDoA:

Deputy Director Lora McCurdy, Division Manager Sue DeBoer, Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, Sarah Carlson, Deputy General Counsel, APS Program Administrator Brian Pastor

APS Staff: Maureen Squires, Anne Stewart-Reed, Melody Willis, Jody Kershaw, Cicely Johnson, Troy Yancy, Jaime Spears, Jeanice McDade, Claudia Kemple, Holly Zielke, Kimberley Tiley

IDoA: Trish Gorda, Gloria Simmons

Guests:

Doug Kircher, Illinois Department of Human Services

Lauren Tomko and Bonnee Hartman-Walter, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Dana called meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Motion made to approve August minutes by Telly, seconded by David. Motion carried.

Message from Lora McCurdy:

Lora thanked Sue DeBoer, Division Manager for the Division of Advocacy and Prevention, for her service to IDoA as she has accepted a position with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Bureau of Quality Management. Lora expressed thanks for Sue's leadership and dedication to the APS program.

Amanda Kach was welcomed to the Council. Amanda is the APS Supervisor for Southern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association and serves on the FRT for Area 8. Amanda replaces Shirley Teva on the Council.

Sarah Carlson was welcomed as the new Deputy General Counsel for IDoA. Sarah stated that she has previously served on a Child Death Review Team and is looking forward to working with the FRT Advisory Council.

Legislation

Gloria shared a follow-up to legislation pertaining to the APS ACT. She stated that SB 700/HB 3918 has been pushed to the Spring session. Specifically, the bill would add suspicious deaths to reporting requirements under existing law.

The reason the bill did not pass during the 2021 Spring session was there was a drafting error in the amendment to the bill (HB 3918) which expands insurance adjusters and investment advisors. IDoA is currently working with insurance stakeholders to help the bill progress.

Updates

Area Reports

FRT 1: Yvonne reported that FRT 1 has a case to review for its upcoming meeting.

FRT 3. Telly said the Fishbone process was used during the last FRT which helped keep things working in a systemic way. The case involved self-neglect in which mental illness was the main issue. Telly said it reinforced the need for rapport building. He noted that oftentimes, SN cases take longer than ANE cases to dissect.

Holly and Yvonne stated that that is consistent in their areas as well. Holly noted that if a waiver is submitted for extension it is generally due to the time-consuming nature of SN cases.

FRT 4. Holly K said her FRT worked with the Fishbone process on two cases. In one SN case, the client was a drug user who overdosed. The second involved a person who was in a hospital and died in a nursing home but neither entity informed the coroner that APS was involved.

FRT 6. Brenda said her FRT has had trouble getting a quorum but is working on recruiting new members. Recently, letters were distributed to entities which resulted in one new member joining the team.

FRT 8. Amanda stated her FRT is slated to meet Dec. 1 and has a tentative case in which she is discussing with the coroner.

FRT 9. Bev reported her team used the Fishbone process to examine a case twice. She said Nancy Hinton, RAA was helpful in using the root-cause tool. The case involved neglect as well as self-neglect and the client being flown-of-state. By the time APS received the case, the client died within a few days. The examination revealed several lapses, namely missed opportunities for mandated reporting for EMS and the community hospital. This will result in training for both.

Sue stated that First Responders cards may also aid in such training and are available from IDoA.

FRT 11. David reported his team is making good progress though cases sometimes need to be reviewed more than once due to delays in receiving coroner's or police reports. Additionally, the State's Attorney's office takes time to make a decision on whether to prosecute.

FRT 13. Jamie stated that her FRT met in September and worked with the Fishbone tool, which the FRT is gaining more familiarity with.

Dana shared her screen to indicate the following best practice for the tool:

Start team at appointed time, allow ten minutes for case overview, another another 10 minutes to develop contributing factors, allow 25 minutes to discuss causes within each factor, utilize 15 minutes to discuss potential remedies, provide list of root causes, and provide to IDoA.

New Business

Dana told members that IDoA has an opportunity to work with its IT Department to improve the data-gathering system for FRTs. Maureen shared what is currently used and asked members to submit ideas to improve or add fields. Dana stressed that the priority is to have regular discussions leading to increased outcomes. Members utilizing the tool shared several suggestions and process will continue on building appropriate content to glean as much demographic and outcome-driven proposals as possible.

Adjournment

Yvonne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Telly. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Next meeting will be set for February, 2022

