



Illinois Department on Aging

Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx

2:00 p.m., February 19, 2021

Members Present:

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Amy Brown (Area 05), Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03); Holly Kozinski (Area 04), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Scott Kinley (Area 11), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), Beverlee Hiestand (Area 10), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01); Jamie Farrell (Area 13), Audrey Klopp (Area 13)

Members Absent:

Duane Northrup (Area 05), David Mitchell (Area 11), Jim Allmon (Area 07), Loren Carrera (Area 02), Lana Sample (Area 05)

IDoA:

Director Paula Basta, Division Manager Sue DeBoer, Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, Chief of Staff Selma D'Souza

APS staff: Maureen Squires, Anne Stewart-Reed, Troy Yancy, Claudia Kemple, Holly Zielke, Cicely Johnson, Kimberly Tiley, Melody Willis, Jeanice McDade, Noman Muhammad, Kaitlyn Eaton, Jaime Spears, Jeanice McDade, Jody Kershaw

Guests:

Molly Chapman, Rebecca Cook, Connie Wankel, Doug Kircher and David Kuriniec, Illinois Department of Human Services; Pamela Winsel, Carla Wright, Bonnee Hartman-Walter, Robin Morgan and Lauren Tomko, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Dana called meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Motion made to approve November 19 minutes by Scott, seconded by Holly K. Motion carried.

Council Member Departures/Addition

Council Co-Chair Teva Shirley recently retired and was sent a letter of congratulations from IDoA. Teva represented Area 08 on her regional FRT and was a long-time APS provider at Southeastern Visiting Nurse Association. Clarissa Palermo also retired and was sent a letter of congratulations. Clarissa was an Cook County Assistant State's Attorney and represented both Areas 12 and 13 on regional FRTs.

The Council was asked to consider who may want to step up to serve in the role of Co-Chair. Nominations are also accepted and hopefully the role will be approved at the next meeting.

Dr. Audrey Klopp was welcomed to the Council as a new member. Audrey teaches at Loyola University Chicago and serves a Program Director for one of the doctoral programs in nursing.

Audrea said her passion is nursing and she is focused on adult health and geriatric services as has specialty interests in dementia care, caregiver support and ethnogeriatrics, which aims to provide health care for elders from diverse ethnic populations.

Diane made the motion to accept Audrey as a new Council member, motion was seconded by Jamie and unanimously approved by all members.

Training Updates

Maureen reported that all Council members are in compliance after having completed the annual ethics and sexual harassment trainings. Member certificates will be held on file with the Office of General Counsel at IDoA.

Open Meetings Act training need only be completed once within 30 days of a new member being appointed to either the Council or regional Team. Audrey was provided with the training requirements.

Scott volunteered to serve a two-year term as the Council's FOIA officer. The officer ensures that meetings are conducted according to prescribed protocol. The OMA/FOIA officer must go through the prescribed training yearly.

The motion was made by Scott, seconded by Holly K and unanimously approved by the Council.

Annual Reports

Maureen reported that she is working on both the APS Annual Report and the FRT Annual Report for FY '20, which are a combined document that ultimately gets posted on IDoA's website. Overall report numbers are down due the Pandemic. Total APS reports were 20,800, down from 548 from the previous fiscal year. Considering APS reports generally rise a minimum of 1,000 each year during a "normal" year, reports are not where they need to be. It is a scenario playing out nationally, including with child services which at some points have dipped 50 percent. Also, experts say abuse is being compounded in homes due to Covid due to stressors such as unemployment, substance abuse etc. Interestingly, the Engage outreach campaign launched PSAs during Covid which may have negated numbers from going even lower. All other situations are in keeping with previous trends/patterns. For example, all types of abuses are reported in keeping with previous percentages (financial exploitation being the highest etc.)

The FRT Annual Report will reflect 20 reports entered during FY '20. Again, patterns remain the same; APS brought most of the cases to the attention of the FRT followed by coroners/medical examiners. Most victims lived alone and had cognitive impairments. Most of the recommendations stressed the need to train professionals statewide such as EMTs, hospitals, home health providers and others. Maureen noted the Elder Abuse Task Force also called for more training. Thankfully, the ACL grant is supported efforts to upgrade training and reach professionals and the public at large through renewed educational efforts.

Elder Abuse Task Force

Dana presented a brief webinar/powerpoint on the findings of the Elder Abuse Task Force which submitted its final report in January. Members will be provided

the PP, which covers how IDoA, APS and its partners plan to fulfill heightened responsibilities with regard to training the Network and others on how to prevent and intervene in cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Member Updates

Dana said she would like to add member updates as a standing item on the agenda so as to hear from members about best practices, concerns and other issues going on in each area.

Area 1 – Yvonne reported that Area 1 has excellent participation and collaboration on the FRT. Recently, she presented a case that was four years old due to the fact that it was complicated and caught up in litigation. She was introduced to Molly Chapman from DHS-DRS to help with inquiries with regard to the situation.

Area 2 – Holly Z. reported that Area 2 has no outstanding issues and continues to meet during Covid.

Area 3 – Telly reported that getting cases is an ongoing issue. Also members of the community such as hospice, nurses and others need to gain a better understanding of APS and vice-versa in order to identify and close service gaps.

Area 4 – Holly reported that participation has gone down slightly due to Covid as some members like to meet in person. She has recently trained law enforcement about APS, including the Peoria Police Department.

Holly stated one ongoing problem is that hospitals are trying to get APS to petition for guardianships when it should be them doing it. They are discharging abuse victims early and then something inevitably happens again at home. She said she plans to meet with the hospital in question. Other members underscored this problem as well, including Bev, Brenda, Amy and Yvonne. Dana mentioned it may be time to call upon the Illinois Hospital Association for renewed training and education.

Holly concurred that prospective prosecution often delays a case from being reviewed.

Area 5 – Amy Brown reported that her team has plenty of cases. Some issues revolve around guardianships. Many involve the responsibilities of emergency rooms, law enforcement and others. She and others have therefore created a crisis team task force to enhance collaboration so older adults and others are not simply ending up in bad situations because no one has stepped up.

Dana commented that the Department will be holding trainings with the Office of the Public Guardian to address such issues.

Area 6 – Brenda said her last FRT had a case to discuss but no quorum. Other times there is a quorum but no case. She concurred that her team would rather meet in person. She said her FRT has a good working relationship with EMTs, Coroners and other partners in the community.

Dana asked Amy about any suggestions since her area has many cases to review. Amy said it is still beneficial to meet when there is no case to review. Also, no cases should be overlooked. Many that result in the same scenarios are still helpful because that reinforces a certain problem. For example, a person refusing services is a recurring issue.

Area 7 – Kim noted that it continues to challenge this team to secure active members. There is no shortage of cases to review.

Area 8 – Teva has not been replaced yet.

Area 9 and 10 – Nancy reported that the coroner who has chaired her FRT was recently voted out of office. She is in contact with the new coroner and is hopeful he will become involved and the team can revamp. She echoed that her area has many of the same struggles as others. Most of the cases coming to the forefront involve older adults rather than persons with disabilities.

Nancy also mentioned that it is very hard to do much for an APS client if the case comes to the attention of APS shortly before the person dies. It is also problematic for FRTs since there is not a lot of information to go on.

Bev reported that she has a new supervisor on board in Area 10. She concurred that there are issues of persons passing away soon after becoming a client. Also,

Bev said there are the same issues regarding hospitals discharging individuals with no proper safety plan in place. Also, in a recent situation some documentation went missing in a case involving someone who was mentally ill. In another situation, law enforcement delaying calling in an abuse case for one week. Fortunately, the agency was already aware of the situation but law enforcement should know to call in promptly, even after-hours.

Bev underscored the need for better education and training.

Area 11 – Scott reported a lot of turnover on the FRT. They do recruit excellent speakers. For example, their last FRT included a presentation on Silver Search, the program addressing elderly who go missing. He said his FRT works well with Nancy and Rindi Reeves, representing the AAAs covering the area.

Area 12 – Clarissa has yet to be replaced.

Area 13 – Jamie reported that upon Clarissa's retirement (Clarissa covered 12 and 13), Audrey has agreed to serve as the new chair of the regional team and Denise Tomasek has agreed to serve as vice-chair. Denise serves in the State's Attorney's Office and recently conducted a training for a quarterly meeting on the role of the State's Attorney's Office and that resulted in increased awareness and collaboration. Jamie has looked in CMP to find suspicious deaths to review. In some cases there is not enough background on cases. Her team has found it beneficial at times to break into small groups to "debrief" on a certain case. Jamie also noted that many scams are occurring though APS has no jurisdiction over such.

Dana noted that a Financial Summit will be held the following week and will feature several presentations on scams, including one from a representative of the Attorney General's Office.

Area 2 (Team 2) – Holly Z. reported that Diane remains very invested in the team and has even drafted language to revise statutes. The team is fortunate to have a prosecutor who is so instrumental. Holly also stated that Loren who chairs the Kane County team is not only a Deputy Coroner but the first in the state to work

on FRTs. Further, Jacqueline Purcell who is very active and serves as the Kendall County Coroner.

Holly said the FRT recently learned about a well-written order created by the Cook County Sheriff's Department that will keep individuals trained about APS. The order helps reduce training due to a "revolving door" situation with officers moving into other positions. She will supply information about this to the Council.

Additionally, in Kane County a card was created to help professionals encountering an APS situation to understand services and whom to contact in certain situations. The checklist has been very helpful, especially when working with doctors. Holly will supply information about his to the Council as well.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 3:20 by Scott; seconded by Telly and the meeting closed.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2021.

