

**Illinois Department on Aging**

**Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx**

**2:00 p.m., May 21, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03); Holly Kozinski (Area 04), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01); Jamie Farrell (Area 13), Audrey Klopp (Area 13), David Mitchell (Area 11), Jim Allmon (Area 7),

**Members Absent:**

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Amy Brown (Area 05), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Scott Kinley (Area 11), Beverlee Hiestand (Area 10), Duane Northrup (Area 05), Loren Carrera (Area 2), Lana Sample (Area 05)

**IDoA:**

Division Manager Sue DeBoer, Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, Jessica Klaus, Kathryn Ostrowski,

APS Staff: Maureen Squires, Anne Stewart-Reed, Melody Willis, Jeanice McDade, Jody Kershaw

**Guests:**

Molly Chapman and Doug Kircher, Illinois Department of Human Services.

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Dana called meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Motion made to approve February minutes by Jaime, seconded by Holly K.  
Motion carried.

**Updates**

Dana announced that notices have gone to FRT Coordinators regarding training on the “Fishbone” Analysis model. The training will be from 2-3:30 p.m., June 24 and she encourages anyone interested to participate. Dana asked Council members to consider co-facilitating the training and to contact her if interested.

## **Introductions**

Dana introduced new APS staff members Katherine Ostrowski and Trish Gorda to the Council. Trish will assist APS with data analysis and Katherine is the new Legislative Liaison.

Katherine said she is working on legislation, specifically SB 700, which will expand the role of mandated APS reporters. The Department recently added an amendment to the bill to include investment advisors and insurance adjusters.

Sue added that she has been testifying in committees on the subject and many of the legislators are supportive of the measure, recognizing the need especially during the Pandemic.

Jamie asked if there is any legislation proposing new funding for providers who are handling suspicious deaths.

Dana said all areas of increased funding to providers are regularly explored and she will inquire as to this specific question.

## **Area Reports**

FRT 1: Yvonne reported that the FRT recently discussed a neglect case in which the victim died four years ago. The case involved a paid DRS worker, litigation and law enforcement. The case was delayed for discussion due to waiting post-prosecution by State’s Attorney’s Office.

Several members of the Council, including Jim and Holly, said it is the practice in their areas to also wait to review a case until it has been prosecuted.

FRT 3: Telly reported the FRT discussed one of most serious cases they had seen in some time. He said better access to records is one issue that can help promote a good discussion of a case.

FRT 4: Holly said the FRT met in April and discussed a case which involved domestic violence, specifically a case in which the abuser was also the caretaker. The case brought up issues involving decision-making and capacity and how they influence potential guardianship as well as differences in what decisional capacity actually means.

Dana said the issue has come up before and APS had a training on it recently. Further, she has secured Barry Lowy, Director of the Office of State Guardian, to present on the "Ethics of Guardianship" for a June 18 webinar.

Dana also stated that the Senior HelpLine also encounters issues in which abusive versus neglectful allegations are not clear-cut.

Holly mentioned that there are often complicated dynamics involved in such cases. In their recently discussed case, both the subjects involved had separate cases even though one refused services.

Doug noted that there are resources that can be utilized to help in such situations. There is an SST (Support Services Team) that can help get proper diagnosis, documentation and even help write up programs to help resolve behavioral issues.

Dana said such teams use psychologists and also offer training for such challenging situations with the goal of stabilizing placements.

Molly noted that her Division can address cases involving brain injuries due to the waiver requirements but are limited due to the population DRS serves to address more intellectual/cognitive problems.

Area 7: Jim said the FRT is scheduled to meet in person next month.

Area 8: Jody said the FRT has not had a case to review for some time but they do for the next meeting. Hopefully, the FRT will rebound upon the retirement of four members and they will no longer encounter problems meeting quorum.

Area 9/10: Nancy stated the FRT plans to meet next month.

Area 13: Jamie mentioned it has been challenging to locate cases for discussion and providers have been busy undergoing Quality Reviews. She proposed that providers be required to review a case once every three years if there has been a suspicious death that has occurred. This could be written into a contract similar to one executed for M-Teams.

Yvonne and Jim concurred this would be a good idea. Jim added that many reviews do originate from coroners.

Audrey commented in the Chat saying Area 13's coroner would likely report to the FRT any cases to review and Jamie concurred.

Jamie stated Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are encouraged to be developed between providers and law enforcement in Area 13.

Dana added that it is mutually beneficial and also explained the work of TRIADs statewide.

Holly noted that TRIADs in her area are struggling with membership and funding currently.

Dana said that APS will use the B\*SAFE training as a template for training law enforcement and hopefully improving collaboration. She is also working to launch a First Responder Card that will include signs of ANE/SN which should be ready for June 15<sup>th</sup> – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

### **Adjournment**

At 2:50 Dana asked for a motion to adjourn. Telly made the motion, seconded by Holly and the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be at 2 p.m. August 26, 2021.