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Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx
2:00 PM May 18, 2023

Committee Members In Attendance:

Area 01 – Yvonne Anderson; Area 03 – Josh Dunnett; Area 04 – Holly Kozinski; Area 05 – Lana Sample; Area 07 – Jim Allmon; Areas 09 and 10 – Beverlee Hiestand; Area 13 – Jamie Farrell. Areas 02, 06, 08, 11, and 12 were not represented. We do not have a quorum.

IDoA Staff in Attendance:

Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, Jeanice McDade, Terry Haynor

Guests in attendance:

Robin Morgan, DHS-DRS and Doug Kircher, DHS-DD.

Minutes:

Dana Wilkerson, deputy division manager, started off the meeting and welcomed everyone. Ms. Wilkerson started the meeting at 2:02 pm. No members of the public were in attendance. Dana Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm and took roll call.

Ms. Wilkerson requested the minutes be reviewed – Due to not having a quorum, the minutes could not be approved. There were no questions regarding the minutes. Ms. Wilkerson started with old business, stating she was very pleased with the March meeting. A notice was issued to the network to share the information that came out of that meeting to make some improvements to our system and trainings. This was great teamwork.

An additional larger project was developing a training for caregivers to help them know when their situation has reached the point where they need some additional help. Kari Hostetler is our new training administrator and she has been tasked with this project.

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New Business:

Age Options has pointed out that there have been some lingering recommendations that needed some additional follow up. Jamie Farrell from Age Options discussed these recommendations:

- Increase awareness of services available to caregivers
- Follow up with the Illinois Hospital Association to gather information on their internal practices for ANE. The use and distribution of photographs will be questioned.
- Legislation to make sure the hospital call the police.
- Improve local or state efforts that address Life Planning for Adults with Disabilities. Develop a stronger protocol within DHS-DD or integrate as a piece of high school transition plans prior to graduation. Language could frame the issue targeting emergencies.
- Require APS Provider Agencies to establish Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement agencies. Allowing the sharing of information with law enforcement regarding high-risk clients within the community.
- Review current protocol that APS agencies follow upon receipt of a suspicious death report and assess if changes in practice are necessary to ensure appropriate follow up by local law enforcement agencies and the Medical Examiner's office. APS sometimes have been faced with challenges obtaining medical records and been told that a suspicious death report must be made from the hospital or the Medical Examiner's office.

Ms. Wilkerson advised there may be legislation looking at expanding suspicious death reporting. She asked for feedback regarding law enforcement or the coroner's office. Lauren from the Kane County Coroners office added that they get calls from IDoA when a case is suspicious and they in turn call the hospitals to advise them of the suspicions regarding the individual and this protocol works well. Jim Allmon also advised the communication is easy and the information flow is a smooth process.

Ms. Wilkerson advised with Lauren on the call there is now a quorum. Approving the minutes for March 16th was voted on with a motion to accept them from Lana Sample and a second from Jim Allmon.

Updates/Area Reports:

Area 13 – Jamie Farrell advised they were going to meet in June and are working on making sure they have a case to review.

Area 10 – Beverlee Hiestand provided an update. They are still a work in progress and they have a meeting in June.

Area 09 – Beverlee Hiestand/Nancy Hinton provided an update. The March meeting was held with new members present and they are working with the State’s Attorney to have them attend their next meeting.

Area 07 – Jim Allmon advised their last meeting was not held, however during their previous meeting they did a lot of filling in of vacancies due to turnover.

Area 05 – Lana Sample – They did meet in April and they did have a case. No meeting details were provided.

Area 04 – Holly Kozinski stated they did not have a meeting but do have a meeting within the next few weeks.

Area 03 – Josh Dunnnett advised they did not have a case to present. They will have a potential case for their next meeting in August.

Area 02 – Lauren missed their last meeting so no update was given.

Area 01 – Yvonne Anderson stated their meeting was not held.

Adjournment:

Ms. Wilkerson asked if there was anything needed from the department. Nothing was mentioned. She discussed the ARPA funding for the RAAs and explained what is happening. Trainings for Law Enforcement and working on improving and adapting the length/types of training regarding possible abuse and neglect. AgeOptions and AgeGuide have been working with the Attorney General’s office to see if some ESO’s opportunities. Department is working on their Legal Resource Toolkit that should be out within the next few months.

Nancy Hinton stated they are sending out surveys and are gathering information on what will work best for training formats. Dana Wilkerson added a story from DeKalb where first responders had made 30+ visits to a home and after APS became involved, the visits were much less frequent. This is the goal – To help law enforcement utilize the resources available and work together to resolve these types of issues.

Ms. Wilkerson asked for a motion to adjourn at 2:32 pm. A motion was made by Yvonne Anderson and a second by Beverlee Hiestand and the meeting was adjourned.

