

Illinois Department on Aging

Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting via WebEx

2:00 p.m., August 26, 2021

Members Present:

Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03); Holly Kozinski (Area 04), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01); Audrey Klopp (Area 13), David Mitchell (Area 11), Brenda Fleming (Area 06)

Members Absent:

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Jim Allmon (Area 7), Amy Brown (Area 05), Scott Kinley (Area 11), Beverlee Hiestand (Area 10), Duane Northrup (Area 05), Loren Carrera (Area 2), Lana Sample (Area 05), Jamie Farrell (Area 13)

IDoA:

Division Manager Sue DeBoer, Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, APS Program Administrator Brian Pastor

APS Staff: Maureen Squires, Anne Stewart-Reed, Melody Willis, Jody Kershaw, Cicely Johnson, Noman Ahmed, Jaime Spears, Jeanice McDade, Claudia Kemple

IDoA: Trish Gorda, Gloria Simmons

Guests:

Doug Kircher, Connie Wankel, Illinois Department of Human Services

ShaTonya Herring, APS Supervisor, DuPage County Community Services

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

Motion made to approve February minutes by Brenda, seconded by Audrey
Motion carried.

Legislation

Gloria shared that the following legislation pertaining to the APS ACT has been submitted to the Governor's Office for approval to go forth during the Veto or Spring session:

APS in Interagency Disclosure in Mental Health Act – Would include APS in section on interagency disclosures. APS does work with other agencies listed and there is often an overlap between agencies in cases of abuse.

Definition of Abuser – Would update definition of abuser regardless of where victim resides. The clarification would assure that APS jurisdiction does not cross over to others such as Attorney General's Office, Illinois Department of Public Health, Law Enforcement and code enforcement. The clarification would help determine what entity is responsible for addressing different instances of abuse or fraud.

Suspicious Deaths – Any person who suspects ANE/SN of an eligible adult may report suspicion to an agency designated to receive reports under the APS Act or to Department. HB 3918 was added as amendment to expand definition of investment advisors and insurance advisors as mandated reporters.

Updates

Dana announced that training was completed for Coordinators in June on the "Fishbone" Analysis model and asked for feedback. Audrey stated that she and Jaime tested the process on a case and found the tool difficult. She wondered if there was a difference in the nature of cases analyzed between urban and rural areas.

Telly said his area used the tool recently and found it helpful as it seems to streamline the process of review.

Dana noted that if it would be helpful Teams can use their own categories/classifications for the tool i.e. methods, people, mother nature etc.

Dana said she would be willing to help any Team work through the process so it is conducive to a more focused conversation about a case.

Area Reports

FRT 1: Yvonne reported that FRT 1 has had to reschedule due to not finding a case to review.

FRT 2. Holly reported that the Kane team still struggling to find a case. The DuPage team recently met and had a issue to bring up to the Council later in the meeting regarding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)that would increase communication between law enforcement, APS and other county entities when a death occurs.

FRT 3. Telly said the Fishbone process was used during the last FRT.

FRT 4. Holly K said the last FRT was cancelled due to several issues though she has been working on updated an MOU with the Coroner's office.

FRT 6. Brenda said her FRT had a case but no quorum and therefore needed to be rescheduled for September. Recently, the team has lost several members.

FRT 7. Kim stated that the team was scheduled to soon meet in person and has not struggled to find cases.

FRT 8. Jody reported that the team will meet Sept. 1, though they are not sure if it will be in person due the rise in Covid.

FRT 9. Nancy reported her team will meet in September. She and Beverlee have recently met the new coroner and are working with the coroner on and MOU. Further, they are reaching out to a mental health professional to join the team.

Dana noted many of the mental health professionals are required to utilize the Fishbone Root-Cause tool which they use to review sentinel events.

FRT 11. David reported his team has a case to review involving a police officer allegedly involved in neglect. The police have not providing needed reports as yet.

Dana noted that a Registry case is pending receipt of a police report.

FRT 12. Anne said the fishbone tool will be used at the next meeting slated for September.

Cicely noted that it is very difficult to obtain police reports. Yvonne agreed.

FRT 13. Audrey reiterated the difficulty in finding cases to review. She also asked about using a different platform other than WebEx. Dana noted WebEx is the approved state platform through DoIT though agencies can use what they want when the Department is not the host.

Dana asked members if they would find it helpful if she drafted a letter with Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allman encouraging other coroners to participate in FRTs. Jim is very involved and brings cases forth to his FRT. Nancy and Yvonne stated that would be helpful.

ShaTonya shared details of a case to the Council which FRT 2 recently discussed and had some issues to share with the Council due to jurisdictional problems. More investigation likely would have happened had the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office been aware of APS involvement. DuPage has a county-wide system whereby the Coroner would have been immediately notified that an "at-risk" individual had died but such was not the case because the client had crossed county lines. A suspicious death report was filed by APS. But there are ongoing questions as to having effective communication between law enforcement, APS and coroners and medical examiners when neighboring counties are involved.

Adjournment

Telly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

