

Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., November 20, 2019

Members Present:

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Co-Chair Teva Shirley (Area 08), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01), Donna Schnell (Area 10); Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03); Loren Carrera (Area 02); Duane Northrup (Area 05), Jim Allmon (Area 07), Amy Brown (Area 05), Holly Kozinski (Area 04), Nancy Hinton, (Area 09), Lana Sample (Area 05), Scott Kinley (Area 11)

Members Absent:

David Mitchell (Area 11), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Mark Thomas (Area 03), Clarissa Palermo (Area 12)

IDoA:

Director Paula Basta, Deputy Director Lora McCurdy, Chief of Staff Selma D'Souza, General Counsel Rhonda Armstead, Division Manager Sue DeBoer, Paulette Dove, Lois Moorman, Maureen Squires, Claudia Kemple, Jeanice McDade, Karen Kloppe, Anne Stewart-Reed, Jaime Spears, Terry Haynor

Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Motion made by Teva to approve minutes from May 23; seconded by Scott.
Meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Introductions:

Sue DeBoer has joined IDoA as the new Division Manager over the Office of Adult Protective Services and Paulette Dove has joined the Office of General Counsel.

Sue introduced herself to the Council and said she is a nurse and has worked with managed care organizations. Paulette joined the Department from the Department of Insurance. Both were welcomed to the meeting along with Lora McCurdy who has been with the Department in its Planning Division for several years and is now serving as Deputy Director. Director Basta and Chief of Staff D'Souza later joined the meeting and informed the Council they have attended FRTs in person and will continue the process to learn in order to improve operations.

Updates:

Diane was thanked for presenting at the recent Adult Protection and Advocacy Conference (APAC) on SB 69 which she wrote and pushed to make an important impact on APS. Among other improvements, the new law provides that financial exploiters can be tried where the victim lives and that consent is not a defense if the victim lacks capacity. Diane co-presented at APAC with Karen Kloppe and then- Legislative Liaison Amy Brennan and the session was very well received.

Maureen reminded the Council she has received certificates of completion for the annual Sexual Harassment training from a number of members, but not all, and the deadline to submit them for filing with the General Counsel's office is December 3.

Background/Priorities Going Forward

Maureen said the new Administration has outlined priorities for the Office of Adult Protective Services going forward. Lora interjected that the Department has issued Strategic Priorities, one of which directly relates to APS: "Respond and follow up on reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of old adults and persons with disabilities through the Adult Protective Services and Long-Term Ombudsman Program." Further, Lora stated that health and safety safeguards are outlined under the Department's federal waiver that specifically charge that there needs to be assurances that the Department is doing all it can to safeguard and protect the health and welfare of participants. She added that another strategic priority relates to the enhanced use of data to drive programmatic decisions and

improve delivery of services. She asked that the Strategic Priorities be shared with the Council members.

Maureen said this means there will be heightened attention on APS going forward and the attention relates to the Council in that there is a renewed emphasis on gathering data and using said data to get preferred and “action-oriented” outcomes.

She said the Council has for some time discussed gathering data relating to the work done by FRTs throughout the state. This data is used for Annual Reports. Subsequently, Maureen said the reports will be formatted and structured to reflect what the Council and FRTs have accomplished in response to recommendations emerging from the FRTs.

Because the data may be deficient in some areas due to several variables, Maureen asked that the data form used by Team Coordinators at each FRT be shared with her from now on. The forms can be filled out when the Team meets and then scanned and emailed to her. She will inform the Liaisons of this. The measure will ensure there is information from each Team at the Department level even before it is entered into the FRT Data Tracking System. Maureen said this will be a good practice but there will likely need to be improvements to the current system.

Since most Council members do not serve as Coordinators on their respective teams, they asked Maureen to send them a copy of the form being used now so they can see for themselves all the fields to see if any information should be added or revised.

Maureen said she would send them the form, which was adapted years ago from the DCFS Child Death Review Teams (CDRT). Duane, who serves as the chair of the CDRT in his region said he uses a specialized Case Tracking System that he has talked to Maureen about. Maureen said she likes the specific program though she doubts the Department would spend \$1,000 a year for it, especially since it is an advanced variation of Excel. However, she said she will work internally with managers and IT to explore developing an in-house system that might better

capture and track all the data coming from FRTs now that all the teams are functional. Eventually, it will need to be revisited whether having volunteer Coordinators enter the information for their FRT may be wise going forward. She said it is her opinion that having volunteers in such a role is not conducive to continuity.

Such information is needed for thorough reports completed on an annual basis. Maureen said especially because of the new spotlight on data and outcomes, there needs to be reform as to the most important question on the tool used at the FRTs, and that is the question as to what recommendations the FRT has proposed after their case discussion. When an FRT does have a recommendation, it should be clear as to what a reasonable response to that recommendation should be and who would be responsible for such a policy, legislative or any other change.

Members voiced that even though there may not be a specific recommendation, the discussions at the FRTs are very valuable; however, they are interested in what recommendations may be emerging that are reflective of a statewide issue.

Also, not gathered in the data is when a Team may be accomplishing something on its own. For example, Maureen said FRT 05 has partnered with U of I to look at assessment tools and evaluation which Lana said has been very helpful because the only tools used now in APS are the MMSE and CLOX. Diane also reiterated good work being done by FRTs, such as recent training of law enforcement in her area. Maureen said such outreach should have a way of being reported so this good work can be documented. There was discussion about adding a field to the form that would call upon FRTs to document any such activity as well as anything done in response to a previous recommendation.

FRT Cases

Maureen said Self-Report cases are not prohibited from being discussed especially if other cases are not readily available.

She said that the new effort to gain data via Vital Records is entering the stage wherein her computer needs to be approved to be in receipt of an influx of

confidential data from the Department of Public Health. Ultimately, this should help increase the number of viable cases to discuss. She is hoping this will be operational soon so by next year new cases may surface for dispersment to teams for discussion.

Legislation

Maureen said there is no pressing legislation to discuss. She asked Council members to send her any ideas for legislative initiatives or ideas for webinars to her, which will be resurrected on a monthly basis. The Director said a new Legislative Liaison has been hired for the Department and will be based out of Springfield.

Meeting Dates for 2020

Meeting dates for the Council for 2020 are at 2 p.m. February 20, May 21, August 20, and November 19.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

