

Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., May 23, 2019

Members Present:

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Co-Chair Teva Shirley (Area 08), Holly Kozinski (Area 4), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01), Donna Schnell (Area 10), Scott Kinley (Area 11) Lana Sample (05); Nancy Hinton (Area 09), David Mitchell (Area 11), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03)

Members Absent:

Loren Carrera (Area 02), Duane Northrup (Area 05), Jim Allmon (Area 07), Amy Brown (Area 05), Mark Thomas (Area 03), Clarissa Palermo (Area 12)

IDoA:

Maureen Squires, Lois Moorman, Claudia Kemple, Jeanice McDade, Phyllis Roate, Amy Brennan, Karen Kloppe

Guests:

Brett Scott and Elliot Batten, Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Vital Records

Meeting called to order at 2:03 p.m.

Minutes from February 21 meeting were approved.

Updates:

Maureen said Jon Hofacker, a member of the Area 13 FRT and member of the FRT Advisory Council resigned, as he has left his role at AgeOptions and accepted a position with UIC Chicago. Jon's position on the Council will therefore need to be filled.

Maureen reported that she will be starting the FY '19 FRT Annual Report in July using data entered into the FRT database, making necessary adjustments for cases entered recently covering the previous Fiscal Year.

Maureen reported that DCFS is under a new acting director and undergoing reforms. The Governor and DCFS Director recently announced that as part of the efforts, "crisis intervention teams" will be created to review any child's death, though it is not known at this point how such teams would conflate with Child Death Review Teams.

Discussion of Proposal:

As has been reported previously, FRTs throughout the state struggle with having four solid cases to discuss each year to meet their mandate. The Council agreed that the Department should pursue an agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Vital Records wherein deaths can be referred to the Department and compared to the APS database of clients. The Department currently has a data-sharing agreement with IDPH DVR relative to CCP.

Since the last Council meeting, Maureen met with Megan Clark-Jimenez, Acting Registrar for Vital Records, who supplied her with the needed information and forms to complete. Megan also sent data experts from her staff, Brett Scott and Elliot Bratten to the Council meeting to discuss how the data could be matched to the APS database and to answer any questions. The Council agreed that it would be wise to start with a narrow approach. A "wider net" could be used in the future to capture suspicious deaths that may not have a match in the APS database. Therefore, it will be requested at this point to have data on decedents from the APS data base compared on a monthly basis to death records that will capture the following fields: legal name; date of birth and death, place of death, cause of death, whether an autopsy was performed, race and county of death.

Brett and Elliot explained to the Council the use of various codes and advised to proceed using ICD10 codes for this purpose. Maureen supplied them with a copy of some of the conditions commonly referenced in the FRT database that will help

in the filtering process. The collaboration will continue and hopefully result in having more cases referred onto FRT teams for review.

Silver Search Task Force

Maureen attended the May 15 meeting of the Silver Search Task Force. Silver Search is an Endangered Missing Person Advisory for persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia who go missing. According to Craig Burge, Clearinghouse Manager and Statewide Amber Alert Coordinator with Illinois State Police, there have been 19 Silver Search advisories issued thus far this year which is on par with last year in which 48 were activated.

There was a recent success story with regard to a Silver Alert in Kane County. Craig had made contact with the police officer who followed up with him. However, there is no formal way of reporting back and no way to know how Silver Search played a role in each. Therefore, the group suggested developing a form that would provide feedback on the outcome of each case. In the future, this may serve as a good referral mechanism for our Fatality Review Teams to review in cases in which the missing person is found deceased.

The task force is currently seeking a representative from the Chicago Police Department who can help the activation of searches in Chicago for people who may be missing on foot or on public transportation.

In other developments, there is no nationwide alerting system for all the alerts...amber, silver, etc. There needs to be federal legislation to address this and an oversight agency, most likely Department of Justice. The Jaime Clauss case in Wisconsin broke the Amber system...the infrastructure crashed so now the state is looking for a new vendor. The technology platforms from state to state is severely lacking in both the capabilities for the activation phase as well as the public domain phase. The nationwide alerting system will be advocated by a coalition of 13 Midwest states lead by Craig.

Legislation

Council Co-Chair Diane Michalak provided the Council with an update on SB 69 which was put forth by her office (the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office).

The bill is progressing though language has been removed to preclude the sealing of financial exploitation or criminal abuse/neglect. Remaining provisions include: restructuring the financial exploitation statute; allowing venue on financial exploitation where the victim resides or where any part of the offense occurred adding “or person with a disability” to the Theft provision that currently applies to the elder being victims of theft by deception over \$5,000 which will now mirror identify theft statutes; and adding language to the statute that essentially says that consent is not a defense if the defendant knew or should have known the elder or person with a disability lacked capacity to consent. The Council thanked Diane for her efforts at this “clean-up” legislation that has been in the works for a number of years and will make a positive impact upon its expected passage.

Amy Brennan, the Department’s new Legislative Liaison, introduced herself to the Council. She and Lois provided the Council legislative updates on legislation that would ensure as many family members as possible are consulted during and APS investigation (HB 3065) and a resolution that would create an Elder Abuse Task Force.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Maureen told the Council that plans are progressing for WEAAD to be celebration June 15. The Department will again have a proclamation and press release issued by the Governor’s Office. In addition, the Department will have a week-long informational display set up in the Capitol Building. Members were encouraged to share any ideas they have to recognize the day and promote outreach.

TRIAD

Lois encouraged Council members to think about presenting a session at the TRIAD Conference to be held September 24-25, 2019 in Northlake, IL. TRIAD is comprised of a coalition of law enforcement entities and greatly benefits by partnerships with the Department, APS providers and members of FRTs.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The Council’s next meeting will be August 22.

