

**Illinois Department on Aging**

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

**3:00 p.m., August 27, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Co-Chair Teva Shirley (Area 08), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01), Tammy Boose (Area 10); Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03); Loren Carrera (Area 02); Duane Northrup (Area 05), Holly Kozinski (Area 04), Nancy Hinton, (Area 09), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Jamie Farrell (Area 13), Clarissa Palermo (Area 12), Amy Brown (Area 05)

**Members Absent:**

Lana Sample (Area 05), Scott Kinley (Area 11), David Mitchell (Area 11), Mark Thomas (Area 03)

**IDoA:**

Director Paula Basta, Deputy Director Lora McCurdy, Division Manager Sue DeBoer, Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, Legislative Director Samantha Brill, Rhonda Armstead and Jessica Klaus, Office of General Counsel.

APS staff: Lois Moorman, Anne Stewart-Reed, Maureen Squires, Claudia Kemple, Troy Yancy, Jaime Spears, Holly Zielke, Jody Kershaw, Cicely Johnson, Kimberly Tiley, Melody Willis, Noman Ahmed

Guests: Lauren Tomko, Bonnee Hartman-Walter, Pamela Winsel, Tracy Anderson, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

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Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Motion made by Duane to approve minutes from February 20, seconded by Brenda. Meeting minutes unanimously approved.

### **Introductions:**

Cicely Johnson, Noman Ahmed, Kimberly Tiley and Melody Willis previously worked in the Department's BEAM unit and recently joined the Office of Adult Protective Services. Cicely and Noman are based out of Chicago and will assist with work in Areas 12 and 13. Melody has been assigned Areas 3 and 6, and Kim has been assigned Areas 4 and 7. Aster Bowden will also be joining APS in the near future to work on APS data collection.

### **Annual Report/ACL Grant:**

Dana informed the Council the FY APS Annual Report has been completed and posted on the Department's website. It includes a section dedicated to FRTs.

Maureen informed the Council that IDoA/APS was awarded a 3-year, \$2.1 million grant from the Administration for Community Living. The grant started in September, 2019 with the goal of enhanced training and awareness of APS reporting, assessment and service. Components of the grant include APS Caseworker Simulation Training, Caseworker Trauma-Informed Training and Legal Professional training to educate the judiciary, law enforcement and legal professionals about APS. In addition, a public outreach campaign with the theme of "#Engage2Change" as launched in July to educate the public and professionals about how to recognize and report abuse. Included in the campaign are public service announcements, social media outreach and tv spots in the Chicagoland area. Billboards, brochures, and a radio campaign with follow. A micro-website was developed by IDoA and CMS so people can be directed to it for more information and resources. The web address is: [www2.illinois.gov/aging/Engage](http://www2.illinois.gov/aging/Engage).

### **Legislation/Elder Abuse Task Force**

Sue and Samantha informed the Council that legislation proposed in the Spring session, HB 4962/SB 3604, will be reintroduced in the Veto session this Fall. The bill relates to Suspicious Death Reports and states that any person may report

information about the death of an eligible adult to an agency designated to receive reports. If a mandated reporter believes the death of an eligible adult maybe the result of abuse or neglect, they would report such to a provider agency or the Department for subsequent referral to law enforcement or coroner's/medical examiner's offices.

Sue stated that the Elder Abuse Task Force held the last of its four meetings. The Task Force addressed the effectiveness of current elder protective services and laws; examined barriers to prosecution and strategies to increase public awareness about abuse and reporting; studied training resources and best practices from other states, and identified a long-range plan to combat ANE. Task Force Co-Chairs Senator Crow and Representative Stuart will now be working with small groups of Task Force members to develop the final plan, which is due to the Governor by January, 2011.

### **Data Collection/Root Cause Work Group**

Dana shared with the Council that the Root Cause Work Group recently met and discussed cause and effect methodology that could be adapted for the Council to better gauge data and come up with appropriate solutions to fatalities.

She explained the "Fishbone" process which Jamie Farrell shared on the screen for viewing. This process is one method that could be implemented. The next steps would be to identify some contributing factors that could be shared with FRTs for discussion purposes. Link to the Fishbone process is:

[https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC\\_03.htm](https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_03.htm)

### **Covid**

Council members discussed FRTs meeting during the Pandemic. Many have still been meeting virtually via WebEx. Claudia said meeting via WebEx, including recording capabilities, has worked well for the FRTs in her region. Dana noted that Department policy states that platforms such as Zoom are not approved due to concerns over breaching. Clarissa noted that FRT cases reviewed in her area have all been pre-Covid.

## **Discussion of Proposal from FRT 4**

Holly Kozinski explained that many cases pass away right after and Intake is completed and thus providers have little information on which to staff such cases or present to FRT teams due to having to immediately cease investigation due to the fact the client passed away. Holly said FRT 4 came up with a proposal to keep those types of cases open for the whole 30-day investigation period (even though the client has passed). She stated that having the cases remain open may help on many levels, one being having more information when these types of cases go before an FRT, and the other being the Abuser Registry due to the fact those cases are sometimes more complex.

Duane and Loren expressed concern that the 30-day extension may not help in that any kind of information forthcoming from a coroner's or medical examiner's office would not likely be ready within that timeframe i.e. toxicology results etc.

Such a change would require a change in APS Rules and possibility a change in the law. It was determined that the next step for the discussion would be at the next APS Advisory Committee meeting.

## **Adjournment**

Dana mentioned that since the May Council meeting was previously cancelled due to Covid, she will set up one prior to the regularly scheduled November, 2020 meeting. That meeting will be in September or October and can be dedicated to further work in the root-cause area.

The Council adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

