

**Illinois Department on Aging**  
**Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting**  
**2 p.m. February 21, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Co-Chair Teva Shirley (Area 08), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Amy Brown (Area 05), Loren Carrera (Area 02), Diane Slezak (Area 13), Linda Voirin (Area 2), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), Holly Kozinski (Area 4), Diane Michalak (Area 02), Nancy Thorsen (Area 07), Diane Drew (Area 05), Scott Kinley (Area 11), Clarissa Palermo (Area 12), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01)

**Members Absent:**

Donna Schnell (Area 10), Mark Thomas (Area 03)

**IDoA:**

Alice Hayes, Maureen Squires, Holly Zielke, Steve Milburn, Alexander Burke, Mike Berkes

The meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Motion was made to approve minutes from November 22, 2016; minutes were approved.

**Updates**

Maureen Squires announced that three new members have been appointed to the Council by Director Bohnhoff. They are: Diane Drew, Executive Director of CHELP based in Macon County, and Chair of Area 5 Regional FRT; Clarissa Palermo, Assistant State's Attorney with the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Unit of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and Chair of FRT 12, and participant in FRT 13; and Scott Kinley, Deputy Coroner for Williamson County

Coroner's Office located in Marion. Scott also has experience in the banking industry.

Holly provided an update with regard to Area 2's FRT which has been called the Tri-County FRT due to proximity to Kane and Kendall Counties. Because DeKalb is located in Area 1, a decision was made to change the Team to the Kane-Kendall FRT and have DeKalb added to Winnebago-Boone FRT. The Kane-Kendall FRT is chaired by Loren Carerra and new members joined at the last meeting.

Maureen reported that she and Holly K. will be presenting on FRTs at the Elderly Service Officer (ESO) Training to be held March 29 at the Central Illinois Police Training Center in Peoria. The training program is designed to sensitize and educate law enforcement personnel on issues so they can play a more active role in preventing and investigating crimes against older persons. Attendees will be law enforcement officials and senior service providers.

### **Legislation**

Alex Burke, IDoA Legislative Liaison, provided summaries of several pending bills: SB 1319 would allow courts to put forth rules on the use of video conferencing equipment in adult guardianship hearings; and SB 1348 would allow the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to take action against a medical professional's license if he or she willfully fails to report ANE.

And,

HB 3515 has been introduced by Representative Breen that would amend FOIA to remove exceptions for disclosure. The exceptions removed would be records and information provided to APS, FRTs and the Fatality Review Team Advisory Council, among others.

The Council asked Alex where Representative Breen might be coming from on the bill and Alex replied that the Department had not yet spoken to the Representative; however a meeting with him was set up for the following day. He said he would report back after the meeting.

In the meantime, the Council unanimously voted to oppose HB 3515, and Alex said he would bring this to Rep. Breen's attention.

Diane Michalak talked about SB 1409, newly proposed legislation she drafted which is similar to a piece she proposed before regarding jurisdiction of where a crime took place and where a client lives and its relation to who pursues prosecution; preventing and sealing criminal records pertaining to ANE; proposing that consent is not a defense if a "new" neighbor of two years gets \$5,000 from an at-risk adult, adding working of "eligible adult" to a theft statute. The changes should address factors she encounters when prosecuting a crime and be more helpful to judges.

The Council also voted to support aforementioned House Bills 1348 and SB 1409.

### **Silver Search**

Maureen informed the group that she and Kathy Seketa are representing the Department as members of the Illinois Silver Search Task Force. The task force was created as part of the Endangered and Missing Person Advisory to develop a coordinated statewide awareness program and toolkit to be used when a person 21 years of age or older who is believed to have Alzheimer's disease, other related dementia, or dementia-like cognitive impairment is reported missing, which is referred to as Silver Search. Craig Burge from Illinois State Police is heading the task force; at this point he is seeking emergency funding for the alert program as the company providing the platform to implement alerts has gone out of business but had been providing the platform use to Illinois and several other states at no charge. A new company can issue alerts but is seeking \$1,000 monthly to do so.

In the meantime, the Task Force is working on creating an awareness toolkit for an outreach program for healthcare facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, senior center and the general population. Goal to have completed is July 1. Other agencies involved besides IDoA and State Police are IDOT, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, Lottery, Secretary of State, in addition to AARP and the Alzheimer's Association.

## **Systems-wide issues/Strategies**

Diane Slezak asked to add system-wide issues to the agenda to bring attention to the Council the need for systems wide issues that have been identified as a result of local FRT team meeting and to develop strategies to address those issues.

Diane told the Council that her team has identified issues over the lack of training and consistency with regard to when and how to properly take photographs at hospitals when investigating ANE. This is just one example of an issue that may need to be further examined on a statewide basis. Such issues may need to be addressed either through legislation, rule-making etc. as Diane stated this gets to the core of why the Council and teams exist. The Council agreed that this does get at the core of its purpose. Maureen and Diane agreed that they will work together to identify issues and recommendations resulting from the teams, break them into categories and investigate what response would be appropriate.

## **Member Updates**

Amy Brown informed the Council that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women awarded an Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program to CRIS Healthy Aging Center. This was only one of seven grants awarded throughout the nation. The project was awarded in September 2016 and is a three year grant partnership with CRIS, Vermillion County State's Attorney's Office, Vermillion County Sheriff's Department, Danville Police, Crosspoint Human Services and the Vermillion County Rape Crisis Center. The objective is to strengthen and sustain a coordinated community response to report cases of ANE of adults 50 years of age and older in Vermillion County.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The next Advisory Council meeting is May 23.

