

**Illinois Department on Aging**  
**Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting**  
**2:30 p.m. November 21, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Co-Chair Teva Shirley (Area 08), Amy Brown (Area 05), Diane Slezak (Area 13), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), Holly Kozinski (Area 4), Scott Kinley (Area 11), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01), Duane Northrup (Area 05), Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Jim Allmon (Area 07), Donna Schnell (Area 10)

**Members Absent:**

Clarissa Palermo (Area 12), Diane Michalak (Area 02), Loren Carrera (Area 02), Mark Thomas (Area 03), Diane Drew (Area 05)

**IDoA:**

Maureen Squires, Steve Milburn, Troy Yancy, Claudia Kemple

The meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes from August 22 were approved.

**Updates**

Maureen said she is working on the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report and hopes to have it completed by the end of the calendar year next month. The report has been slightly delayed by an internal IT issue that the Department is addressing currently. In awaiting the final number for the report, Maureen said now that FRTs have formed in each area of the state (even though they may have started after the end of the fiscal year), she plans to include their information in the report so that it will be as current as possible. Council members agreed that that made sense.

Maureen then told the Council members that she plans to include in the Annual Report a listing of all the teams throughout the state including the Chairman, Co-Chairman, Coordinator and Department liaison for each team. She explained that it is in no way a directory but will simply list the members' names, title and organization. Council members had no objection to this inclusion.

In gathering the information from the members of the teams, it was discovered that many did not have formal appointments. Therefore, even though many had been serving on the teams for some time, Maureen prepared letters from the Department signed by Director Bohnhoff that gives each member a term. Terms will be reflected in the Annual Report as well.

In reviewing FRT Annual Reports from other states Maureen particularly liked the one from San Diego County. That report also included "recommendations" that the FRT teams had brought forth during the year.

It was proposed that the same be done for the Department's report, which could easily be accomplished by using the spreadsheet previously worked on by Diane and Jon with Area 13. The report would prioritize the recommendations and also list any accomplishments to date.

Members agreed and also offered to email in any accomplishments from each of their areas. For example, Amy Brown said the FRT in Area 5 has led to the creation of a task force.

In the future, the Council concurred it may be a good project for the Council to revisit the "recommendations" page included in the FRT database to see whether it may need to be expanded or tweaked to help facilitate changes to systems and outcomes.

In other business, Maureen asked permission from the Council to streamline several paperwork issues. She said while it makes sense for teams to have a sign-in sheet acknowledging that information brought forth in the meetings is to remain confidential, the Council might be better served by one overriding confidentiality statement designed to cover members for the year (4 meetings). This is primarily because the Council does not review individual cases, and members are emailing in an acknowledgement for each meeting. The Council directed Maureen to draft an overall Confidentiality Statement modeled on others to present to members for approval. If approved, the agreements would be kept on file and a verbal reminder with regard to confidentiality would be reinforced at the beginning of each Council meeting.

The Council also discussed the fact that some review teams were asking for input on how to proceed when no case has been discovered for review. Claudia said she has some recommendations that have proved worthwhile. For example, reviewing the FRT questionnaire tool and making suggestions for improvement has been beneficial. Area 3, she said, has also revisited previous recommendations from prior cases and discussed how to enact these recommendations.

Meetings for next year have been slated for 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, May 22 and August 21. Council members voiced preference for at least one meeting in 2018 to be held in person, which Maureen said could be accomplished depending on appropriate venues and opportunities, perhaps in conjunction with a conference.

Lastly, it was shared with the Council that Linda Voirin, who recently retired from the Council, was named the recipient of the Illinois State Triad's 2017 Kathleen Quinn Award. Linda, who retired from the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, had served as a Victim Advocate. Linda, along with her colleagues from the Kane County coroner's office approached the Illinois Department on Aging approximately ten years ago about the possibility of serving as a pilot elder fatality review team and she served as that county's FRT Coordinator. Ultimately, the work the Kane County advocates accomplished served as the

genesis for having FRTs throughout the state. Maureen noted that this was the first year that all FRTs have been functioning throughout the state, so it has been the fruition for over a decade of work by individuals like Linda.

Some Council members and IDoA staff closed the meeting by briefly discussing a webinar that preceded the day's meeting and was relevant to FRTs. It was presented by Dr. Jason Burnett of Texas who is researching the effects of abuse on mortality. The study is looking at 1,672 substantiated abuse cases over a five-year period and has elicited surprising results that seem to indicate that caregiver neglect, verbal and financial abuse are stronger indicators over physical abuse as causing a higher mortality rate. The reasons could be related to more overt awareness, swifter response and intervention in cases of physical abuse. Dr. Burnett will continue the study focusing on polyvictimization and its long term effects. Ultimately, more light may be shed on the deadly effects of psychological damage and other forms of abuse.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.