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## **Illinois Department on Aging**

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

**2:00 p.m., February 17, 2022**

#### **Members Present:**

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 2), Telly Papanikolaou (Area 03), Holly Kozinski (Area 04); David Mitchell (Area 11), Beverlee Hiestand (Area 10), Jamie Farrell (Area 13), Nancy Hinton (Area 09); Lana Sample (Area 05)

#### **Members Absent:**

Yvonne Anderson (Area 01); Brenda Fleming (Area 06); Loren Carrera (Area 02); Amanda Kach (Area 08); Audrey Klopp (Area 13); Jim Allmon (Area 7); Duane Northrup (Area 05)

#### **IDoA:**

Chief of Staff Selma D'souza; Deputy Division Manager Dana Wilkerson, APS Staff: Maureen Squires, Anne Stewart-Reed, Melody Willis, Cicely Johnson, Jaime Spears, Jeanice McDade, Claudia Kemple, Kimberley Tiley

IDoA: Emily Howerton, Gloria Simmons

#### **Guests:**

Doug Kircher, DHS-DD; Tracy Anderson, HFS; Molly Chapman, DHS-DRS

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Dana called meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Respect for yesterday. Support for today. Planning for tomorrow.  
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Dana welcomed Amy Brown to the meeting. Amy recently started at the Department as the Division Manager of Advocacy and Prevention Services, which encompasses APS. Amy came from CRIS Healthy Aging in Danville.

## **Legislation**

Gloria provided an update on HB 4572 which relates to Suspicious Deaths. The legislation was introduced last year, but because of drafting errors and addressing other minor issues it was re-introduced this year with 3 components as opposed to the two we had last year which included:

- 1) Adding insurance adjusters and investment advisors to be mandated reporters,
- 2) Suspicious deaths

and the third component added in the bill this year:

- 3) definition of an abuser.

The purpose of adding definition of an abuser is to have consistent interpretation of the definition. Updating the definition of an Abuser will allow for a compatible programmatic approach, regardless of where an alleged victim resides. This clarification will assure that APS jurisdiction does not cross over to others such as the Attorney General's Office, Illinois Department of Public Health, Law Enforcement, and/or Code Enforcement. Further, this clarification will help determine what entity is responsible for addressing different instances of fraud, abuse or other criminal acts against older adults and adults with disabilities.

It also more clearly defines the legislative intent of the APS program. The program is designed to respond to individuals with disabilities and older adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation by building on existing social service systems to assure there are responsive interventions to meet the needs of the victims and families. One of the most common forms of elder abuse is self-neglect.

The bill was heard in the Human Services Committee on Wednesday and passed unanimously, and has been put on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Consent Calendar, which means it is grouped with other bills and can be approved in one action, as opposed to multiple ones. Once that is done it goes directly to third reading, once approved for third reading it moves out of the House Chamber into the Senate chamber to start the process there.

Advisory members stated they are pleased with the change in definition of abuser and asked for links to the legislation, which was supplied.

Emily Howerton, the Department's new Budget Manager, was introduced and provided an update on the FY23 Governor's Introduced Budget for the Department on Aging which has a 13.6% increase from the FY22 enacted budget. The Home Delivered Meals program has a proposed increase in state funding that will allow all seniors currently utilizing the program to continue receiving meals after the federal COVID relief funding is depleted. There is also an increase in the CCP program to accommodate the approved enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (Medicaid match) plan. A new line item in the IDoA proposed budget is \$4M for Caregiver Support. This will provide funding to pay previously unpaid caregivers to prevent burnout and reduce premature institutionalization for those they are caring for. There is also a proposed increase for APS to accommodate an anticipated increase in reports. The FY23 Governor's Introduced Budget bill numbers are HB 5648 and SB 4132.

## **Minutes**

Lana made a motion to approve minutes from November, 2021; the motion was seconded by Jamie and the motion carried.

## **Updates**

### **Area Reports**

FRT 2: Diane reported a lack of cases to review

FRT 3: Telly said there was not a case to review at the last meeting; however, time was utilized to elect a new chair

FRT 4. Holly said her FRT is scheduled to meet next week

FRT 9/10. Bev said the FRT was able to meet in person with the coroner and EMTs and is hoping in-person meetings will help with involvement

FRT 11. David reported his team's meeting has been rescheduled for next month

FRT 12. Anne reported the team is in need of revitalization

FRT 13. Jamie stated that her FRT will meet next month and is still struggling with no cases to review. It is also in need of a law enforcement and financial expertise in members.

Dana said the Department will work on literature that may help with recruitment and will also address the lack of cases for review. It will be discussed at the May meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Telly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bev. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Next meeting will be May 19, 2022