

Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting
2:00 p.m., February 21, 2019

Members Present:

Chair Diane Michalak (Area 02), Co-Chair Teva Shirley (Area 08), Loren Carrera (Area 02), Holly Kozinski (Area 4), Yvonne Anderson (Area 01), Donna Schnell (Area 10), Duane Northrup (Area 05), Scott Kinley (Area 11) Lana Sample (05); Jim Allmon (Area 07), Amy Brown (Area 05), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), David Mitchell (Area 11)

Members Absent:

Brenda Fleming (Area 06), Mark Thomas (Area 03), Jon Hofacker (Area 13), Clarissa Palermo (Area 12)

IDoA:

Maureen Squires, Lois Moorman, Holly Zielke, Claudia Kemple, Jaime Spears, Troy Yancy, Jeanice McDade, Phyllis Roate

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes from November 15 meeting were approved with two corrections.

Introductions:

Lana Sample, Administrator of the Ford County Health Department, introduced herself as the newest member of the Council. Lana replaces Kathryn Johnson, who has been promoted at PATH. In addition, Jeanice McDade introduced herself to the Council. Jeanice joined IDoA as the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Adult Protection Services.

Old Business:

Maureen reported that for FY 2019, the following FRTs have not entered cases into the FRT databank: Teams in Area 2, Area 9 and the Vermillion Team. Council members from those areas said they will ensure cases are entered.

New Business:

At the last meeting, Diane brought to the Council's attention that she and Teva started terms as Chairperson and Co-Chair prior to their official terms (January and July of 2017 respectively). Therefore, since they have served in these capacities since 2015, Maureen asked Council members if any might be interested in replacing either in those roles. No one indicated interest; therefore, Scott made the motion, seconded by Lana, to reappoint Diane as Chair and Teva as Co-Chair of the Council. The vote was unanimous affirming Diane and Teva, and they were thanked for graciously continuing on for extended terms. All members of the Council were reappointed to terms effective January 1, 2019, with the exception of Jon Hofacker, who was appointed for the first-time last year when Diane Slezak became Executive Director of AgeOptions. And, Lana's first-time appointment was effective January 1, 2019.

Updates:

Maureen emailed Council members copies of the newly revised FRT Manual, which is supplied to new members of any FRT in the state. The manual was vetted by Karen Kloppe, Legal Services Developer for OAPs, as well as Jeanice. A print order to have copies on hand for new members will not be submitted until mid-March in case Council members had any suggested changes to the manual.

Discussion of Proposal:

Maureen reported that for FY 2019, there should be 60 FRT cases discussed statewide, as there are 15 FRTs. However, judging from recent years, some areas downstate have struggled with having solid cases to meet about. Very few have four cases a year to present. Some teams may have met but not discussed a case or met and discussed a case that involved self-neglect or a death unrelated to an abusive situation. The dearth of good cases is also confounded by the prohibition of discussing cases currently being prosecuted. Thus, it was recently discussed in

Area 5 where Duane suggested exploring a system whereby certain deaths are “flagged” by a system that could bring them to the attention of FRTs. Child Death Review Teams, for example, review any suspicious death of a child per statute (20 ILCS 515/20). Duane explained how such a system would work and Council members agreed it would be worth looking into whether databases between IDoA and IDPH could “talk” to each other to come up with “hits” to help screen suspicious deaths of elderly and disabled persons that could, in turn, be reviewed. Obviously, such deaths would need to be narrowed a great deal to meet specific criteria. Potential problems were discussed with concern to the fact that APS receives some 1500 intakes per month, not all cases are founded, and deaths of someone previously part of the APS caseload may not be suspicious. Conversely, some deaths labeled “natural” on death certificates may have been suspicious. It was determined that more information is needed to have in-depth discussions on the subject i.e. find out if other state’s have any similar triggering mechanisms and, if so, what kind of computerized system would work to capture indicators of a death appropriate to review by an FRT. Further, Lois brought up the fact that the Council may want to review pursuing having mandated reporters become mandated to report suspicious deaths (as opposed to only being mandated to report ANE).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The Council’s next meeting will be May 23.