

Illinois Department on Aging
Fatality Review Team Advisory Council Meeting
November 22, 2016

Members Present by Telephone:

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), Donna Schnell (Area 10), Nancy Hinton (Area 09), Holly Kozinski (Area 4)

Members Absent:

Diane Michalak (Area 02), Mark Thomas (Area 03), Michelle Courier (Area 01), Nancy Thorsen (Area 07)

IDoA:

Lois Moorman, Alice Hayes, Maureen Squires, Holly Zielke, Steve Milburn, Troy Yancy, Jamie Spears, Jody Kershaw, Alexander Burke, Mike Berkes

The meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Motion was made to approve minutes from August 23, 2016; minutes were approved first by Teva and seconded by Linda.

Updates

Maureen Squires said the meeting would be fairly short as there was no case brought forth to discuss in closed session and few updates to provide to the group. She said she had distributed the new Fatality Review Team Manual to staff and would send the manual electronically to each of the council members following the meeting. A limited number were printed so as to allow the Council and others to review prior to putting in a print order to accommodate each individual team throughout the state.

She thanked Marsha Miller of the IDoA staff for working to format the manual and get it printed by CMS in a timely manner.

Maureen asked each of the Council members to please let her know in two weeks' time whether they had any suggested changes, as a large print order needs to be placed by December 8.

In other updates, she said it is also the hope of the APS program to have updated Standards and Procedures printed by years' end.

She said she is working to properly appoint each member of the Fatality Review Teams so they are given official 2-year terms. She has several Teams completed already. Once this infrastructure is put in place, then it will be easier to keep all the Teams on track and properly accounted for.

As Teams are being formed, it is also important to have an updated listing of whom is the Chairperson, Co-Chair, Coordinator etc. Further, whoever is the designated data entry person for the FRT site will be notified in coming weeks about a webinar that will explain the site in detail and walk each user through the system. This way, each user will understand the importance of what statistics need to be captured and will have the ability to ask any questions at that time.

Maureen said she attended a recent inaugural meeting of a FRT in Area 12 along with Holly and Alice. The meeting was held at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago. Margaret Holmes did a good job in getting the word out about the meeting and it went very well, with people stepping up to the plate to take on various duties as this Team is getting underway.

In other updates, it was announced that Donna Biletto, Program Manager at NIAAA, has resigned from her FRT in Area 1 due to the fact she will be leading the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland as Executive Director effective January 1.

Also, sad news was relayed that Police Officer Karol Fricke of FRT 1 died recently unexpectedly. A card was sent to Officer Fricke's family from the Department on behalf of APS and the Advisory Council.

A Council member brought to attention the recent series done by the Chicago Tribune that brought to light major deficiencies with regard to regulation and oversight of CILAs or group homes under the auspices of DHS. The investigation shed light on as many as 42 deaths linked to abuse or neglect in the homes over the last seven years and exposed unlicensed and poorly trained caregivers. Members asked to be sent the link so they may read the series, which has resulted in a hearing to be held in the Capitol at 9 a.m., November 30. The hearing will be held before the Senate Human Services Committee.

In other business, it was discussed whether the FRT Advisory Council should or should not be exempted from the Open Meetings Act. Holly Zielke explained that there have been awkward situations in the past in which members of the public or media have attended meetings and concern has been voiced over perpetrators attending.

It was noted that Child Death Reviews and other similar bodies are in fact exempt from OMA. However, a ruling by the Attorney General indicated that the FRT Advisory Council is a public body. Attempts have been made through the years to rectify this situation but have been stalled.

Lois asked members to take this into consideration as initiatives are being gathered for the next legislative session.

Finally, attempts were made to set meetings for 2017 but members thought it would be easier to do so using a survey known as "Doodle." Maureen said she would put together several dates and months and send the survey to members to see what would work best. She would send that along with the Manual and the link to the Chicago Tribune articles

The meeting was concluded at 1:45 p.m.