

Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

February 14, 2018

Ensenberger Building, Bloomington, IL

With phone conference available to other areas.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Char Rivette, Chair.

Members present: Char Rivette, Evan Owens, Billie Larkin, Nora, Mary Christopherson, Sandra Baptist, Paul Hamann, Fredericka Theus, Elba Karim, Charlie Reynard, Dr Channing Petrak, Tamela Atwood, LaDrena Bobo, Steve Sawyer, Peter Perry, Rhiannon Torres, Virginia Zic-Schlomas

Phone: Annette Milleville; Victor Feraru

Members not in attendance: Donya Adkerson, Judith Bukowski, Patrick Dempsey, Jamie Friye, Chantelle Porter,

Open Meeting Act Guests: Kim Mangiaracino, CAC of Illinois, Akadia JPA (Needs Assessment), Tammy Wacker

DCFS Staff: Lisa Burt, Grant Administrator, Nora Harms

Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

Billie Larkin is retiring. Judy Brucker has retired and has stepped down from Task Force Role. Donya Ackerson has resigned from the task force effective today. Area of expertise with sexually problematic behavior role needs to be filled.

Meryl Paniak has been promoted to inspector general of DCFS, may not be able to update on legislation. Carol Milton and Gwen Walsh discussed as alternates to fill the legislation update role.

CACI Champions Children's conference is March 5-6, 2018 in Oakbrook, at McDonald Corporate center. Brochures passed around.

Illinois annual CASA Conference flyer passed around. Radisson in Bloomington, IL.

Information to be sent to the group.

Public Comment per the Open Meeting Act Update

No public comment.

Review/Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Two clerical errors to be corrected. Motion to approve. Minutes unanimously approved.

By-law changes

Peter Perry gave update on proposed changes to the By-Laws to comply with the recording/streaming requirements of the OMA.

There was a motion to approve. It was seconded and unanimously approved to update Section 7.

Amendment to Section 1 of By-Laws to include the executive director of CACI, as a required Member. Currently, only required member is the Executive Director of Illinois CASA. Suggestion to correct title to “association of Court Appointed Special Advocate” There was a motion to approve with correction. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Requirement of CACI ED on committee

Discussion – CSEC – Was skipped due to Antwan Turpeau not being able to attend. This is a potential agenda item for May. Need expertise in this area. Salvation Army, potential resources for Member expertise.

Discussion-Selection of New CJTF Chair

***Chair job description and time estimate**

***time frame**

Char plans to step down as Chair as of next meeting, May 9th. Committee must vote on next chair at May meeting. Kathy, current Vice Chair is not interested in Chair position. Succession Plan discussed as important. Mostly leading discussion and overseeing agenda. Char encouraged that everyone seriously consider the possibility of stepping into the role.

Missing roles were also discussed. Expertise in children with sexually problematic behaviors and CAC directors needed. Elba has nominated Kane County CAC director. Elba to scan and email. Geographically aligned would be helpful. Kim & Billie to mention at CACI Council Meeting. Currently all critical positions filled. We can use a few more law enforcement representatives.

SASETA – update and plan

Channing provided update on SASETA, Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Act. Provided background on issue that SASETA was written for adults and doesn't serve children well and doesn't allow for Children to be seen urgently at specialized offices, clinics or CACs.

Lots of meetings with stakeholders. The Bill has been reintroduced into legislation HB 3852. Changes still need to be made but it will go forward with introduction. Changes to the legislation include: qualification and guidelines for performing the rape kit, defines children as needed different treatment than adults, requires Emergency Departments to have specialized training for children and come up to Pediatric Standards, also allows for transfer from ER to CACs and specialized providers. Representative Eunice has been a big help. Still a challenge with forensic issues and

difference between child sexual assault and adult sexual assault. No data on kits for kids/data at labs. Bill requires data to be reported.

House Bill 3852 re-introduced and has gone to rules. Sponsored by Representative Eunice.

Committee Letter was not sent as movement toward conversations were already happening.

Witness Slip when it goes to committee. Can we do a Witness Slip on behalf of the Task Force? To be investigated.

The Task Force will provide support when appropriate. Members can work to request congressional support individually.

Law Enforcement Training: Law Enforcement being trained on current law, AG's office training and this is problematic from a CAC perspective. Questions at training unanswerable by AG's office. Disconnect with AG's office in MDT approach. SANE nurse training, are not pediatric specifics and concerns were minimized.

Illinois is not aligned with other states in this law. This lapse in law may affect the accreditation of CAC in Illinois, which will impact funding.

New Business

Additional legislative updates were passed around. Sent by Gwyn Walsh. DCFS is watching the following legislative changes:

Children and Family Services Act; proposed change that if "indicated" finding that services are mandated. The Task Force discussed potential gaps and concerns with the change. The change seems to not really add anything. There are mechanisms in place to screen for families not participating and screening by States attorney's office. The Task Force is concerned that there isn't a mechanism for every indicated finding to have services (perpetrator in jail, perpetrator moved, private insurance). Fiscal impact is also a concern. Only 5% of families indicated receive services in intact. Nora & Lisa to take this discussion back to help inform this change.

Amendment to ANCRA for Child Death Task Force, definition of near fatality, to include certification by physician.

Follow up as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Victor introduced Memo to support change in definition of presumption of unfitness for the Illinois Adoption Act.— Agenda item for next meeting.

Consent for DVR for forensic interviews, legislation to propose CACs exemption from needing consent to record.

Needs Assessment for 2018 – Process & Plan

Akadia Kacha-Ochana & Steve Budde (On phone), JPA. DCFS approved proposal from JPA with modification to do work on survey. Needs assessment discussion during May 9th Meeting.

Steve provided overview of goals. We will build upon Needs Assessment and MDT Report. Include and target more front line personnel, in-depth in subject matter.

Subcommittee Members are Char, Rhiannon, Elba, and Lisa. Agenda made available to group.

Proposing 4 Tasks:

- 1) Review recommendations of past and provide update/progress
- 2) Work with Chapin Hall, integrate investigations of sexual abuse and serious harm, medical neglect
- 3) Conduct focus groups/interviews with frontline DCFS Investigators, CAC, Law Enforcement about need and challenges to improve investigations for targeted investigations. How to improve within organizations.
- 4) If possible, short survey from DCFS/CAC Staff.

Elba raised what the research question we are asking? Proposed better understand needs and strategies of target allegations, sexual abuse, serious Harm, and medical neglect. Elba mentioned current research being done, document CACI report, share with the group.

Front-Line: Are we missing mental health as part of the front-line staff? Proposal to have CASA/Foster Parents for Next Needs Assessment from more of a child/family perspective. Do we include access and mental health access and linkage? CACs have better access to include these professionals in the focus groups and surveys. Are we missing Mandatory Reporters as part of the front-line, schools/hospital staff, etc.

Charlie raised issue of measures of outcomes: Prosecution Rate (how many cases are you willing to prosecute), Conviction Rates (did everyone do their job along the way)? Are we including that in this in our research and effort? Build upon information in MDT analysis and indicators. Long term outcomes of services for youth?

Mari raised including the long term perspective on DCFS Immersion Sites and changes and outcomes for youth in care. May be able to leverage data and information into the Needs Assessment.

Paul raised including in our report what the vision would look like if these needs no longer exist.

Need for more qualitative data. Issue identified for effectiveness.

Potential access to OMS from CAC – Survey measuring effectiveness of treatment and engagement of services from referral.

Awareness of special populations for investigators? Children with disabilities with abuse.

The question of including a survey for the Task Force was raised. Task Force agreed to participate on what we identify as issues. Task force asked to review the documents referenced.

Rhiannon proposed that we continue working beyond to address some of the other areas of concern which may allow us to focus. Paul proposed a repository of Data, and additional need. CAC Strategic Administrator position to work with data.

We should work to identify consolidation of body of knowledge and CRP – Child Death Review, Family Advisory Council. Systemic needs to inform protection of children, make changes in Illinois.

The ability to file an extension for deadline was discussed. Lisa to research if this is a possibility.

Task Force to think about who is front-line and what questions might be asked.

(Working Lunch)
MDT Pilot Update

Nora and Billie gave an update on Director Walker's decision to no longer support the MDT Pilots. Director Sheldon had provided support for the MDT Pilots.

Director Walker's focus is children ages 0-3 (as this population has the highest risk for bad outcomes), and youth 17 & 18 that are still in care. The pulling of support has set the MDT on a different path. The Pilot Sites had a lot of contributors and there have been great outcomes and improvements. For example, the Franklin County Site.

Specialized investigators and medical providers is a need being met in other areas. Other financial resources may be available to support such as 705 Funds.

Task Force identifies this as still a need. The MDT Report was a legislatively mandate report that is not being acted upon with this change. Institutional memory is important, and will be included in this year's Needs Assessment.

Continue to push Director for support and involvement.

Other updates given. Focus on children 0-3 out of care. There was a working conference, defining battles to getting these children help. DCFS is developing a focused plan to get the kids home, provide lasting change and good services.

The Department is still working to fill vacancies. Waukegan, Peoria and Bloomington have a lot of vacancies. DAIC teams in Cook to prevent Gaps and vacancies. Job description changes to help fill the void.

Intact had been privatized and there have been a lot of deaths so changes are being made. Review of intact cases to access trends and contracts with private agencies. Bringing back high-risk cases to the Department. Subsequent Reports 10-15% of open intact have additional investigations and what actions need to be taken in response?

New 360 Concept in looking at families as ever-changing is being used. Developing community relationships is part of this concept. Joliet is being used as a focus point. If DCFS comes together with community providers, it will open communications with private agencies, investigative staff and community partners.

40 scholarships for the CAC conference and DCFS was able to fill all of them across many disciplines.

There is a refocused effort on supervision and casework.

Dr. Petrak, suggested more mandated reporter training for Intact caseworkers and day care workers.

Elba brought up the Child Protector app and it was confirmed by Nora that it is loaded on all investigator phones. More training was suggested.

Update from CJA Administrator

Lisa provided updates. New roster passed out.

Lisa attended the quarterly conference call. She provided an update on upcoming deadlines. Lisa to participate in webinars and will continue to provide updates for

April 1, 2018 deadline for 2018 Ethics training. Please sign it in Blue Ink and get it to Lisa.

Candidate Forms should be turned in ASAP.

New Member orientation. Antione to come back, MDT approach to prevent sex trafficking. CSEC. Victoria potential invitee. Human tracking task force developed.

Parking Lot - None

Adjournment

Motion, Seconded, Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Next Meeting – May 9, 2018 Chicago CAC.