



Illinois Adoption Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES
July 9th, 2021
WebEx videoconference
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AAC Members Present	AAC Members Absent	Guests	DCFS Staff
Mary Kay Collins	Maripat Oliver	Gabriel Foley	Jason Cummins
Katie Friend	Danny Tolliver	Renee Mayes	Gwenn Eyer
Keely Giles		Gayla Webster	Sylvia Fonseca
Beth Hunter		Julie Yelverton	Kelly King
Laurel Meade			Michelle Grove
Alex Montgomery			Hope Bartz
Shirley Padera			
Elizabeth Richmond			
Cara Siebert			
Crystal Rekart			
Danielle Sanders			
Karen Taylor			
Amy Trotter			
Mark Werner			
Jeremy Wheeler			
Julie Yelverton			

Welcome/Introductions and Roll Call

Keely Giles / Katie Friend

Katie Friend made initial introductions along with Keely Giles. Welcome those on the call and excited about beginning a new IAAC year and building upon the achievements of the IAAC over the years. Roll call was taken of IAAC present.

Approval of June 4th, 2021 Minutes

Council

Motion was made by Laurel Meade to approve the June 4th, 20201 minutes. Cara Siebert seconded the motion. The motion to accept the meetings passed unanimously.

“Rules of the Road” Review

Gwen Eyer

Gwenn gave a PowerPoint presentation of the IAAC reviewing the history, accomplishments, and goals of the IAA. The presentation also addressed appropriate conduct for members, participation, effective methods of

communications using the appropriate channels, and a establishing a framework for conducting effective meetings leading to productive council work.

Quality Improvement Center Update

Christine Feldman

Keely Giles adoption readiness training -adoption conversion. Updating training for the training of prospective adoptive parents. Keely indicated she and Elizabeth Richmond are working on a training of 2 hour 5 session model with video series. Until “real” training is completed. Elizabeth Richmond provided additional information regarding the training and what is included in the session.

Office of Caregiver and Parent Support Update

Michelle Grove

Ethics and Harassment trainings are annual trainings. The training information has been attached to the invites regarding the trainings. Once completed the trainings can be sent to the IAAC mailbox

Adoption/Guardianship Support Specialist are being filled with interviews being completed. Once done the information will be sent to begin the hiring process. CORE Teen training is being offered to foster parents and to adoptive parents. Clarification was made that the CORE Teen training is not on the VTC so names of individuals who would like to take the training need to be sent to the IAAC mailbox. The next training is set to begin 07/27. The training is a 7-session training one per week. There will be more trainings offered and will be open to parents that would like to attend.

Statewide Adoption Update

Sylvia Fonseca/Kelly King

The House and Senate on 5/27 6/23 passed a bill at it is to the governor. Adoption does not have to be ruled out. The Adoption unit continues working with moving children to permanency and working with POS. Also supporting post adoption work. The ASAP manual was created in conjunction with QIC. Have the final document to ensure the quality of services statewide. Cara Siebert indicated that the manual is helpful and amazing with a standardization of services for all throughout the state.

Janet Ahern requested some time to present two topics (Passports and Vaccines)

There is a long government wait time for passports including initially obtaining passports. There are no appointments available in Chicago. The one day/same day passports are not an option currently. Estimated passport times are estimated at 18 weeks. The increase in travel and the backlogs contribute to this wait time. Once travel plans are obtained, the passport process should begin especially if plans are for Christmas through the spring. The hotline number for questions is (800)-828-2179.

Vaccines for 12-17 years. There is an expedited consent form for the COVID-19 consents. These can be completed. Many times, these shots are not completed at the doctor’s office. DCFS must be able to track this. On the DNet there is a health link that must be entered into the I-Care system. However, only physicians can upload information so the vaccine information must be given to a physician. This may not happen so the Department is working with IT to provide a tab in SACWIS picture tab and having the caseworker upload this information. The reason for this is to ensure that children are not double immunized and to track the need for booster shots if they become available. Children 12-17, it is not the foster parents’ choice for vaccinations, it is the choice of the birth parent and the child if they are between 12-17 years old.

Committee Reports

Review of Committee Membership

Keely Giles / Katie Friend

It was requested that all members review the list and sign up for at least one committee. It was stressed that this is a good time to start anew. The committees were listed as: Adoption Month Committee, Legislative and Policy committee, Membership Committee, Communication Committee, Post adoption services committee, Training and support group committee, Nomination committee, Data workgroup, Bylaws committee, Permanency workgroup.

Look at the committees and find what fits you best. Proposal is to review the list. Send information to the mailbox as to which committee you would like to serve. Chairs will reach to each committee and schedule first meetings for each committee. The deadline to send this information by 7/16/21.

Membership Committee

Keely Giles / Katie Friend

There are some vacancies. 2 spots in cook, 1 southern, one at large and 2 vacancies professional at large spot. The bylaws created additional spots and the vacancy list will be updated. Hoping to have a full committee if there any nominations please send information to the council and those will be sent to the head of the membership committee. A two-week timeframe is established to send to the mailbox.

Data Committee/Workgroup

Julie Yelverton

Remind that Julie not on council. Would stay on if it is workgroup. Still waiting on data from DCFS.

Motion was made by Karen Taylor to make this committee into a workgroup. Cara Siebert seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Permanency Workgroup

Alex Montgomery

This is a workgroup since it works across councils. Will continue to report updates. First meeting is next Monday 07/12/2021.

Stakeholder Comments

Renee Mays presented. She works for Dagen Brown. She is attempting to obtain data on resources and contacts frequently used by parents, caregivers, and staff. Provided her email for this information of contacts to be sent to her email. Information for contacts regarding information for a list with contacts that have information to answer questions. Renee believes this differs from SPIDER because it could also expand out from resources (clothing, food pantries, shelters). Renee indicated obtaining the information has been difficult especially from caseworkers. United Way database could also be contacted. Renee Mays' email is reneemays@illinois.gov.

Public Comments

Julie Yelverton indicated she was contacted to have all members support the Adoption Credit Refundability Act. It is no longer refundable, but this bill will make it refundable. Gayla Webster indicated she took advantage of this under President Obama when he made it refundability. Julie Yelverton read her email/information she received. Mary Kay Collins indicated that it might be beneficial for the IAAC be an advocate for this Act.

Harassment and Ethics Training

<https://OneNet.Illinois.gov/MyTraining>

Training requirements were reviewed. Ways to log on if OneNet is not an option then the trainings were provided digitally, and the signatures just need to be forwarded to the IAAC.

The schedule of meetings. Authorized the release of the first six months to council members. This will be sent out some time after the meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Danielle Sanders made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Taylor. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting: *August 6th, 2021*