



Illinois Adoption Advisory Council

MEETING AGENDA
Friday, July 10th, 2020
Conference Call
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions/New members
Approval of April 17, 2020, Minutes

Elizabeth Richmond / Mark Werner
Council

Elizabeth welcomed all to the meeting

Minutes to June 5th- Julie Yelverton indicated she *could* make the Facebook an open group. With that correction motion made by Mark Werner...Second Julie Yelverton...motion passed unanimously.

Quality Improvement Center/National Training
Development Committee

Christine Feldman

Christine Feldman- ASAP manual to put together the program plan that was around since the 1990's and putting together all the ASAP components and what they do. Short video on the website having those translated into Spanish. Going to set up a prototype for the path beyond adoption workshops on how to use these resources. Focusing on new parents or parents that want to know more. Going to investigate closed caption videos. ASAP providers-CORE Teen grant for a training for kids with high end emotional behavior issues. Offering TOT to FPSS and to ASAP providers. Starting the training in the end of July thru Sept 15th. Training close to 80 people as trainers.

NTDC- got the OK in Illinois to begin registering individuals in northern region beginning in September. Spaulding is also providing a refresher training to those that went through the training earlier this year. The NTDC has worked with all to have the training completed virtually. Mark Werner thanked Christine for all her work on the grant over the last 5 years. Christine mention it has been a collaborative effort and the IAAC along with Sylvia's group have made these training and the grant the best in the country.

Communication Update

Jen Florent

DCFS is conducting the next session of the family first townhall meetings on July 23rd. The invitation is posted on both the internal and external DCFS website. There is also a new newsletter "the talk". This newsletter will be sent out to everyone with the Families Now and Forever newsletter. "The Talk" is completed out of the office of delinquency prevention/juvenile justice. It is a one pager and will be mailed and placed on the external website.

Statewide Adoption Update

Sylvia Fonseca/Kelly King

Sylvia reported that they are working in the "new normal" utilizing Zoom and other resources. It is a collaborative effort between the adoption administrators, DCFS legal, the panel attorneys, etc. Cases are getting finalized. Subsidy packets are coming in. Trying to update the website and trying to move things along. Kelly King continue to work with transracial adoptions attempting to explore how agencies can work together more

effectively. There are a lot of exciting things on the horizon in development stages. They are currently waiting on Deputy clearances regarding “the adoption movement”.

Membership/Recruitment

Mark Werner

Mary Kay Collins-adoption professional and Alex Montgomery adoptive cook parent were welcomed as new members. Additionally, two more new members were introduced: Shirley Padera is in central region as an at large parent along with Katie Friend. IAAC is looking good with most position filled with only three vacancies: opening at large adoptive parent and two positions in cook. Sylvia suggested for diversity of the council to reach out the Asian, Latino and AA councils for possible positions. Will get the contact information for those council.

YouthCare Managed Care Service Update

Shawnte Alexander/Jamie Dornfeld

Q. Kristine- private insurance and how private insurance deals with the care and eligibility issues? How long does the medical card work after the adoption is completed until the Youthcare transition is made/completed. Kristine will take the transition issue back to obtain an answer. This should not be an issue when Youthcare begins. Keshanwa indicated that the information should be updated. The issue is an eligibility issue and a coded issue.

Q. Keeley—What is the process of a caseworker contacting Youthcare about children in the process of being adoptive? DCFS adoption working on the adoption packet and subsidies. Sylvia indicated at beginning adoption staff should be providing the family with the booklet and presenting that information/choices with the family. When the adoption is finalized the case is opened differently than the permanency case. Adoptive parent is making the choice and completing the appropriate choice and that information is provided to the “medical unit”. A new number is provided to the child or DCFS has no legal on the child after the adoption. Verified a new number is provided and the child is auto enrolled into Youthcare. There should not be a time that a child is not covered. It should be a clean transition. It might be a coding issue and not an eligibility issue.

Shawnte-Youthcare. Added benefit sheet was reviewed and the language has changed and that is reflected in the handbook. Services are retroactive to 2/01 or when they joined. Northwestern will also be part of the Youthcare on 9/01.

Q. Keely what was changed? Indicated the after school care stated free and it was changed to assisted. Free school uniform was also changed to reflect it will be assisted.

Shawnte spoke of the gym membership and indicated that Youthcare will help out to identify a nearby gym and will assist with membership. Make it clear it is a boys and girls club. Now have a concierge service that will specifically help with these issues. Shawnte indicated that staff should have more information. Should not just be reading from the booklet and should not just provide information that a health screen.

Q. book said “free” and now those are not being offered. Shawnte indicated the language should be clear.

Jamie indicated that she is happy to coordinate another stakeholder meeting.

Q. Julie-private insurance children enrolled into Youthcare? Doctor’s office system still pulling up Youthcare children as Meridian? Letters were sent out to health providers clarifying that some system are still showing Meridian and it should be Youthcare. Working with the Medi system to distinguish the difference with Youthcare and Meridian. The letter will be posted to the external website. Have not received examples of the private insurance issue.

Adoption Month Celebration

Karen Wardlaw

Karen plans to have a separate call with a committee in order to plan the celebration. A meeting was planned for August 6th at 9:00 a.m. Jen Florent, Mary Kay Collins, Mark Werner, Karen Taylor, and Elizabeth Richmond all agreed to be on the call. Karen asked of any leftover supplies from last year.

Confidentiality and Privacy using Virtual Training

Cara Siebert

Cara indicated at Metropolitan she is using Zoom and conduction meeting. Consumers are having an initial meeting to explain confidentiality and having a confidentiality form. Discussion of what type of barriers or supports they are experience. Having children groups running at the same time to keep the children occupied. Using Zoom tutorials regarding virtual backgrounds and use of headphones. Using COVID funds to help with headphones. Zoom training is provided through the University of Maryland. Are also having Zoom breakout rooms to those having difficulties. Also having evening meetings that seem to also help. Clinician out of Lake and Henry county has developed a curriculum for transracial families which is set to begin next week. Cara is opening it up to Lake and Henry counties and looking to provide outside those area. Cara will look into getting the curriculum to possibly share.

Bylaw review

Council

As noted, the Statewide Council Administrator is working to standardize councils statewide and are requesting the council convene a bylaw committee meeting. Appoint a bylaws committee to review some other councils' bylaws the group may want to use as a template (Children's Justice Task Force and Latino Advisory Council, and SWFCAC).

Mark indicated he and Karen are on the bylaw committee. Cara along with Elizabeth indicated they would be willing to assist. Laurel also stated she is willing to be a part of the meeting. Gwenn will send the information out to Mark Werner,

- 1) One year term limit leadership
- 2) Appointed by the Director OR elected
- 3) Leadership positions are filled from the membership and must line up with 3-year membership appointments/reappointments

Bylaws must be changed to adhere to statewide standards for DCFS councils.

We want to keep the IAAC in good standing:

- 1) In case they want to be mandated in the future
- 2) To continue to receive funding for meetings

We won't be able to standardize the term lengths across all councils due to statutory language for some of them, but we should at least standardize that all councils have set terms and term limits for both members and officers. Now more than ever we should have diverse and inclusive membership/leadership.

Stakeholder Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Agenda items for next meeting:

Youthcare

Christine Feldman (update)

Caregiver support

Bylaw review

Adoption celebration

Adoption/post adoption Family first

Return to work plan

Adjourn

Motion by Karen Wardlaw to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laurel Meade. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 10:50 a.m

Next Meeting: September 11th, 2020
 Location/Type: TBD