

**Meeting of the
Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council
Northfield Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield
January 19, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
APPROVED MINUTES**

SWFCAC MEMBERS PRESENT	SWFCAC MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF	GUESTS
Gladys Boyd	Cheri Dreska	Janet Ahern	Julie Cebulski
Katy Cotts	Kassie Johnson	Ashley Deckert	Elizabeth Richmond
Donna Gregory	Stephanie Jones	Carlene Erno	Chasity Schwartz
Arrelda Hall-Johnson	Kate Monte	Barbara Crandell	Krista Techenbrock
Gordon Hannon	Trina Rizzo	Gwenn Eyer	
Darrin Holt		Michelle Grove	
Rachel Hoyt		Paula Jaudes	
Ken Keefe		Melissa Kassel	
Harriet Kersh		Maggie Poteau	
Maya Maclin		Steve Sizemore	
Susan McConnell			
Mark McDaniel			
Kellye Norris			
Mary Savage			
Carol Sheley			
Denise Spires			
Samella Taylor-Lewis			

Welcome and Introductions - Mark McDaniel

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:03 a.m. asking the visitors to introduce themselves. He and outlined basic meeting management, asking everyone to put phone on mute, step outside to take calls, close computers, and use issue forms for address specific issues.

Approve Minutes from 11/17/17 SWFCAC Meeting

Gladys Boyd made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Donna seconded. Motion carried.

Final Report to the Director

Mark McDaniel

The monthly Director's Report was submitted as required by the Foster Parent Law. Mark sent a summary report of the SWFCAC to the Director

Central Region Update

Cathy Smith, RA

No report.

Managed Care/Foster Parent Survey results

Dr. Jaudes

Dr. Jaudes reported on the Health Care Survey for Foster Parents 2017, noting that they sent out approximately 9000 letters, published it on Dnet, translated it into Spanish, etc. They received 320 responses. The survey asked for foster parent perception about the current health care set up. They have identified some things that are currently not working, and they plan to address them (MCO). She stated that primary care and behavioral health services should continue. Children adopted through DCFS will be able to opt-out if they have other coverage. Dr. Jaudes expects the incoming Illini Healthcare to at least meet the current standards, so anything that is currently paid through Medicaid will continue to be covered. If DCFS covers now, that will continue. The new program will include designated case coordinators, all of our children and youth will be classified as “high needs” and we anticipate that we will get better health care, overall. It should be a seamless transition with kids receiving an Illini card in addition to the medical card.

Q: Will co-pays be offset by Illini if adoptive parents elect to use their own insurance?

A: Dr. Jaudes will follow up on this question.

Q: Why is there a delay in scripts when kids come into care on psychotropic meds? Placements have been lost when kids are unable to access medications within the first month.

A: They are focusing on children 0-6 coming into care.

Q: Why are there delays with the consent line when there are urgent matters to address?

A: We are working on streamlining consents. Email Dr. Jaudes at Paula.Jaudes@illinois.gov and she will move it above the consent line. Email Council member Rachel Hoyt for the protocol her agency uses to get this work done very quickly.

Q: How are foster parents notified that a child’s birthdate automatically defaults to 12/14/14 when a child comes into care and stays that date until the system updates, overnight or after the weekend? This is causing problems for new placements.

A: Carol should Email a description of the issue to Dr. Jaudes for follow up.

Dr. Jaudes will send PowerPoint handouts for distribution to the council. She will also update Michelle on outcomes from questions that came from the council. Eye care is another issue she will follow up on.

Janet Ahern stated they have two appeals in for braces. They haven’t had to appeal braces before, so when they received two denials they were concerned. Both have been appealed. However, since then they have not been denied again. She noted that when managed care comes in we will watch psychotropic meds very carefully. Illini has done managed care in other states and we are currently writing the contract to take special consideration for our youth in care. We are working on getting a consultant for orthodontia. If there are issues, let Dr. Jaudes know. For questions about adoptive youth and braces, contact Karen Murdock’s office.

Mark McDaniel, Council chair, addressed the potential for a Health Care Committee made up of council members who have frontline experience with these issues. Medical Director, Janet Ahern, the Chief Nurse and Karen Murdock should receive issues and recommendations. Dr. Jaudes will also work to identify someone from the behavioral health side

Managed Care Addendum:

- Dr. Jaudes reported that they finally got through to someone at Corrections about eyeglasses and the issue of length of time to get them. The best work-around is for the foster parent to contact Karen Moredock after eight weeks when the child has yet to get the new pair of glasses. Karen will look into the problem.

Updates from the DCFS Guardian

Janet Ahern

Since she was here last, Janet was called to testify in court, she's had her first visit with a very sick child, is working hard to connect with groups and open doors to communication, and attended the funeral of a youth in care.

She reported back on the following questions:

Q: Can foster parents sign approval for students can be publicized through the school. A: Yes, as long as they're not identified as foster youth.

Q: Can a foster parent sign for sports? A: Yes, but you do not have to sign the waiver re: filing a lawsuit if something goes wrong. If you have any questions, sent the form to the Guardian's Office.

Janet noted that Dr. Naylor, the consultant psychiatrist, must consult in some cases when there are questions re: prescribing psychotropic drugs, even when previously prescribed. If there are concerns, call the Psychiatrist Hotline 800-828-2179. She brought information at Fresh Start, a program for free clinics and surgeries for youth in care with cranio-facial deformities. She stated that First Star is a mentoring program for high school youth offered at Loyola and ISU. ISU still has some vacancies for this semester. We have two youth from that program who applied to Loyola for next year. She had DCFS scholarship information for youth in care and former youth in care who've moved on to guardianship and adoption. She distributed the Normalcy guidelines. We have two youth who will enter Loyola next year.

Strategic Planning

**Michelle Grove, Carol Sheley,
Mark McDaniel, Gwenn Eyer**

Michelle introduced the planning session by asking council members to prepare introductory elevator pitches to cover the following: who you are, what you're looking for and how you can benefit the SWFCAC.

After break, we began with council members' elevator pitches. Then Michelle Grove discussed the Director's goals and gave a brief presentation regarding goal setting using Sean Covey's 4 Disciplines of Execution. These include the following: 1) Focus on the Wildly Important, 2) Act on the Lead Measures, 3) Keep a Compelling Scorecard, and 4) Create a Cadence of Accountability. After her introductory presentation, council members divided into committees to draft their Wildly Important Goals for the coming year, including intermediate goals, steps, challenges and barriers.

Noon Working Lunch

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Strategic Planning, continued

Carol helped the council break into committee groups. Gwenn worked with the committees as they reported out on their work, solidifying their WIG's. Mark led the Council in setting its WIG for the year.

Council Goal for 2018:

Strengthen the experience of youth in care by more substantively empowering the foster parent experience to influence DCFS policies and procedures through the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council.

Committee Goals:

Policy and Legislation Committee Goal:

Empower foster parents to advocate for themselves and youth in their care. Steps: Track DCFS policies and comment on proposed additions or changes, be the contact point for foster parents with concerns about policies and procedures and encourage council members to contact their representations and impact legislation.

FPSS Committee Goal:

Provide FPSS/Mentors to every licensed foster home in Illinois, decreasing disruptions by 20%. Barriers identified: financial issues and resistance from private agencies.

Hospitality and Marketing Committee Goal:

Actively communicate the work of the Council and promote it throughout the state.

Training Committee Goal:

Communicate with the DCFS Training Specialist to open doors to have the ability to have input and make changes on available trainings for foster parents and other caregivers. Steps: Provide child-specific training opportunities on the VTC, mandate Trauma Training for all foster parents, and utilize the Foster Family Development Plan. This committee plans to meet monthly via teleconference to follow up.

Respite Committee Goal:

Clearly define respite. We want clear understanding between DCFS, POS and foster parents and all should have a similar, if not the same, process and compensation. Steps: Read and review policy and legislation. Bring a clear definition of respite to our foster parents, including the knowledge of who pays, who receives it, and the differences, if any, between traditional, specialized and therapeutic foster care. Ensure the information is communicated to foster parents and follow up.

Committee Reports

Mark noted that if you would like to have reports on the agenda the council needs to have a summary of the report sent to them in advance, please.

*Adolescent Issues – Kassie Johnson
No report.

*Policy and Legislation – Darrin Holt/ Ken Keefe

Darrin reported on n laws impacting children/ youth/ foster Care, effective 01/01/18.

HB 3168 (Public Act 100- 0158) - Allows DCFS to submit a copy of a child's report, if the child is deemed delinquent, to the child's attorney or GAL.

HB 3542 (Public Act 100-0189) - Adds a new provision to the Foster Child's Bill of Rights Act to provide for the best settings for Foster Care placements.

SB 0931 (Public Act 100-0229) - Requires DCFS to file a written report with the court when a minor in their care remains in shelter beyond 30 days, in a psychiatric hospital past the time of discharge, or in a detention center solely due to the agency not being able to find an appropriate placement.

SB 0973 (Public Act 100-0087) - Requires DCFS to submit an annual report to the General Assembly including information on the number of youth in the agency's care waiting for a placement.

If you would like additional information on any of the above Laws - please visit ilga.gov where you can search for and read the full text of each of the Bills and Public Acts.

Ken distributed a document with the committee’s recommendations re: changes to the SWFCAC bylaws. The council reviewed all the changes itemized in the document and decided to table the vote until the next meeting. Council members are supposed to review the document so that we can discuss and vote on it at the next meeting.

*FPSS – Carol Sheley
No report.

*Training – Carol Sheley

Reports from Other Councils/ Committees/ Workgroups

*CWAC

Rachel, Darrin, Mary

CWAC is scheduled to meet 2/8/18 in Chicago to set goals for this year. Rachel reported that CWAC has been discussing Managed Care and the WIG around children birth to 3. She talked about “stuck Kids,” noting that some are in inappropriate and unauthorized placements. CWAC discussed the nine assessments being done currently, and they would like that number to drop to

five assessments. They also noted that there needs to be a web-based service to make the adoption process faster and easier.

*IFAPA

Gladys Boyd

The council dispensed with the IFAPA report due to time constraints.

Regional Reports

The Council dispensed with regional reports due to time constraints.

Strategic planning recap:

- 1) The Council would like to start a Health Care Committee but there needs to be three people that would have to volunteer to be on the committee. They might merge the committee with the Hospitality Committee.
- 2) Instead of keeping an Adolescents Committee, the council is discussing combining the group with FPSS and making it FPSS/Adolescents.
- 3) Each committee should meet before our next meeting, so there is something to report.
- 4) Bylaw revisions were distributed at the meeting and Council members should review them before the next meeting.

Ken made the motion to adjourn. Gladys seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:

February 16, 2018 – Sheraton, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle