

Factual summary about the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council

The Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council was created by law on June 3, 1995 with the objective of advising and consulting with the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee on all matters involving or affecting the provision of foster care to abused, neglected, or dependent children and their families.

Specific tasks include:

- providing input on the issues affecting foster care.
- analyzing and recommending solutions to any issues in foster care
- interpreting to the general public the need for foster care and its benefits to the children and families involved
- promoting the statewide exchange and pooling of information about foster care
- participating in statewide planning, and promoting foster parent involvement in local planning
- reviewing and making recommendations on Department policies, guidelines, and procedures in the area of foster care
- developing recommendations concerning foster care training
- reviewing and advising about needed and pending legislation in the area of foster care and child welfare
- developing, as necessary, recommendations regarding the Department's improvement of child welfare services delivery
- maintaining regular communications with the regional foster care advisory councils and CWAC
- reviewing, approving, and monitoring the annual implementation plans of the DCFS regions and contracted foster care agencies
- conducting with DCFS staff on-site reviews of DCFS regions and POS agencies' implementation of the Foster Parent Law

Membership:

- 2 foster parents from the DCFS Southern Region
- 2 foster parents from the DCFS Northern Region
- 3 foster parents from DCFS Central Region
- 2 foster parents from the DCFS Cook South Region
- 2 foster parents from the DCFS Cook Central Region
- 2 foster parents from the DCFS Cook North Region
- 2 foster parents representing the Department's Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC), with at least one foster parent residing in Cook County
- 2 foster care professional representing CWAC, to present agencies providing foster care services under contract to DCFS
- the current President of the Illinois Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
- 4 other non-Department persons with recognized expertise regarding foster care, who shall be nominated by the DCFS Director

The foster parent appointees should be connected to the regional advisory councils and are to be recommended by the Regional Administrator. Foster parent appointees shall have a valid foster care license and maintain that license throughout their term(s) of membership.

Each member is generally appointed for 3 years; a second term is typical; no member is to serve more than 2 three year terms.

Conditions of membership:

- no compensation is given
- members may receive reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses associated with council activities
- regular attendance of meetings is required
- participation in at least one committee is required
- members must evaluate and score an assigned number of Foster Parent Law Implementation Plans each year (training required)
- members must conduct at least one on-site review of a DCFS regions' or POS agency's Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan per calendar year (training required)

Meetings are typically held 9-10 times per year in various areas of the state. Hotel accommodations provided; one of the meetings is a joint meeting with the Youth Advisory Council; one of the meetings is a joint meeting with the IL Adoption Advisory Council, typically in November for an Adoption Appreciation Celebration.