



Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting May 11, 2022

Virtual Meeting due to Shelter in Place Order via Zoom

Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

Effective July 14, 2020 an update to the Open Meetings Act requires the following:

- Councils meeting via videoconference must keep a verbatim recording of their meetings (record their meetings) to remain compliant with the Open Meetings Act.
- All votes must now be recorded via roll call

I. **Call to Order:** 9:02am

II. **Roll Call/Guests Introduced**

	Name	Present	Motion 1	Motion 2
1.	Atwood, Tamela	X	Yea	Yea
2.	Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	X	Yea	Yea
3.	Brandt, Michael	X	Yea	Yea
4.	Christopherson, Mari	X	Yea	Yea
5.	Cohan, Carrie	X	Yea	Yea
6.	Cowart, Lark	X	Yea	Yea
7.	Glick, Jill	X	Yea	Yea
8.	Hamann, Paul	X	Yea	Yea
9.	Hines-Holl, Hillary			
10.	Hofmann, Molly	X	Yea	Yea
11.	Karim, Elba	X	Yea	Yea
12.	Ma, Cassandra	X	Yea	Yea
13.	Mangiaracino, Kim	X	Yea	Yea
14.	Marinier, Misty	X	Yea	Yea
15.	McNamara, Kathy			
16.	Petrak, Channing	X	Yea	Yea
17.	Porter, Chantelle			
18.	Singleton, Prestina	X	Yea	Yea
19.	Stein, Mary	X	Yea	Yea
20.	Stoffer, Brian			
21.	Theus, Frederika	X	Yea	Yea
22.	Torres, Rhiannon			
23.	Trotter, Dion	X		

	Name	Present	Motion 1	Motion 2
24.	Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	X	Yea	Yea
	Davis-Barsh, Shirley			
	Hamilton, Kara	X		
	Stutz, Tierney	X		
	Talbert, Charles	X		

Guests

1. Margi Scotellaro – Medical Director for DCFS, works with the Guardian’s Office overseeing and guiding care of kids with complex medical needs who are in foster care; approves research involving youth in care, various COVID matters and ensuring the kids are safe; Works with the Director regarding feedback from Child Death Review.
2. Ebony Ferguson – YWCA South Suburbs of Cook County (also a mandated reporter)
3. Mechiko White, Executive Director of Southwestern Illinois CASA

III. **Review February 2022 Minutes** – still need to be presented.

IV. **Public Comment per Open Meetings Act**

V. **CJTF Review of Task Force Purpose /CJTF Vacancies and Term Expirations**

1. Paul Hamann reviewed Task Force purpose
2. Conversation ensued surrounding the need for medical professionals on the Task Force. Efforts will continue to focus on medical staff recruitment
3. The following Task Force members’ second terms will expire 6/30/22:
 - a. Dr. Jill Glick
 - b. Paul Hamann
 - c. Kathleen McNamara
 - d. Dr. Channing Petrak
4. **Motion #1: Motion made to extend each members’ term for a third term** (Judge Michael Brandt, Mary Stein). Unreadiness: Each candidate confirmed their desire to continue. Kathleen McNamara was absent from the meeting for health reasons and provided a written statement to represent her desire. **Motion passed unanimously (18 yeas, 0 nays, no abstentions)**

VI. **FY22 Recommendations to the Director**

Review of the document indicated that more detailed and specific recommendations

need to springboard from these as we move into the next fiscal year. The following points, suggestions, and observations were noted:

1. A long-term goal would be to see law enforcement (as part of the MDT) receive mental health training;
2. Re MDTs: budgets should be created to cover the costs of non-CAC personnel's involvement in MDT activity and meetings. Currently non-CAC staff after a point are not reimbursed for their expenses to attend meetings. This concept should be examined and researched for the FY23 Recommendations and included on next fiscal year agenda
3. SJR0047 has recently passed both the House and the Senate and is on its way to be signed by the Governor. This Bill creates the **Task Force on Children Advocacy Centers and Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children Funding** to ensure that each CAC and CASA facility receives adequate funding to respond to the number and severity of child abuse and neglect cases in their respective jurisdictions. See <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=47&GAID=16&DocTypeID=SJR&SessionID=110&GA=102>
4. Tierney Stutz will continue to be available and provide updates on DCFS safety update:
 - a. Currently partnering with law enforcement and they are accompanying us case workers in specific situations
 - b. Procurement has done extensive research and working with legislators and community partners and things are happening very swiftly
 - c. Have established a statewide workgroup on safety.
 - d. Community partners have been invited to the conversation to minimize risk and ensure the safety of those engaged in child protection services
5. More emphasis needs to be placed on providing communication and updates to all DCFS partners - all partners should be a part of the safety discussion.
6. The CJTF should also be proactive in making recommendations to include community partners and make recommendations on including community partners who are empowered to collaborate and contribute education, training, and resources to this ongoing dialog.

Me – how can we partner with Runaway – a robust conversation around solutions would be great.

5. **Motion #2: Motion made to present this year's recommendations with modified language to Recommendation D concerning the disseminating information to community partners regarding safety issues. (Glick, Stein). Motion passed unanimously (18 yeas, 0 nays, no abstentions)**
6. Follow-up Conversation on Recommendation:
 - a. CDRT critical piece of information sharing that is simply not happening.

- b. Human Trafficking Task Force – there is consideration to propose legislation to propose changes to ANCRA regarding information sharing amongst community partners, law enforcement and DCFS. This is a CDRT recommendation.
 - c. CDRF symposium coming up in the fall in October – may be room for collaboration.
 - d. Safe Sleep piece – creation of a nationwide registry (collecting five years of data for a study) to result in reports on safe sleep outcomes
7. Dr. Glick has offered to present at next meeting on the medical community and the MPEEC program and segue way to formalized matters of collaboration. Her invitation to present was accepted.
8. Discussion on DCFS and workplace safety issues given recent events in the news:
- a. Community partners are concerned about ways to keep investigators safe.
 - b. Workgroup is trying to get better intel and ongoing information which needs to remain fluid and open especially when making mental health referrals, with Intact workers, etc.
 - c. The goal is for the information to be shared with EVERYONE working with a family to ensure everyone's safety.
 - d. The Workgroup partners with the Illinois State Police and in partnership with University of Illinois.
 - e. Training is being discussed to be given to IL Police officers, to go through simulations and to be presented with certain scenarios and adjusted to meet the needs of DCCFS rather than criminal justice
 - f. Illinois State Police is working on deescalating skills and judo skills, how to get out of a house safely if warranted.
 - g. Legislation has been passed for workers to now carry pepper spray. Will be trained by Illinois State Police on the use of pepper spray.
 - h. Under armor type vests are being piloted around the state to guard against blunt force, knives, etc.
 - i. More research is needed, and decisions need to be evidenced-based before trying to change things and/or impose more policies across the state

VII. Presentation – National Runaway Safeline – Susan Frankel Executive Director

- Throughout pandemic been collecting info on youth in crisis.
- CJTF posed that question: What can we do as a task force keeping in mind the future children and youth given the data National Runaway Safeline is chronicling?

Services provided

- Partnering with Chapin Hall re the Covid Data
- Dates to 2020 (last time full report released)
- 2021 report will be released in September 2022
- 53% increase in young people reaching out under the age of 14 during 2020 compared to 2019 data

Presentation graphics included with minutes.

VIII. **New Business**

None

IX. **Next meeting dates and times**

https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/policy/Pages/com_communications_CJTF.aspx

X. **Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Talbert, Acting Secretary
Children's Justice Task Force