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**Illinois Children and Family Services Advisory Council**

January 12, 2023, 3:00 PM  
Via WebEx / Conference line only

**MINUTES**

**Attendance**

**MEMBERS:** Jennifer Hansen (Chair), Brittani Kindle (Vice Chair), Marge Berglind (*Ex Officio*), Gabriel Foley (Secretary), Kim King, Nicholas Martin, and Nate Pietrini

**DCFS :** Kara Hamilton (Liaison), Lorena Hernandez, James Daugherty, Gailyn Thomas/Chapin Hall, Dana Weiner

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Jennifer Hansen called meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and introductions were made.

**II. Approval of Minutes** from November meeting. Due to lack of quorum at beginning of meeting, November minutes will be discussed at next meeting.

**III. Membership Update.** Joshua Travis withdrew his application for membership. Dar'tevous Dorsey is still pending, but Kara will follow up with the Governor's office. The nominating committee will meet before the March meeting to discuss new applications.

**IV. Family First Summit Review** - due to time constraints, slides will be attached to March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for informational purposes and Marge Berglind can provide any updates.

**V. Direction of the Council** will again be discussed at next meeting.

**VI. Unauthorized Placement Update.** Dawn Bachtold will be invited to present for next meeting at 4:30 PM.

**VII. Discussion about Family First Requests (Julie Barbosa).** The Council decided to place this item on hold until they meet for Direction of Council Meeting.

**VIII. Chapin Hall Report on CERAP and discussion on SAFE MODEL by Dana Weiner and Gailyn Thomas**

Dana Weiner, Clinical Psychologist - has been serving the Governor's Office as the Director for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation to analyze and understand the problems in children's mental health broadly beyond child welfare to formulate some solutions. Dr. Weiner has submitted the blueprint to the Governor's Office for review by various state agencies.

The Child Endangerment Risk Assessment (CERAP) was introduced in late 90's and was credited with standardized and improved consistency of safety decision-making because prior to that it was only manual.

In 2019, DCFS Director commissioned a review of the CERAP tool for front-end safety assessment. In 2020, Chapin Hall finalized a report that highlighted problems with the current tool and processes and recommended either revisions or replacement of the tool. Also, facilitated a series of discussions with peer jurisdictions using other approaches, including SDM and SAFE Models. In 2021, DCFS Director and leadership team identified the SAFE Model for implementation in Child Protection.

#### *Methods Used*

- Qualitative Data Collection: Focus groups, interviews with key stakeholders, and training observation
- Quantitative Data Analysis: Trends over time in CERAP use, safety determinations, and safety threats
- Policy Analysis: Business process maps of prescribed use of CERAP
- Literature Review: Best practices in front-end safety assessment
- Case Review: Standardized review of a stratified random sample of 28 cases

#### *Key Findings-Summary*

The findings were: Lacks detail, nuance, and context (developmental, environmental, temporal); Used to document but not to decide; Appropriate for safety determinations but not ongoing assessment; Lacks examples of safety threats and mitigating factors. The implementation findings were: Distinction between risk and safety remains unclear; Safety plans are not used appropriately; Guidance (through training and supervision) is inconsistent.

#### *Recommendations*

DCFS should consider best practice alternatives to the use of CERAP Structured Decision Making (SDM) and SAFE Model. DCFS should use an alternative safety assessment strategy for milestones other than safety assessment. Tool choice should be informed by; Peer consultation to learn more about alternate approaches; Longitudinal data analysis to understand trends over time. If CERAP is retained, DCFS should: enhance the tool, improve training and supervision, enhance IT support and revisit policies.

### **IX. CCWIS Presentation by Jim Daugherty, Chief Information Officer/DCFS**

The new name became Illinois Connect, which is broader; it includes SAFE, CCWIS and all transformation. It addresses DCFS's business needs, designated for usability across all user groups, increases automation/ analytics, data-driven decision making embedded across solution and State and federal compliance.

A huge problem is case workers can't access medical records in a timely manner. Question is whether sharing data would solve that problem. DCFS is not at the level of security to house and hold medical records. Currently, have access through other systems but will be solve within the 4-year project.

Q: With whom will data be shared? Working with sister agencies, like DOJJ, DOC, IDES, HFS, and ISP.

#### *IllinoisConnect Project – OneTeam/Different Roles*

The Structure of the project is made up of five main vendors. Each vendor has roles and representation for a system of checks and balances.

- State of Illinois is the System Owner working with IT Team and Business Team.
- Deloitte is the System Integrator responsible for data conversion/migration, decommission legacy systems, risk management, training design, development and implementation, and maintenance and operations.
- IV & V Vendor is responsible for independent validation and verification to ensure quality and regulatory compliance.
- OCM/BRP Vendor determines critical processes impacting CCWIS and developing associated process trainings.
- Project management Vendor ensures all activities are coordinated, timely, and high level of quality.

Regarding having access to pediatricians, the question is whether that is going to be a list of abuse and neglect experts within the jurisdiction? Currently designing it. For example, if the disposition is yes to child abuse, it automatically will assign a child abuse pediatrician to the case. The mobile app will have that option.

*What Does Illinois Connect Look Like?*

It is for Case Managers, DCFS lawyers, DCFS CBP, agency leadership and investigators. It provides an extremely granular control over who has the right access to data. All the data will be accurate, easier, instant, timely, and reliable for all DCFS staff and community-based partners.

*IllinoisConnect Modules*

Is currently composed of 18 modules. However, there are new modules known as Children 360, Immersive Learning and Workload Automation.

Q: What is Children 360? It's a research and analytic engine for the State of Illinois. A huge database given from Deloitte on a monthly basis to DCFS. For example, Deloitte's and DCFS data are used to understand location of current services and to determine location of needed services.

*Immersive Learning and Workload Management Automation (WMA) Modules*

Immersive Learning is digital virtual reality with OLPD to train and prepare staff. WMA reviews the Illinois Connect Schedule timeline for different modules. There are new functional releases every 6 to 9 months.

Q: Are the private agencies responsible financially for this project? No. The Federal government is paying about 41% and can pay up to 50% once reimbursed to DCFS. Community-based partners are collaborating through the CWAC subcommittees personnel as modules are being built since carry 85% of the caseload.

*Product Management Chart*

Are in the process of identifying 12 new job descriptions positions to maintain the system trained by Deloitte. It is called a low code no code system. It is easier and faster to make common changes. The paradigm system will allow to adapt; to new laws and evidence-based to new practices.

**X. Identify March's Meeting Agenda**

The tentative Agenda is as follows: Follow the normal procedure and Unauthorized Placement Update by Dawn Bachtold at 4:30 PM. Also, add attachments e.g. OIG Report, Child Mental Partnership Document, and Slides to invitation.

**XI. Public Comments.** None at the moment.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 PM – MOTION: BY: Marge Berglind; second by Gabriel Foley; unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Mach 16th, 2023, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM via WebEx