

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
**SCAN COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

August 17, 2022, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Via WebEx

**Call to Order:** Veatrice Crawford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

**Introductions/Roll Call** - The following members were attending via WebEx: Present (12) Veatrice Crawford (Chair), Mary Bennett, Mary Jane Forney, Jackie Sharp, Alice Staley, Denise McCaffrey, Delilah Nelson, Joe Hemphill, Judi Bradley, Nancie Brown, Jaclin Davis, Dr Kousiki Patra

**DCFS Staff:** Kara Hamilton (Associate Deputy Director, External Communications and Advisory Groups), Kenneth Leggin (Regional Admin in Cook Co),

***A quorum was present (12 out of 18). This meeting was held virtually through WebEx in compliance with changes to the Open Meetings Act in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.***

**Public Comments:** None

Dr. Kousiki Patra was introduced and welcomed to SCAN by Veatrice Crawford. Dr. Patra provided the committee an overview of her work experience. Dr. Patra noted that she works at Rush hospital – Director of both intensive care and neonatal unit and neonatal high risk follow-up clinic.

Committee members present introduced themselves to Dr. Patra. Each member shared their professional background.

The minutes for the meeting on June 15, 2022 were reviewed by the committee. A motion to accept was given by Judi Bradley and seconded by Jackie Sharp. This committee voted to approve the minutes.

Update: Annual Meeting with Director

Kara Hamilton will follow-up with Leslie Rice. Shirley Barsh-Davis is no longer with us.

## **I. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. DCFS Legislative Review**

Committee has received the legislative report. HB 692 and HB 746 which was effective July 1, 2022. Committee will review bills and see how they will take action. Kara reported that two (2) task forces will begin. Advisory Commission – ( HB 3267). It will look at reducing the disproportionate representation of African American Children in foster care. This task force will begin August 25, 2022. This task force has no sunset (end) date. (HB 3281). The task force will look at the racial disproportionate in child welfare. It is tentatively set to start September 21, 2022. It will end in 2 years.

B. Procedure 300 Updates

Kenneth Leggin reported that changes will be coming as it relates to initiating an investigation. Investigators will be required to complete background checks – review any prior investigations, closed/open cases- before the initial contact with family.

C. Google Form

Chairperson asked members to complete form and return with two (2) top priority items that would like to see on the agenda. Meeting evaluations will be done three times a year. Evaluation is to see how well we are doing and changes, if any, that need to be made.

D. Child Welfare and Family Court Committee

Chairperson reported that a meeting will be scheduled before the next regular meeting (October 19, 2022).

E. SCAN Bylaws

Chairperson reported that we are still waiting for general counsel input.

F. Training

Kara Hamilton reported that 4-5 members have completed the training – Ethic, Harassment /discrimination. Kara reported that new this year is the Diversity, Inclusion training. There is no paper version. If there are issues with your one-net account i.e password reset, contact Kara. The goal is to complete training by the end of August 2022.

## II. New Business

A. Presentation: BH Decree -Amanda Wolfman, DCFS General Counsel.

Ms. Wolfman reported that the BH decree is a result of a lawsuit file in 1988. A settlement was agreed upon in 1991, which was modified in 1997. The lawsuit said that children that came into DCFS care/custody 14 amendment rights and Adoption Assistance Child Welfare Act 1980 were being violated. Children subjected to mental development , physical well being, placed in overcrowded shelters, inadequate medical care, mental health care, clothes and food. There is court appointed panel (2) and a “Special Master” – federal - overseeing the implementation plan that addresses the broad range of issues covered in the decree. DCFS is addressing systemic issues in order to comply with the concerns. DCFS is also working on investigators case assignments and staff retention. Also, DCFS in September 2020 has change youth in care health care services to managed care through youth care, working closely with HFF. DCFS is addressing services for the LGBTQ community. DCFS is taking a look at our procedure – making sure that we are in compliance. Ms. Wolfman will provide the members will a copy of the consent decree, implementation plan and annual report.

B. Presentation: SAFE Model (safety assessment) – Theresa Costello, CEO, Action 4 Child Protection. A non for profit organization that has been in business since 1984. The SAFE model will replace CERAP . SAFE – Safety Assessment and Family Evaluation. The model is less intrusive. About 26 States are using the model. Data shows that the SAFE model

reduces the number kids in care. The model addresses present and impending danger. It takes into account caregiver protective capacities ( emotional, cognitive and behavioral). Slide presentation will be given to the members. DCFS will replace SACWIS with CCWIS. The SAFE practice model will be integrated into CCWIS. There will be staff training of the roll outs – CCWIS and SAFE model.

### **III. Comments /Announcement**

Next SCAN Meeting – October 19, 2022, 9:30 AM, WebEx

### **V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.