

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

SCAN COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 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, Joe Hemphill, Judi Bradley, Nancie Brown, Dr. Kousiki Patra, Judge Ericka Sanders, Mary Hardy-Hall, Jaclin Davis

Mary Jane Forney approved, Jaclin Davis second

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

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

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The committee reviewed the October 19, 2022, meeting minutes. Veatrice Crawford asked to amend the minutes to address some grammatical errors. Mary Bennett motioned to accept the minutes with the amendments, and Jackie Sharp seconded. The committee voted and approved the minutes.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. DCFS Legislative Updates

Kara Hamilton will share any updates with the group at the next meeting.

B. Committee Updates

i. Judicial Committee Report - Judi Bradley and Judge Sanders gave a committee summary. Judi explained that the committee understands that human resources are a child welfare challenge. The committee is looking into how the Department can improve the placement process, better conduct investigative background searches and improve relationships with the courts and law enforcement. It was also mentioned that the Division of Child Protection had made inappropriate placements.

ii. Governance/By-Law Committee Report - Joe Hemphill reported that the group is working to create an MOU between this committee and DCFS. The binding agreement shows a willingness between the two parties to work together for shared goals and is also considered best practice for Citizens Review Committees.

iii. Board Membership - Dr. Alicen McGowen, a past member, has expressed interest in re-engaging with the committee. She had stepped away for a while due to medical challenges.

C. Annual Citizen's Review Committee Report Recommendations/Meeting with Director Smith - Kara Hamilton reported that the Director's response should be ready in November or December. She will pass along the information when she receives it.

D. Training

i. Mandatory Training Update-The Chairperson reported that she continues working with Kara Hamilton to resolve technical issues committee members are having with the mandatory training.

E. Budget - Jason House (rescheduled)

F. Advocacy Office Update – Rodrigo Remolina, Administrator for DCFS Advocacy Office
Mr. Remolina reported that the office was created in 1973 as an ombuds office. In 1992 a public act created the advocacy office, and in 1993 the BH Consent Decree gave this office hotline status with a toll-free number. The advocacy office handles a wide array of complaints, concerns, inquiries, and suggestions from across the state. The staff receives calls from youth in care, families/parents (biological, foster, and adoptive), citizens, private agencies, etc. Mr. Remolina stated that the unit's call volume is rising, receiving roughly 3,000 calls monthly.

The office will get a new phone system that should be operational by the end of this year. Mr. Remolina will supply supplemental information to the committee.

G. CCWIS – James Daugherty, Chief Information Officer for DCFS

Mr. Daugherty presented to the committee an overview of the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) that will replace the current SACWIS system. CCWIS will comply with federal guidelines and allow staff and providers to spend more time with children and families. This system will launch in several stages, with investigation and permanency case management scheduled to be released in August 2024.

The system design incorporates best practices and more efficient processes. Some of the benefits include:

- A comprehensive system view of intakes, investigations, and cases
- Timely information available to staff
- Fewer paper documents
- System is user-friendly

Mr. Daugherty's presentation will be shared with the committee.

III. New Business

A. File Review: The file review for 2023 will be discussed at the next meeting, and the date will be determined at that time.

IV. Comments /Announcement

A. Prevent Child Abuse Conference – Denise McCaffrey

This year's conference held October 13-14th in Springfield was a great success. Over 500 people were in attendance. Nancie Brown attended the conference luncheon where Roy Harley was honored. Roy served in leadership on SCAN, was Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, and is a lifelong child welfare advocate.

B. Next SCAN Meeting – December 14, 2022, 9:30 a.m., WebEx

V. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.