

Illinois Adoption Advisory Council
Friday, September 7, 2018
Sheraton Lisle Naperville, 3000 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois
10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.
DRAFT MINUTES

AAC Members Present	AAC Members Absent	Staff
Kathleen Bush	Maria Nanos	Gwenn Eyer
Alice Couch	Maripat Oliver	Sylvia Fonseca
Keely Giles	Anne O'Malley	Michelle Grove
Natalie Miller	Michelle Price	Vanessa James
Elizabeth Richmond	Crystal Rekart	Kelly King
Danielle Sanders	Keisha Robinson	Gail Mayer
Brittney Sprouse	Karen Taylor	
Mark Werner	Danny Tolliver Jr.	Guests
Julie Yelverton	Amy Trotter	Glenn Eyer
	Karen Wardlaw	Christine Feldman
	Jeremy Wheeler	Katelyn Phillips

Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Richmond, IAAC co-chair, opened the meeting. Keely Giles was welcomed as a new council member during the introductions.

Committee Breakout – Adoption Celebration **Council**

Julie mentioned a movie, “Instant Family” that is an adult comedy that premieres November 16th. It may be offensive to some, but Julie viewed it with others at the NACAC Conference and she said it would be fine. The council discussed offering an “Adoptive Parents Night Out” at the theater and maybe distribute literature, and reach out to statewide theater groups and do a statewide screening to cater to people interested in adoption, etc. The discussed asking for a special package price for tickets, popcorn and soda, etc. The department could offer a public service announcement to show on-screen prior to the movie. We could use movie theater staff or adoption advisory council members as ushers and to distribute materials. The council will ask Jenny to follow up with AMC, Marcus, and other theaters. Julie will follow up re: contact information for the movie director. We may also use local Adoption Support and Preservation providers. It was suggested that we provide cake for the November IAAC meeting and honor an adoptive parent.

Approval of Minutes from 7/27/18 Conference Call Meeting **Elizabeth Richmond**

This was tabled until the next meeting.

DCFS Update **Gail Mayer**

The Office of Parent and Caregiver support which supports foster and adoptive parents has transitioned from the Office of Learning and Professional Development to Operations. Business will remain the same but the reporting structure for Michelle and Gail is under the Bureau Chief. This allows the Office of Parent and Caregiver support to align closely with the field.

QIC Update/Phone line/Web site**Christine Feldman and Vanessa James**

Christine reminded council members that Illinois is one of eight sites selected for the grant through the Children's Bureau. The grant had several components and focused on evaluating an intervention to determine if it can be considered "evidence based." Illinois used the TARGET program, Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy. It was conducted in Cook region and in some counties in the Central Region. This is a program for pre-teens and teens to show families one example of what post-adoption services can do and to prevent disruption. The evaluation is a big part of the grant but the grant also wants to enhance supporting and messaging adoptive parents. One of the reasons we selected pre-teens and teens is that this age group is a selected interval, as research shows that kids who hit puberty and adolescence have heightened problems. They also served some internationally adopted families. They'll finish the data and it will be evaluated to see if these targeted outcomes made a difference.

They were able to add to the program to address prevention and messaging to help our families and professionals understand that adoption isn't the end of the journey, it's the beginning of a different journey. A number of people have been certified in TARGET and will likely continue this work following the grant. They wanted to set up emotional interventions and present them in a variety of ways. Some have reported that they like TARGET, but it's too long in some ways, it's too in-depth, etc. The program has to be delivered in the same way for the grant, but now that they're finishing the evaluation they're not tied to that. They planned to focus on offering T-4 which is a more flexible program, but it's very expensive. Now they'll use a collaboration with staff in Clinical, Post-Adoption, Training and private agencies to identify the best of the best options for clinicians dealing with emotional regulation to develop a framework so that we can utilize these other programs that are extremely valuable. We will share all the good ideas around the state. Their goal is to make this lasting and sustainable, meeting the needs of children for years to come. The Council watched two training videos about the problem.

Sylvia said that It's been a pleasure working collaboratively with the team and reinforced the goal to make it sustainable in the state of Illinois. When we're fiscally responsible, using the Platinum Box it's like a dowry that families pull out as they need items and we can hold on to it.

Vanessa showed a Facebook post that references the new Caring and Sharing training. The post currently has 52 likes, has been shared 23 times and there have been 319 link clicks to go to Caring and Sharing. It's also available under public content on the Virtual Training Center (VTC).

Vanessa demonstrated the back end of the phone line, showing the touch-back activity. Follow up will continue until the need is met. The information is searchable and downloadable. They can follow up on the types of queries, the length of time it takes to answer questions and address issues, etc. Vanessa is still tweaking, but things are moving forward toward the hand-off. They may be revamping the business card process and there may be a way to move forward with the Path Beyond Adoption logo information with the 800 number. It might include white space to

write in a name and number, but not a line or anything to force it. The back might include the QR code to the web site. These could be distributed during adoption month.

The web site was held up due to new processes and rules and thanks to Sylvia Fonseca's intervention it is now approved to move forward and programmers are constructing it, hopefully in time to launch prior to the end of the grant. They're trying to set up the Contact form to go to the Adoption Unit. Staff is limited and they're trying to plan for distribution of duties and prompt responses.

Vanessa shared the IAAC proposal for the magazine collaboration with Neil Skeen, but no final decision has been made yet. The only concern is that the state message is not lost or diluted by including in the magazine. Vanessa address it by stating that fresh content is always preferred.

Discussion: Council's Top Priorities for the Web site

- Having a very clear discussion of services adoptive parents are eligible for
- Application of services to foreign adoptions
- Address Special segments, i.e. post adopt workers vs. subsidy workers.
- Add links to Spanish resources
- Provide a means to problem solving
- Statewide Provider Database
- Link to VTS
- Caring and Sharing Training
- Videos

Post adoption workers are support workers. They are not case managers. They process referrals and connect adoptive parents with resources they need. Staff rotate to cover operational needs. Referrals for prospective adoptive parents will go to the Center for Law and Social Work. They need to prioritize a way they can enable parents to network, i.e. possibly via signing up for a forum. Vanessa will meet this afternoon with the Do It project manager to follow up on updates and work that needs to be accomplished going forward. Vanessa is around through September in a limited manner.

They are putting together a new video training that will explain how the services work. They conducted 15 interviews to address what happens on the stakeholder side and on the provider side.

Communications Request

Jen Florent

We conferenced with Jen Florent to discuss the possibility of using the Instant Family movie to promote Adoption Month in Illinois, possibly doing advance screenings in Illinois.

Adoption Update

Sylvia Fonseca / Kelly King

Sylvia said they are moving forward with moving adoptions through more quickly by providing extra support to private agencies as they lose staff to DCFS hiring. They are meeting quarterly with DCFS & POS workers and supervisors. They are also looking at post-adoption contracts. Kelly spoke about therapeutic day care. She clarified that it takes more than the child being qualified. The provider has to be specially trained and equipped to handle the particular

challenges of the child. Providers can send potential training to Kelly to see if it might result in the provider being qualified for the therapeutic rate. She added that families need education on what therapeutic day care is. Discussion revolved around the difficulty of finding qualified providers.

HB2152 Waiver for College Tuition

Discussion about the possible ways the Department would handle this legislation. Nothing has been put into place yet. The effective date for this legislation is January 2019. It was noted that kids who are adopted after they are 13 will be considered independent on the FAFSA.

Adoption Support and Preservation program

Valerie described the ASAP program at Metropolitan. This is a well-respected program. Services provided resulted in only one disruption in FY'18.

Managed Care

The Managed Care presentation was postponed. Elizabeth reported that managed care implementation has been delayed. It is targeted to begin in early 2019. No date has been set. She also stated that the governor signed legislation that prevents medically fragile, technology dependent kids from mandatory managed care enrollment.

Motion: Mark Werner moved to adjourn the meeting; Danielle Sanders seconded and the motion for adjournment carried.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 19, 2018 at the Wyndham Hotel in Springfield.