

Child Welfare Advisory Committee

August 28, 2024, 1:30 PM

Members Present

Glenda Lashley (DCFS Staff Liaison)	Evelyn Smith
Beverly Jones – CoChair	Emily Rawsky
Christopher Cox – CoChair	Latasha Roberson-Guifarro
Kim Cobb	Annetta Wilson
Stephanie Franklin	Elena Xhanlexington Duncan Velez
Dr. Tiffany Johnson	Mary Savage
Nancy Dorfman-Schwartz	Phylis Summers
Andrea Durbin	Partick M. Phelan
Jere Murry	Andrea Hall
Lisa Nicklas	

I. Welcome and Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chris Cox at 1:40 PM. An in-person/virtual quorum was established, allowing the meeting to proceed.
- Glenda Lashley, DCFS Staff Liaison proceeded with the member roll call.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes



- **Approval of Minutes** – Chris requested a motion for approval of the minutes from May 2024. After a brief discussion and no objections, the minutes were approved as is by all members present.

III. **Co-chair Report**

Chris Cox

- Chris spoke about the revisions to the CWAC organizational chart.
- Since the last meeting, CWAC co-chairs met with department staff and providers that have chaired other committees to gain clarity on the energy, focus and fit of the overall system.
- Acknowledged that there were several committees that were identified within the last year.
- Chris mentioned that they are aiming to streamline committee structure in hopes to remove barriers of committees that have not been meeting their targets.
- Co-chairs were asked to re-add one group under permanency:
 - Regional Meeting Group
- After gaining more insight of the structure and activities occurring on behalf of CWAC, Chris and Bev want to assign both private and public co-chairs.
- In closing, mention of plans to work on the FY26 Budget.

IV. **Director's Remarks**

- Director Mueller encouraged involvement, collaboration and providing feedback in the budgeting process.
- Identified the opportunity to think of our work in a more innovative way.
- Recognized that we have the support of the governor's office.
 - Ex. Budgetary
- Mentioned the possibility of preparing legislative supports within our work.
- Called members to think of the work we do from a mission and vision driven perspective.

- Director Mueller stated that she looks forward to anchoring discussions and decisions in core values and a core philosophy: “The decisions we make need to be centered on youth and families.”
- Spoke to the works of planning a CWAC Summit to foster collaboration and effective efforts.
- Mention of her conversations with co-chairs about providing opportunities for more discussions, such as the previously held Town Hall meeting.
 - Open to suggestions regarding the structure of these discussions.
- Reiterated the need to focus on honing-in on the core values and vision of DCFS.
 - Overarching vision: “Illinois should be a state where every child has the opportunity to grow and thrive in a family”.
 - What is our role?
 - How do we get there?
- Director Mueller stated that we need to build a consensus on the concept that we were designed to be a part of the village of our clients.
 - We often take on the task of being the village, instead of adhering to our structural design to support families.
 - Our purpose is to provide temporary support to families in crisis and help them become stabilized.
- Identified top three values of our organization as respect, integrity, and family focused.
- Dir. Mueller closed this section by mentioning her discussion with co-chairs about shifting to a more defined plan to implement prevention.

Agenda Items

I. 2024 Team First Assessment of Safety Culture (TASC)

- Elizabeth Riley from the University of Kentucky provided an overview of the organization and how they use data to:
 - Understand system issues.
 - Understand organizational culture.

- Understand how we can make the system better for serving children and families.

Purpose of Organizational Assessment

- Gather data from employees about their experiences regarding safety culture within their organization.
- Offer employees the opportunity to provide feedback to their organization.
- Prompts conversations of safety culture within an organization.
- Allows organizations the ability to differentiate between groups of employees and their experiences.

Scales and Questions

- Demographic and workforce related questions:
 - Agency tenure. race, gender, age, education, etc.
- Skills related to safety culture:
 - Emotional exhaustion, mindful organizing, psychological safety, workplace connectiveness, equity, etc.
- Questions and skills related to individual agency practice:
 - Partnering with DCFS and use of teaming practices

Implementation Steps

- Survey preparation:
 - Develop survey.
 - Create a survey sample.
 - Distribute to staff.
- Survey administration:
 - Usually live for four weeks.
 - Weekly reminders are sent to staff to encourage participation.
- Data reporting:
 - Initial data report two weeks after the survey closes.
 - Meaningful research into specific breakdowns by categories.

II. Illinois Connect Update

Jim Daughtry

- Illinois Connect is an innovative intake system that will continue to develop to make the intake process more efficient.
- Announces the first case management release of Illinois Connect.
- Acknowledges that the first 3 days can be difficult.
- States that 100% of the data that was in the previous intake system (CYCIS) has been successfully converted to fit Illinois Connect.

III. Background Check Update

Carla Holmes

- 980 718 applications were received in August.
- 902 applications were processed.
- 126 applications are currently incomplete.
- 15 application notices are pending.
- 7 Pending notices are from July.
- No issues have been reported about the portal since the last report (May).
- Applications are still taking up to 10 days to show in the portal.
- Department Contact Information:
 - dcfs.bcu.chicago@illinois.gov (application inquires)
 - dcfs.bcp.admin@illinois.gov (portal inquires)
- Some providers reported that they have encountered challenges with the portal.
- DCFS staff from the background check unit noted that if there were problems they had not been informed, and providers should inform them in a timely manner if problems occur.

IV. Public Comments

- Remote access for Citrix has been crashing for providers but the issue is being more problematic.

- Possible system traffic issue
- A concern was mentioned regarding the communication process of contracts closing and opening:
 - Possible solution: a central place to share information.
- Pending issues with reports regarding quarterly meetings.
 - Solution: Share information more frequently (per request)
- Availability of foundations training:
 - Solutions:
 - Increasing the knowledge of intact and permanency trainers.
 - Providing satellite trainings.
 - Identifying the demands of the training workforce and identifying ways to fulfill these demands.

V. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25 PM.