

Illinois Children and Family Services Advisory Council

January 18, 2024 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, Dar'tavous Dorsey.

DCFS: Kara Hamilton, Melissa Box (Family First Administrator)

Welcome and Introductions:

Members introduced themselves and guests were also introduced

I. Old Business:

- Minutes: Unable to approve March/September 2023 minutes due to lack of quorum.
- Open Meetings Act and locations: Reminder that there must be a physical quorum to conduct business

II. Membership Update:

- Still have pending members that need to be voted on
- Have another applicant the nominating committee needs to review
- Introduction of guest and let her know next steps if she is interested in applying

III. New Items:

- Review of OIG report discussion-
Kim King expressed concern over increase of methadone overdoses in children, increase in shooting deaths, and continued delay in serves. Kim will do outline of concerns for next meeting.

- New Director-
 - i. Council will invite the Director to a near future meeting over summer 2024.

IV. Family First Presentation -Melissa Box



- **Background on Family First**
 - i. Signed into law 2018, within Social Security Act. Allows for Title IV-E funding to be used for a) prevention services (can only be provided to children/families at risk of involvement in the child welfare system and must be evidence based according to National Clearinghouse) or b) congregate care placement (can only cover placement in QRTPs, for a short duration, with specific documentation on file and concurrent services provided)
- **What IL is doing:** Prevention: evidence-based interventions for intact families, motivational interviewing, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Child-Parent Psychotherapy, Multi-Systemic Therapy, Nurturing Parent Program. Congregate care: Improvements in congregate care facilities and practices, Qualified Residential Treatment Programs, Improved casework practices, Sex trafficking programs, support for kinship caregivers.
- **How we want to expand:** additional populations- pregnant and parent youth, post-adoption/guardianship youth, additional kinship caregivers, homeless youth. Additional services- High Fidelity Wraparound, Kinship
- Family First Prevention Services does not change the system, it is an opportunity to provoke change in our system by challenging how we do the work, it is a platform and supporting structure for transformation, but we have to do the work. Family First incentivizes providing more services to intact families, to youth/families at risk and incentivizes reduced time in congregate care.
- Next steps for Family First: Cross-sector and interagency collaboration at state and regional level- increased communication, improve pathways for families to access services. Reframing the discussion around the child welfare system transformation to focus on child well-being and primary prevention. Q. Relative foster home and licensing and federal changes-is there going to be any change of how DCFS treats relatives that choose not to be licensed? A. Per Melissa Box will follow up and get more information, DCFS does continue to support relative caregivers.

V. Meeting Schedule for 2024

Will be quarterly. Likely a meeting in February or March 2024.

VI. Direction of Council

Discussion re possible topics for 2024 calendar year

VII. Open Discussion/Public Comment

None at the moment.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:57 p.m.