

Illinois DCFS Research Review Board Agenda

May 26, 2026 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Webinar Access: [Join the meeting](#)

Webinar: 2864 530 4063

Password: 2Fi4md4gVxf (23446344 when dialing from a phone or video system)

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Acceptance of Minutes**

March 24 & April 28, 2026

III. **Follow Up**

Schneider, William 2026-03 (Illinois Child Welfare Pulse Survey)

As the United States prepares to enter a period of austerity, reduced investments in social welfare programs, increased work requirements, and dramatic reductions in administrative capacity, it is essential to understand the influence of this new policy regime on vulnerable children and families. Extant evidence indicates that dramatic reductions in social welfare generosity and economic uncertainty are likely to be linked to growing hardships for children and families including food and economic hardship, housing, educational outcomes, employment/earnings, and child welfare system involvement, among others.

Ford, Nichole 2026-04 (Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black College Students in Foster Care: A Phenomenological Study)

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of Black college students in Illinois who have been placed in the foster care system in IL.

IV. **New Proposals / Amendments**

Dworsky, Amy 2026-05 (Retrospective Study of Protocolized Consultation by the Child Advocacy and Protective Services (CAPS) Team)

The University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital Child Advocacy and Protective Services (CAPS) team is a multi-disciplinary group consisting of child abuse pediatricians (CAPs), physician assistants, social work coordinators, and pediatric social workers. The Comer CAPS team has provided expert consultation on inpatient or Emergency Department cases involving children with serious injuries since 1998. The CAPS team currently completes 350-400 consultations per year. This descriptive study will examine records from CAPS consultations that took place between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2025. These records will be linked to Illinois Department of Children and Family Services data.

Dworsky, Amy 2026-05 (DCFS LifeSet Evaluation Phase II Amendment 6)

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is implementing the LifeSet program from Youth Villages with selected transitional living programs (TLP) and independent living (ILO) agencies. The LifeSet program helps older youth in care to develop skills for a successful transition into adulthood from the child welfare system through intensive case management, training, and goal-oriented services. DCFS has contracted with Chapin Hall to conduct an evaluation of the LifeSet program. The evaluation will include a descriptive only component (Phase I) to assess the target population and program implementation and a subsequent descriptive and comparative

component (Phase II) to evaluate youth outcomes. This application is for the second (Phase II) of the two components and is being submitted as an amendment to the existing Phase I proposal.

Amendment #6

We are expanding the population of young people we will interview to include young adults who had been enrolled in LifeSet and recently aged out of care.

V. **Manuscript / Presentation Reviews**

- **Kim, Hyunil; Schneider, William; Kim, Yun Young 2026-05 (Policy Spotlight: Child Maltreatment and Child Protective Services Involvement in Illinois)**

VI. **RRB Organization/Administration**

- Evaluator Review Sheet - ***On hold*** pending review and finalization of by laws
- Rules of Procedure/Bylaws: ***On hold*** Review draft bylaws/consolidated comments

VII. Next Meeting: June 23, 2026, at 2:00 pm

VIII. **Adjourn**