

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
STATEWIDE COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, SCAN
Meeting Minutes**

**March 14, 2024, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Via WebEx and In-Person**

Call to order: Veatrice Crawford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

Introductions/Roll:

Members present in person: Nancie Brown, Joseph Hemphill, Mary Hardy-Hall, Veatrice Crawford, Alice Staley, Mary Bennett, Jaclin Davis.

Members present via Webex: Mary Jane Forney, Dr. Jackie Sharp.

DCFS staff present: Megan Sturtevant (Acting Associate Regional Administrator, Central Region Child Protection), Kara Hamilton (Associate Deputy Director External Communications and Advisory Board),

Public Comments: None

This meeting was held for SCAN members to conduct business.

A vote was made and upheld to combine Agenda Items C and D for today's meeting.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Nominate and Vote for Committee Membership

A motion was made to accept Tara Winters as a new committee member. This motion was 2nd. The motion was passed with a quorum, and Tara Winters is now a new member of the SCAN committee.

B. Nominate and Vote for Vice-Chair

A motion was made to nominate Jaclin Davis as vice chair of the SCAN committee. The motion was seconded. The committee voted, and Jaclin Davis was installed as the new vice chair of the SCAN committee.

C. Nominate and Vote for 2024 In-Person Meetings and 2025 In-Person Meetings

After discussing future in-person meeting logistics (with input from Kara), the dates, and locations for 2024 and 2025 were unanimously voted on and accepted.

In addition to other committee work, a portion of the meeting will be dedicated to passing minutes and voting on the committee business.

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CY 2024 In-Person Meeting Dates/Locations

- 2024 In-person meeting dates are April 17, 2024, and October 16, 2024.
- 2024 In-person meetings will be held at the DCFS Springfield Office at 1124 Walnut and the Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council at 336 Forest Blvd. Park Forest, Illinois.

CY 2025 In-Person Meeting Dates/Locations

- 2025 in-person meeting dates are April 16, 2025, and October 15, 2025.
- The 2025 in-person meetings will be held at the DCFS Springfield Office at 1124 Walnut and the Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council at 336 Forest Blvd. Park Forest, Illinois.

D. Review Annual Report Recommendations

SCAN members conducted a robust discussion of the recommendations to the Director, which will be included in the annual report. Previous recommendations were reviewed to see if the committee felt that more work needed to be done or if they were satisfied with the progress and direction of the Department. Mary Jane Forney summarized the importance of Emergency Preparedness and Response Manuals being present and up to date in daycare homes and centers and recorded on the Shine Report. This would be a collaborative effort with IDHS and IDCFS.

Description of the other proposed recommendations are as follows:

Enhancing stakeholder health and well-being engagement and communication efforts to improve community involvement.

Expansion of home visiting programs. These programs promote infant and child health, foster educational development, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. They also support pregnant moms, new parents, and families.

Facilitate improving information exchange among court and child welfare professionals (Protective Service, Prosecutors, and the Guardian ad Litem and Judges), especially regarding placement clearance.

Highlight a Family First Value. Its commitment to sustaining partnerships through regular and transparent communication. Sharing progress, challenges, and opportunities with internal and external system partners and stakeholders is crucial. (e.g., emailing Family First Newsletters to DCFS Boards and Committees)

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Each recommendation was discussed at length during this meeting. Lastly, a motion to accept recommendations allowing minor tweaking that would not change the intent of the recommendation was made and seconded. The motion then passed with a quorum.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- Five current members (Mary Bennett, Mary Jane Forney, Mary Hardy Hall, Alice Staley, and Veia Crawford) have terms ending June 2024. A discussion was held about their willingness to serve for an additional three years. Veia will forward reappointment letters to Kara.
- Governance Items: During the meeting, the members briefly discussed and approved the updated by-laws, vision, mission, and values statement that had been thoroughly reviewed in a previous virtual meeting. The motion was made and seconded, and it passed unanimously.

III. Announcements/Emerging Needs/New Business/ Newsworthy Items

- The next meeting is in person: **April 17, 2024**
Meeting locations will be the DCFS Springfield Office at 1124 Walnut and the Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council at 336 Forest Blvd. Park Forest, Illinois.
- The group was informed that potential new members would attend the next meeting. Ongoing recruitment efforts were discussed.
- The group was asked if anyone was interested in attending the upcoming May National Citizen's Review Panel Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.