



# Illinois Adoption Advisory Council

*Serving Adoptive and Guardianship Families*

## MINUTES

**August 5, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**WebEx videoconference**

IAAC MEMBERS PRESENT	IAAC MEMBERS ABSENT	GUESTS	STAFF
Heather Breems	Samantha Coleman	Tricia Manns	Godwin Aluyor
Mary Kay Collins	Kelly Duda		Jodi Carriker
Nancy Farquhar	Keely Giles		Sylvia Fonseca
Danielle Sanders	Aneliya Kostova		Charlotte Gallagher
Cara Siebert	Kendra Larimore		Kelly King
Karen Taylor	Alex Montgomery		Tiffany Norton
	Brittney Sprouse		Kim Willis
	Julie Yelverton		Thenesia Williams

### Welcome/Introduction

Karen Taylor, IAAC co-chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. She welcomed everyone and noted that this meeting is being recorded. Karen Taylor conducted an IAAC voice roll call. Present: Heather Breems, Mary Kay Collins, Nancy Farquhar, Danielle Sanders, Cara Siebert, and Karen Taylor.

### Approval of July 2022, Minutes Council

*MOTION: Mary Kay made the motion to approve the minutes. Cara Seibert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously through a roll call voice vote.*

### FY' 23 Schedule

Karen Taylor

The next meeting will be in person on September 2nd, 2022. At this time the meeting will occur in Central due to costs. The location in the Central region is in process.

### In-Person Meeting Mentors

Karen Taylor

We are still looking for members to mentor our new members to the adoption council members. It is very important to make the new members feel welcome and help them understand how the council functions. Danielle and Cara both volunteered to be mentors.

### Statewide Adoption Update

Sylvia Fonseca and Kelly King

Sylvia reported that there were 2,056 adoptions or guardianship completed in the fiscal year 2022. Kelly King is working on updating the post-adoption and guardianship handbook.

### Office of Caregiver and Support

Kim Willis

There are two co-chairs for the birth parents' council, and they are currently developing the bylaws for the Statewide Birth Parent Council. The Council continues to work on recruiting new members. The new incarcerated parent administrator will start on August 16th, 2022. There was an FPSS all-staff conference that provided training to the Foster Parent Support Specialist. They held breakout sessions by region to determine regional goals. The 40th anniversary of the

Foster Parent Support Specialist program was celebrated. Core Teen has training in progress and there are four upcoming trainings scheduled.

Required Trainings on One Net  
Ethics, Harassment and Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training all need to be completed. The link will be sent to members via email with exact directions.

Charlotte Gallagher

Presentation and Approval of letter for ASAP Providers

Cara Siebert

The letter to ASAP providers suggests reviewing their provider website and ensuring adoptive and guardianship families are able to find post adopt and guardianship services. The letter was read to the council members present. A motion was made by Karen Taylor to approve and seconded Nancy Breems. The letter was approved by voice vote passed by Heather Breems, Mary Kay Collins, Nancy Farquar, Danielle Sanders, Cara Siebert, and Karen Taylor. The bylaws will go to a second reading.

Committee and Work Group Selection Update

Karen Taylor

The committee and workgroup list were reviewed with each member on the committees and workgroups. Danielle Sanders was added to post adopt and training.

Bylaw Changes- First Reading

Karen Taylor

Karen read the revisions from the last meeting. These changes were sent to all IAAC members before the meeting. The majority of the changes were made to include DCFS subsidized youth in care. There was a discussion regarding what qualifies a "member in good standing" and what steps are taken if a member is not attending the council meetings. Cara made the motion to approve the bylaws revisions, and Mary Kay Collins seconded. The changes to the by-laws were passed by Heather Breems, Mary Kay Collins, Nancy Farquar, Danielle Sanders, Cara Siebert, and Karen Taylor. The bylaws will go to a second reading.

Adoption and Guardianship Support Specialists

Karen Taylor

There are openings in Cook County, Peoria, and Springfield for Adoption and Guardianship Support Specialists. This is a pilot project, and it is behind on its timeframe. There are concerns that if the program does not start moving it might not continue to have funding. These positions are invaluable to our families and will provide support to families. Elizabeth Richmond is over the program that is designed to provide services to both post and pre-adoption/ guardianship. These are part-time positions and there is no degree required.

National Adoption Month Update

Karen Taylor/ Mary Kay Collins

There were no updates, and we need members. Possible working on magnets but ready for next year.

## **Committee Reports**

Membership Committee

Karen Taylor

Midwest adoption provides DCFS records to youth, and Midwest adoption has recommended someone to the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council. Greenlight manages the readoptions where the former adoptive parents are no longer able to care for the youth for different reasons. Greenlight has also recommended someone to the Illinois Adoption Advisory Council.

Legislation Committee

Karen Taylor

There has been progressing with the DCFS Legislation liaison to take recommendations to legislation and to find out information about upcoming legislative changes.

## **Workgroup Reports**

Communication Workgroup

Elizabeth Richmond

Another DCFS blast on the Dnet has been requested to invite members representing adoption/ guardianship families or youth to join the council.

Data Workgroup

Julie Yelverton

No report.

Post-Adoption Services Workgroup

Cara Siebert

The letter was completed and brought to the council for approval. The letter was approved.

Training and Support Groups Workgroup

Karen Taylor

Adoption and Guardianship readiness training has been updated. There is an online training which is to be updated and the Office of Learning and Professional Development has been contacted. Module 3/4/5 would be an on-demand training so parents can receive a refresher.

**Stakeholder Comments**

None

**Public Comments**

None

*MOTION: Nancy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. MaryKay seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously through roll call vote. Ayes: Heather Breems, MaryKay Collins, Nancy Farquhar, Karen Taylor. The meeting adjourned at 11:07am*

**Next Meeting:** September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3p.m. in person