**­­Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council**



**DATE:** September 1, 2020

**TO:** Marc D. Smith, Director

 Ashley Deckert, Deputy Director, Monitoring

**FROM:** Ken Keefe, Chairperson, Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council

**SUBJECT: September 2020 Monthly Report**

The Illinois Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council did not meet during the month of August. This is the council's long-standing practice to give council members and stakeholders a break during the busy return to school season. This year has especially challenging for parents and caregivers throughout the state.

Every DCFS region and every agency doing foster care by contract have been reminded of the November 13, 2020 deadline to submit Foster Parent Law implementation plans for calendar year 2021. The council recognizes that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, participation in the review and development of the 2021 plans will be managed differently this year. The annual mailing included suggested strategies to manage these changes.

The annual public notice announcing September as the official month for public plan review and comment will be published in late August.

A template for a standardized Foster Parent Law grievance procedure has been developed and distributed to each foster care agency and DCFS region. This template was developed with SWFCAC input and is designed to help alleviate foster parent stress around potential retaliation and promote a stronger teamwork process for grievance resolution. Per Rule 340, foster parents must have input in each agency/region’s grievance procedure and this template has been provided as a suggested guideline.

Our next Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council meeting will be held via WebEx from 9am to 11:30am September 11, 2020. As always, we extend an invitation for you to attend council meetings. You may contact me by phone at 217-246-0888 or by email at kjkeefe@gmail.com.

cc: Council members, Erica Cabrera, Jason Cummins, Gwenn Eyer, Lori Gray, Michelle Grove, Christina Schneider, Desiree Silva

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