

**Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team Meeting
Minutes – January 9, 2013
421 N. County Farm Road, Room 3500-A
Wheaton, Illinois 60187**

Meeting called to order: 2:10 pm by Bernie Murray

Members Physically Present: Joe Ruggiero (DuPage County State's Attorney's Office), Bernie Murray (DuPage County State's Attorney's Office), Diane Michalak (DuPage County State's Attorney's Office), David Zdan (Wheaton Police Department), Steve Hamill (Wheaton Police Department), Holly Zielke (Illinois Department on Aging), ShaTonya Herring (Senior Services), Joy Ward, RN (Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs); Joe Ramos (Illinois Department of Public Health), Jackie Rankin (Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Counsel), William Schubert (Illinois Department of Public Health)

Members Absent: Anthony Rainaldi (Westmont Police Department), Mike Drugan (DuPage County Sheriff's Office), Mary Lee Tomsa (Senior Services, DuPage County), Dr. Jeff Harkey (DuPage County Coroner's Office), Scott Heinrich (Addison Fire Department), Darlene Harney (Illinois Department of Public Health), Michael Fisher (DuPage County State's Attorney's Office), Richard Jorgensen (DuPage County Coroner),

Guests: Jill Uhlir (Wheaton Police Department)

Business Conducted:

-Introductions.

Welcomed new members William Schubert who is taking over for Joe Ramos and Guest Jill Uhlir and Elderly Service Officer from Wheaton Police Department.

-Guests and New members signed confidentiality agreements

-Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Joe Ruggiero moved to accept the minutes. Diane Michalak seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.

-Discussed "At-Risk Seniors" list

Dr. Jorgensen was not available, but relayed that since the last meeting where we discussed a situation that arose from a "hit" on the At Risk Senior list, the coroner's office has implemented procedures recommended by ShaTonya Herring of Senior Services relating to making sure that the Coroner's representative speaks to a live person from Senior Services (vs leaving a voice mail) and ShaTonya provided a list of cell phone numbers in addition to office numbers where personnel could be reached.

ShaTonya relayed that there were 2 “hits” from the list and the procedure worked, however, the “hits” were based on address and not names and neither of the “hits” were actual At Risk Seniors. Further follow up with coroner’s office to determine how they check for “hits” is needed.

There are approximately 93 seniors on the list at this time.

Dave Zdan passed out a spreadsheet that he and Steve Hamill compiled by determining each police and fire district in DuPage County and who handles dispatching duties for those departments. The contacted each dispatch company and found a point person and spoke with them about the new legislation allowing first responders access to the At Risk Senior list and obtained contact information, including email addresses for each. Those addresses were provided to ShaTonya Herring who will be in charge of compiling the list for each territory and sending it to the appropriate dispatcher to be entered in the dispatch system as a Premise Alert which will allow dispatch to alert an officer or paramedic that an At Risk Senior is at the residence and to notify Senior Services if they have any contact with or concerns about the senior pursuant to their visit. All the agencies were on board.

The purpose is not necessarily to cause the police to investigate the people on the list, merely to alert them to a possibly situation and to have them alert senior services so they may approach and see if they have services available that could help the seniors, including setting up meal delivery, in home health or med or money management. The process will evolve with experience.

The State’s Attorney’s Office is going to send a letter to the various departments explaining the list and including the Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed between the agency and Senior Services.

First responder pocket reference phone cards have been produced containing the agencies and phone numbers to be called to report suspected ANE, since first responders are mandated reporters. Discussed having someone drop off cards at departments in addition to putting some in with the above mentioned letter.

Jill Uhlir said that Elder training is now a required component of training at the academy for new recruits.

-Protocol

We discussed the state-wide protocol for state’s attorney’s offices and the possibility of adopting it as the protocol for our state’s attorney’s office.

There is a state-wide protocol phone call scheduled for January 15th. Information from that meeting and possibly a finalized copy of the protocol may be available for the next EAFR meeting.

-New Business

Holly Zielke reported that it is likely that legislation will be introduced soon that would cause Illinois Department on Aging to encompass developmentally disabled adults in the community in addition to the elderly, removing them from the purview of the Inspector General.

Discussed training sessions for hospitals/ERs. Dr. Jorgensen had mentioned at the last meeting that he would like to go to the area hospitals and make a presentation. Jackie Rankin mentioned a group HealthCares which has members from all the area hospitals that does training and we could possibly use them to assist.

State's Attorney's Office is having a training session in April and may incorporate some sections on elder law.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2013 at 2pm, Room 3500-A

Adjournment Joe Ruggiero's motion to adjourn was seconded by Dave Zdan and carried at approximately 3:42pm