



Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

**Suburban Cook County Adult Fatality Review Team Meeting**

**1048 Lake Street—Second Floor Training Room**

**October 19, 2023**

**3:00pm – 4:30pm**

**Attendees:**

- Vanessa Amelio, Hines VA
- Colleen Connolly, Legal Aid Chicago
- Audrey Kopp, Chair, Loyola University
- Robert Mapes, AgeOptions
- Trenace Rone, Catholic Charities South Suburban Senior Services
- Diane Slezak, AgeOptions
- Benjamin Soriano, MD, Cook County Medical Examiner's Office
- Anne Stewart-Reed, Illinois Department on Aging
- Denise Tomasek, Cook County State's Attorney Office
- Katie Walsh, Cook County Sheriff Department

**Absent Members:**

- Natalie Benda, Addus Home Care
- Crissy Castillo, Kenneth Young Center
- Amy Kessler, Cook County Office of Public Guardian
- Roslyn Lennon, Retired
- Lydia Sharp, Equip for Equality
- Leanne Sloman, Suburban Access, Inc.
- Beata Strama, Stickney Public Health District

**Guests:**

- Bianca Ingwersen, Oak Park Township Senior Services
- Vivian Holt, Oak Park Township Senior Services

**I. Call to Order**

- Audrey Klopp** called the meeting to order at **3:12 PM**
- Roll Call / Introductions

## **II. Review of the Meeting Agenda**

- a. Agenda was approved at **3:14 PM**

## **III. Review of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

- a. Colleen Connolly moved to approve the minutes.
- b. Movement seconded by Diane Slezak
- c. Minutes were approved without revision.

## **IV. Old Business**

- a. Suburban Cook County Elder Risk Detector
- b. APS ARPA Funding for Elderly Service Officer (ESO) Training

## **V. New Business**

- a. Member paperwork
- b. Member (re)introductions

## **VI. Closure of open session**

- a. Audrey Klopp moved to close open session
- b. The Open Session closed at **3:25 PM**

## **VII. Closed Executive Session**

- a. **Audrey Klopp** moved to open the closed executive session at **3:26 PM**
- b. Presenter: **Bianca Ingwersen**
  - i. Case Questions:
    - 1. Did alleged abuser gain financially from the deceased death?
    - 2. Was the deceased death related to abuse?
    - 3. Could the deceased death have been prevented?
    - 4. Were policy or practice issues raised?
  - ii. Team Recommendations:
    - 1. Case Specific Follow Up
    - 2. Prevention Strategy/Efforts
    - 3. Illinois Department on Aging/Adult Protective Services Program
    - 4. Public Services

## **VIII. Items Requiring Follow Up**

### **Increase Referrals from Hospitals**

One missed opportunity identified the closed session was that the person who died was in the hospital multiple times with no referral to APS besides the one that happened moments before death

- Failure to report was a practice issue. Issue a best practice or a rule that in situations like this need to make an APS and Police report.
  - Who could do this?
- Opportunity to train emergency room nurses at their convention about APS referrals

### **Increase the Care Coordination Unit Contact with Vulnerable Adults**

- Could have intervened earlier if the CCU received a Choices for Care referral. Referrals have gone down considerably since the COVID pandemic started
  - Agencies have also lost the ability to get the census from hospitals and many have lost access to EMRs at the hospital
- State law—hospitals have an affirmative obligation to connect 60+ patients to Choices for Care
  - Missed opportunity to inform hospitals—update policies
  - What are the administrative rules related to this? If they don't exist, write them. If exist, can it be clarified or amended?
    - Who could do this?
  - Does the Joint Commission or IDPH monitor for this? If not, how do we get them to monitor for it?
    - Who could do this?

### **Reduce the Number of Anonymous Reports**

- In earlier referral, there was an anonymous reporter and an inability to contact alleged victim. Can there be more done to explain the importance of leaving a name and contact information—particularly when reports taken from the hotline?

### **Expand the Expertise within the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office**

- Opportunity to have the Cook County Medical Examiner assign older adult suspected death cases to a specific Examiner for increased skills and competencies in those investigations.

## **IX. 2024 Meeting Dates**

- January 18, 3:00pm
- April 18, 3:00
- July 18, 3:00
- October 17, 3:00

All meetings will take place at AgeOptions, 1048 Lake Street, Suite 300, Oak Park

## **X. Adjournment**

- Audrey Klopp** moved to adjourn the meeting.
- Movement seconded by Colleen Connolly.
- The meeting adjourned at **4:29 PM**.