

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

B.H., et al.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 88 C 5599
	)	Hon. Jorge L. Alonso
GEORGE H. SHELDON, Director,	)	Judge Presiding
Illinois Department of Children and	)	
Family Services,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**ORDER REGARDING COMMUNICATION PLAN  
FOR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The parties jointly submit the following Communication Plan in accordance with the Court’s direction at the July 11, 2016 status hearing. The Court being fully advised, and the parties being in agreement, it is hereby ordered:

1. DCFS is committed to the collaborative process that has been established and will engage in robust and mutual communication with the Expert Panel throughout the implementation process.

2. The baseline for the forward-going communications between DCFS and the Expert Panel will be twofold. First, DCFS will arrange and host bi-weekly teleconferences with the Expert Panel and the Parties. The teleconference participants will discuss progress on each initiative set forth in the Implementation Plan, including barriers encountered and potential solutions. Bi-weekly conferences will be conducted in person when practicable. It is expected that there will be an in person meeting approximately once every six weeks, but meetings may be more or less frequent depending on need.

3. Second, to facilitate productive discussions at the bi-weekly teleconferences, DCFS will provide a monthly report to the Expert Panel and Plaintiffs' Counsel. The monthly reports will detail the specific steps that have been taken regarding actual implementation of each initiative set forth in the Implementation Plan, the actual results achieved, any barriers that exist and strategies to eliminate or resolve the barriers and a comparison to the planned results as documented in the Implementation Plan. The template for the monthly reports was developed with the input of the Expert Panel and Plaintiffs' Counsel and follows a "managing for outcomes" framework. [See Exhibit A, attached.] The parties recognize that, based on feedback from the Expert Panel, DCFS may amend or modify the attached template with respect to particular projects or initiatives as necessary.

4. The parties recognize that from time to time, the Expert Panel may need to review information beyond that which directly relates to the specific initiatives described in the Implementation Plan. For example, the Expert Panel has proposed, and the Department has agreed, that a study should be done for the more than 300 youth who have been stepped down from residential care in recent months to determine where those children have been placed, whether they are receiving needed services (and if not, the barriers preventing same), and conducting planning to address these and other children's needs in the interim timeframe before full implementation of needed reforms has occurred. DCFS will endeavor to proactively provide such information to the Expert Panel in accordance with the Order dated October 20, 2015. [Dkt. 507].

5. Nothing in this Communication Plan shall be construed to limit the Experts from requesting additional meetings, teleconferences or communications. Nor shall it be construed to limit the Experts' current authority to request implementation-related information from the

Department (whether in written form or otherwise), or the Department's or Plaintiffs' ability to raise matters in consultation with the Experts.

6. DCFS will continue to use the Share Point site to upload documents that may be requested by the Experts or the Plaintiffs, or that DCFS believes the Experts may want to review.

SO ORDERED

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' and 'A' with a horizontal line through them, enclosed in a circular flourish.

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Jorge L. Alonso  
United States District Judge

9/28/16