

Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor:

I am excited to be nominated for President of the WACF Board of Directors. I have extensive Board experience in State and National Associations having been on the American Association of Children's Residential Centers Board from 1998-2010 (President 2005-2007) and the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities from 2010-2013—CEO Council 2013-2017. I have been the Public Policy person for WACF and have been active in the various Washington State provider associations for out of home care since the 1990's. I worked for DSHS/JRA at Echo Glen for 13 years before joining the not for profit arena in 1990 and have always relied upon my public-private work experience when interacting with the State of Washington as a service provider.

The future of WACF offers many great challenges and opportunities. I believe that the strength of WACF lies in our membership and the structure that has been established over the past five years. My priorities (not in order of importance) include: 1.) Maintain and strengthen our three INDEPENDENT divisions by supporting their work and advocating for their critical place in the industry and WACF. 2.) Carry out the defined activities of the Foster Care Funding Collaborative--maintaining positive and productive relationships with the philanthropic organizations while blending the overall mission and future of the established organization. 3.) Continue to refine WACF Public Policy work in both Legislative and Administrative arenas—establishing/maintaining effective partnerships (CWAC, Alliance, DCYF, etc.) that strengthen our mission and voice. 4.) Significantly increase WACF agency membership by expanding the reach of WACF for full geographical representation of our service industry and client populations. 5.) Lead a diverse, enthusiastic and balanced Board of Directors who will successfully establish and carry out an equitable and sustainable business model.

Karen Brady, Ryther:

I have been actively involved with the Washington Association for Children and Families for two years as the Chair of the Intensive Services Division. As part of that role, I also attend and participate in the Executive Board meetings and the full membership meetings. Also, within that role, I have participated in advocacy efforts (both legislatively and administratively with CA) related to issues relevant to WACF but especially the Intensive Services Division members. The administrative advocacy has included attending the WACF/CA meetings that typically happen quarterly. Most recently, I have been part of the WACF team/Board that addressed various aspects of moving from an all-volunteer association to one that will be staffed. As part of that team, I participated in screening and interviewing the candidates for the new WACF Executive Director.

WACF has a significant but exciting lift ahead with hiring the first ever Executive Director and eventually, a policy analyst. I see the primary goals of the WACF being:

- Increasing our membership across all three divisions
- Increasing the Association's impact around advocacy
- Increasing our presence with and impact on the new department

Additionally, with the integration of FCFC within the WACF, the WACF will be looking to complete a market analysis and marketing plan related to foster care recruitment - that may also be of use and benefit to the other two membership groups (FPSS and ISD). The WACF will also be working to "stand up" a centralized contact point for Washington residents interested in foster care.

Megan Walton, Amara:

I am excited by the chance to contribute to the WACF mission and work with its esteemed members. I plan to bring my skills in marketing/communications, fundraising, and partnership development as the organization moves into the next chapter. I am drawn to the position because of the opportunity to work with membership and a new Executive Director, and because I thrive in roles when things are growing, changing and transitioning. I believe WACF is uniquely positioned to have a large impact, and I believe my nine years at Amara have prepared me well in the art of building an organization's brand and base of supporters, working successfully with a board, and implementing ambitious plans. I would be thrilled to work alongside the new ED, the board, and the membership to guide the organization to its successful "2.0." Success for WACF means a financially healthy organization, a large and committed membership, an effective advocacy function, and high-quality services for our community's kids and families. Since 2014, my WACF involvement has been mainly with the CPA division, working on projects like rate restoration communications, Oliver, FCFC, and the ED interview committee.

Ray Deck, Skookum Kids:

Skookum Kids has been a member of WACF for 2 years. In that time, I've been an active member of both the CPA and Intensive Services Divisions. Last year I participated in the FCFC planning process as a member of the Recruitment Sub-Committee and the Steering Committee, and then in the sub-committee who wrote the job description for WACF's first Executive Director.

A brief window of time exists during which WACF is well positioned to influence both the state's budget and the DCYF policy making process. We have an opportunity to exert that influence to the long-term benefit of all member agencies and ultimately the staff, foster parents, families, and children that we all serve together. In addition to this high-leverage opportunity, we also have the chance to cure forever the crisis-level resource shortage that exists in our state (and many others) and position Washington as the vanguard state in the next great era of child welfare reform. And I couldn't be more excited to get to work.