

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Washington Association for Children and Families Executive Board Committee Minutes Tuesday, October 7, 2014 10am-12pm

Attendees: Greg Dootson, Kimberly Zacher, Jeff Clare, Rod Johnson, Erin Larson, Brian Carroll (by phone).

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Membership renewal report:

Full dues were received from Amara. Previous members, Northwest Adoption Exchange and Lorene's Place, did not submit renewal dues payment, so membership has ended. Outreach has been attempted, and they will be encouraged to rejoin at any time. Greg spoke to representatives of Ashley House regarding potential membership. There are 28 current members in the Association.

Financial Report:

\$29,000 is currently in the WACF account. Recent expenditures include the conference call system. The committee discussed recent problems encountered in division meetings in utilizing the conference call phone system. It is unclear if it was the phone itself, or the call-in line. The group reviewed the conference call billing account to verify the calls attempted were billed. It appears that they were accounted for in the bill. Upcoming payments include quarterly payment to Seth Dawson for lobbying efforts. Upcoming legal fees are anticipated for approved consultation related to background check issue for home studies, amounting in fee deposit of \$1375.

Legislative priorities:

Brian reviewed CWAC's proposed platform and encouragement of the Association and others to write letters to the governor, OFM, and heads of legislative budget committees, opposing the closures of programs and services included in CA's 15% reduction exercise package. Crisis Residential is one area noted in these proposed cuts. Brian will draft a letter to be reviewed at the next Association meeting. CWAC's approved agenda for next year includes 4-5 areas with 2 causes in each area. Many of these will be goals likely in common with the Association, including BRS and foster care rate increases and a Treehouse sponsored item related to educational outcomes. Charlotte brought forward issue of saving FRS. The committee will request more information from Charlotte and FPSS Division on the issue.

Next steps will include action after the November election, including compiling a list of legislators needed as champions. WACF will then identify which member agencies are in

those legislative districts to sponsor action and events.

October 20th CA – WACF meeting:

Additional proposed agenda items:

- Updates on action items from February and June meetings.
- DLR restructuring update
- EBP contact list update
- Background check changes
- Transfer of license document follow up
- Extended foster care - workgroup participation
- FAR update
- CA use of Facebook/Data Security follow up
- BRS and WISE

Discussion related to individual items listed above included:

Background check issue update - Jeff received a referral for the approved five hours of attorney consultation related to the federal requirement for CA/DLR to not release background check information to CPAs. The person referred is Linda Mason Wilgis, and a fee deposit is requested of \$1375 to proceed. The group agreed to pursue contact and payment of fee. Brian will also follow up with the Alliance of Children and Families to find any information related to how other states are responding to this requirement.

Foster care workgroup - Rod reported WACF has not been contacted about participation, as was agreed to previously by CA.

FAR Update - Kim noted anecdotal examples of potentially inappropriate referrals to FAR, as well as unclear expectations of community providers related to cases where there was a history of abuse rather than neglect. Medicaid funding does not provide billable hours for welfare checks and other necessary follow-up in these cases. The group agreed to set as agenda item for membership meeting to ask for feedback from general membership as to experiences with FAR.

Data Security and CA use of Facebook - Jeff attended a region 3 meeting where there was time spent giving clarity on the data security portion of the contract. Don Cahill provided information and regional Administrator Dang seemed responsive to WACF's need for more information for our members. A roundtable or other event may be planned for November.

- Rod discussed example of a CPA placement referral made through a Facebook connection from the placement desk to the foster parent. Discussed this issue as relates to potential data security issues.

BRS and WISE - Rod provided an example of a BRS provider being asked to continue to follow a case once referred to WISE, with their use of aftercare dollars.

October 21st WACF full membership meeting:

The committee discussed additional items to add to this month's membership meeting.

Additional topics requested for discussion included:

- Update from any outcomes of 10/20 meeting with CA
- Update on SafeCare
- Feedback from membership on FAR.
- The group confirmed additional standing items.

Eastern Washington membership recruitment and events:

The committee held additional discussion on topic carried over from last membership meeting on next steps to integrate Eastern Washington members and provide better opportunities for recruitment. Ideas and opportunities discussed included executive committee holding a meeting in that region, leveraging existing provider meetings in the region where WACF can promote membership, and holding events in Eastern Washington including membership recruitment events, legislative action events and trainings. Rod is attending an upcoming BRS provider meeting in Richland and will provide information to the group related to benefits of membership.

WACF Events organization and activity:

Proposed event subcommittee members generated in last membership meeting included Rose, Kim, and Jessie. Kim stated that other current commitments would make her participation difficult. Discussed option of Erika as lead on the subcommittee, due to her experience in event planning. Greg will check in with her about availability.

Next meetings:

WACF and CA meeting on October 20th, 9am-12pm, at Comprehensive Mental Health, 1305 Tacoma Avenue South; Suite 305.

Full association membership meeting, October 21st, 10 am, at LCS.

Next executive committee meeting will be held on November 4th at 10 am, by phone.

Jeff noted he will call in late on that day, due to another scheduled appointment.