WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**D R A F T**

**Washington Association for Children and Families**

**Executive Board Committee Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2014 10am-12pm BY PHONE**

In Attendance: Greg Dootson, Charlotte Booth, Rod Johnson, Kim Zacher, Erin Larson, Jeff Clare, Brian Carroll.

**I. Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**II. Erika’s contract:** approval to subcontract was approved; Greg and Erika will sign a written amendment.

**III. Financial Report & Dues received / outstanding:**  $29,000 in the account; five members still unpaid plus one agency sent a partial payment. Invoices have been resent to Amara, CCS (partial), Janus, Lorene’s Place, YMCA and NW Adoption Exchange. Not sure that NW Adoption Exchange will renew; they have not been participating. By the end of September, if still unpaid, we will consider no longer a member. An official letter should probably go out from WACF at that point.

Jeff said he had talked to Jackie Tutt and she felt they were able to renew dues ($400) and will not apply for a waiver.

Ashley House expressed interest in applying and is requesting a waiver. Greg talked with Mike some time ago. Overall the agency would not qualify for a waiver but they have a very small budget for this piece (BRS/medically fragile). Erika will re-distribute the application and waiver request for the exec committee to review.

Some interest has been expressed by Pioneer (Rod will follow up) and the Spokane Tribe (Jeff will follow up).

Bylaws will be updated once the IRS officially approves the change to 501c4 status.

**IV. Possibility of WACF applying for SafeCare opportunity:** At the August 21st meeting, Tim Kelley confirmed that SafeCare has the highest training cost of any EBP and the state does not have the $30,000 funding for training. CA’s employee Kimberly S. was previously trained and able to train others but since she left CA, no one has replaced her. There is an opportunity for WACF to apply for a grant through Georgia State University with an RFP next month. If received, WACF would then select up to 12 people (total of three agencies) to receive the training. Charlotte would write the grant. An alternative would be for a single large agency to apply and do the training with its own people.

All agreed this would be an opportunity to pursue; it will be brought to the membership.

Charlotte also described a request from CA that WACF help update the internal CA EBP provider list. The list is out of date and is causing issues with referrals. Ex. Charlotte’s agency is not listed in Skagit County, but should be. Tim asked if WACF could distribute the link to the internal webpage so providers could review and submit corrections. He also asked if WACF could make changes directly on the webpage (Erika would be provided a login). This would be done perhaps quarterly. The group is not opposed to the concept of helping but uncomfortable with the direct updating. This will be added to the association agenda for the 16th for consideration.

Kim also raised the topic of social impact bonds as she recently attended an informational meeting in Tacoma. All agreed it would be great if Kim invited a speaker on this topic to an association meeting – perhaps December.

**V. Lobbying for upcoming session:** Brian

The meeting with Seth went very well. Regarding Lee’s work with Ryther, CA did submit a decision package to Quigley recommending a significant increase. It’s not 19% but it is substantial. Data was provided by four agencies: Navos, Excelsior, Ryther, Secret Harbor. The basis of CA backing this ask is really based on the BRS acuity data. Now the question is how WACF approaches the legislative session. Seth was very encouraged to see the progress they’ve been able to make. Seth can particularly focus on FPSS since that is not included in this decision package. Rod restated to Lee that we all agreed we would not set divisions against each other.

The strategy moving forward

* Firm up our written material – we can be even more succinct and also update as needed
* For now, focus on Senators who are running un-opposed – all of the House members who are running are busy campaigning
* After the election, Seth and Brian will create a chart of all the legislators, mapping out which of our members fall into which districts and identifying who will contact who; there will also be a short list of key legislators
* We will circle back after the session and see how we did

Seth and Brian intend to have a uniform message developed by early November. Brian will focus on targeted lobbying during the session. We will also look to see what CWAC is doing and support/partner on issues as appropriate. There’s a limit to what we can do directly but we can endorse items they put forward. Charlotte believes that CWAC will vote on a legislative agenda on Friday.

**VI. Next meeting with CA:** the 13th option has been pulled: Greg is suggesting the 20th. For location, we can use Kim’s downtown space (1305 Tacoma Ave). Let's assume a three-hour meeting (9AM – Noon). Greg will reply back with confirmation from CA.

Regarding the workgroup with Darcy (extended foster care) – WACF was supposed to be invited to participate but that did not happen. The group has met once. Greg will call Darcy again. They have been trading voice messages. Scott Hanauer is part of the group but not as a WACF rep. Rod and Linda had both expressed interest in participating. Darcy said this group would meet only a few times to brainstorm ideas.

Regarding agenda items – Charlotte wonders if we consider new topics to stick to items from the past and prompting action on those? The group does consider the February items largely unfinished but the divisions want to put forth additional items. We will keep raising the past items. One important new item: agencies no longer receiving the RAP sheets from background checks per the federal audit.

Erika will include a link back to the February notes when sending the meeting reminder for the next association meeting.

**VII. Fall event for WACF?** No - a group has volunteered to consider a spring event (Rose, Kim and Jessie) but we don’t have capacity to consider fall. Individual agencies should be encouraged to reach out to legislators as possible directly.

**Meeting concluded by phone at 11:30 AM**

Next Meetings: Association: Tues Sept 16th Exec: Tues October 7