



Washington Association
for Children & Families

**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, July 17, 2018
Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Lutheran Community Services
4040 South 188th St. SeaTac, WA 98188
Jennings Board Room - 3rd floor**

Attendees: Jill May, Brian Carroll, Susan Brook, Megan Walton, Nikki Brown, Kerry Ann Shaughnessy, Bryttany Hemingway, Jeff Carlson, Jeff Clare, Jessie DiPardo, Mark Fullington, Tom Rembiesa, Jeff Judy, Connor McCormick.
On the phone: Kymm Dozal, Joe LeRoy and Laurie Lippold

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions
1. Call to order -- Check in time		
2. Review of minutes of the May meeting minutes	Reviewed minutes	Motion to approve May minutes – Tom Second – Brian <i>Minutes approved</i>
3. Update from Jill	Jill updates: DCYF - DEL and FFA will be priorities. Public policy position will go to the BOD at the August meeting.	
4. Financial Report	Approximately \$340k in the bank.	
5. Open discussion regarding agency needs from WACF	<p>Discussion questions: How can agencies get the most value? What are we not providing that we could be providing? As we recruit new members, everyone must feel well-represented at the table.</p> <p>Discussion: Megan suggested regular status updates. Jill said she is considering a monthly newsletter, perhaps the policy position could help with that. Brian also said we could improve the website to make it more interactive or robust. Jeff suggested – having more updates and information about what Jill is learning from Eastern WA agencies. Help build the east side/west side relationship. California Alliance has subcommittees and there’s a staff member who reports out. They have a lot of advocacy in government and</p>	

	<p>will report out – we went to this meeting, here’s what we found. It’s very helpful to get that information back and forth. Conferences happen as well. Megan suggested community of practice sharing – especially for those agencies that aren’t as concerned about the rates. If we can share what’s working (or not) at our agencies, that would be great. Jessie – a value add from WACF is getting answers to questions on big priorities. If there is something established, and we know we’re going to find out here, that would be great.</p> <p>Building partnership: Mark suggested – we want to get over this “us versus them” mentality. Want a strong partnership between private partners and the state. We have to somehow be partnering with the state in how we do things. What has been the experience in California?</p> <p>Answer from Jeff Carlson, Bethany Christian Services (California): In CA, it’s county-based. Every county is a little bit different. The relationship with the state has changed because of childcare reform. Now, county and private agencies have to have the same requirements to be approved. Jill: I came from a state where the private agencies and state walked hand in hand. There is a national association that Jill is a part of with similar agencies that I can learn from to improve services WACF offers.</p>	
<p>6. Frequency of meetings</p>	<p>Quarterly association meetings would be great. BOD meetings are a bit repetitive. But for those who aren’t on the BOD, it’s informative. If we’re moving towards more regular communication, that would help. And yet, there’s something about meeting face to face. Can we use technology? We might want to experiment in a few months. Jill: it’s my responsibility to report back, yes. But I also think it behooves the agencies to share what they are learning as well. If it’s only coming through me, it’s not enough. Tom shared that our bylaws have very general language regarding meetings (says, “when they want to meet, they meet.” Jeff said – it would also be helpful to know, when should WACF members show up (or not) to external meetings like the one this afternoon with Rep. Kagi. Jessie said – if meetings were more aligned around what is information-sharing and what is a decision-making meeting, that would help.</p>	
<p>7. WACF/CA Quarterly Meeting updates</p>	<p>Jeff and Brian are doing a review of the quarterly meeting with DCYF. Jill updated that what she has heard from DCYF is that DEL and Families First Act will be priorities. Jill has individual follow-up meetings scheduled with Frank, Jody, and Connie.</p>	
<p>8. Public Policy updates</p>	<p>Brian shared that the CPA division has their legislative agenda lined up. Goal is to have that in by the end of the month and have it in a more comprehensive format for next month. Next month: Jill will share the public policy position with the BOD. We’re way ahead of where we usually are in legislative agendas.</p> <p>Crosscut: Had a follow-up call on the crisis (Allegra); hotel stays are back up again. Brian’s message was that kids are best served in families, etc.</p>	

<p>9. Division Reports</p>	<p>FPSS: Kerry Ann reported that the division is updating our legislative agenda. Also joining a legislative movement to expand the pool of providers and lessen background check requirements. Discussion of outcomes. Jill has met with the group to discuss potential funding needs. Funders will be coming to the September FPSS meeting and several ideas will be presented. They are especially interested because of Families First. Background checks: DEL and CA are trying to align this. Charlotte has been working with CWAC to communicate the impact this will have on the greater child welfare community.</p> <p>CPA: Jeff shared that the division has updated the legislative agenda. We looked at the foster families rights document and how we could use it or enforce it. There has been some reform around how family time visits will be done that is on pause. We are looking for foster parents and alumni from foster care to join the group. We are looking for additional members to add to the CPA division. Discussion about rate study and contracts – do contracts have to be renegotiated year after year? (There’s no auto-increase like a COLA). Jill – this is the only division that does the same work as the state. Really important to change our perception and come to the state with, here’s what we can do for you. And the FCFC project is one way that we can bring our value to the state.</p> <p>Intensive Services: Jill reported that the BRS group talked about recruiting new members and have that as a standard agenda item. We also talked about the BRS rate study which is underway – we have to “let the conversation go” while we spark another conversation about how collaborative we can be and what we can do to be great partners. Michael Campbell (contract person for BRS services) will be coming to Sept. meeting. A lot of questions and excitement about FFA. Jill has been on some national webinars/calls about FFA. She has also been in conversation with Jenny Heddin. One big question, especially for Eastern agencies: does a 6-bed or less agency have to become accredited and if so, what’s the impact? Demand for accrediting bodies will exceed supply. Jenny shared that Ross is not interested in trying to get around the regulation; he wants agencies to become accredited and will help them get accredited.</p> <p>Jill – we don’t have any data as an association. So how can we develop our own dashboard? Our importance is shared through data. Coming up with some common data points that we can report will be really helpful. Mentioned it at the FPSS meeting and the CPA meeting.</p>	
<p>10. Adjournment</p>		