



Washington Association
for Children & Families

10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday August 15, 2017
Meeting summary, Association Meeting
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
4040 South 188th Street, SeaTac WA 98188, 3rd Floor

<p>Members Present: Tom Rembiesa, Ezechiel Bambolo, Joanne Stimson, Shawn Sivly, Karen Brady, Jeff Judy, Kristen Zinsky, Charlotte Booth, Mike Canfield, Zoe Schuler, Linda Thomas, Kerry Ann Shaughnessy, Carol Almero, Susan Brook, Jeff Clare, Brian Carroll, Greg Dootson</p>	<p>Members on phone: Roger Iinu, Mary Johnson, Kymm Dozal, Paulette Caswell, Ray Deck, Laurie Lippold</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions
<p>1. Call to order / Check in</p>		<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.</p>
<p>2. Review of minutes of May/June meetings</p>		<p>The motion to approve the minutes carried.</p>
<p>3. Financial Report</p>		<p>Jessie was not available to give a financial report.</p>
<p>4. Division Reports – Top Legislative Priorities</p>	<p>Jeff reported that after a couple of meetings with the CPA and the Intensive Services Divisions, facilitated by Sally Perkins, it was determined that there were two main groups with the following priorities: <u>Operational</u> – Access to FamLink, issues around DLR licensing and WAC policy consistency <u>Reinventing Foster Care</u> – Restructuring of DLR and performance based contracting and funding</p> <p>Karen added that we have a good opportunity with the new department to collaborate on visioning and strategic planning. The CPA’s work with the Foster Care Funding Collaborative also offers a unique opportunity that we should take advantage of and use to help us move forward.</p>	

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	<p>Kerry Ann reported on the FPSS Division’s legislative priorities:</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Children’s Administration to jointly develop/update/improve statewide protocols for use of EBPs and other in-home services with visitation services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include clear sub-protocols for how visitation services coordinate and communicate with FPS ○ Minimize cancelled appointments and inconvenience for families and professional staff • Improve billing systems for In-Home Services • WACF as a partner with DCYF in developing outcomes for performance-based contracts <p><u>Legislative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the funding model • Other reimbursement/budget issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travel reimbursement (partially addressed in the 2017 Legislature but still an issue) ○ Vendor rate increases ○ Programs that did not get a rate increase though the new FF rate last year or the travel rate increase this year • Extend time for FAR cases beyond 90 days (ideally 120 days) 	
<p>5. Public Policy Discussion</p>	<p>Laurie encouraged all to come to the Friday CWAC meeting with Ross Hunter. She said it would be great for representatives of WACF to share their hopes for the new department along with our priorities for 2018. The meeting will be held at the 2100 Building from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Jenny Heddin will also call in to give an update on the budget. Some of the items from Reinventing Foster Care that did not get funded in 2017 will also be discussed.</p> <p>Brian distributed the Final Bill Report on SB 5890 and talked about some of the issues with the bill.</p> <p>http://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5890-S.E2%20SBR%20FBR%2017%20E3.pdf</p> <p>One of the issues with SB 5890 is that payment for respite for foster parents through the use of case aids is limited to nonprofit organizations.</p> <p><u>To get other final bill information:</u> Go to: http://leg.wa.gov/ Click on Bill Information on the left Type in Bill Number and click Search Go to bottom of page under Available Documents There you will find Final Bill Report</p>	

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	<p>Brian said he thinks WACF is in great shape with its legislative work but the Executive Board needs to identify the key administrative issues and bring them back to the full group to prioritize them. What is the new department going to focus on? What is DLR going to be moving forward? How is Ross going to make culture change real?</p> <p>The last issue that Brian talked about was the rate increase (\$750/month per kid) only for those residential BRS providers that have seven or more beds. There needs to be transparency with decisions made by CA. It puts the BRS providers in an awkward position and it would be nice if they could talk with providers before decisions are made.</p>	
6. BRS Handbook Revisions	<p>Karen stated that there is some concern that the updates to the BRS handbook are coming out and providers are not being given an opportunity to review them. It was suggested that 30 days would be a good amount of time to review changes to the handbook.</p>	<p>Karen will contact Jennifer.</p>
7. WACF Winter Conference	<p>Paulette reported on the cost for space for a large conference. It seems prohibitive. The idea of adding a WACF section to an existing conference was discussed.</p> <p>The main purpose of a WACF conference would be to give something of value to organizational members. Karen suggested that rather than a conference, we could have each division offer workshops, hosted at member agencies and people can choose based on their interest. The Continuing Education Committee has put on very successful workshops in the past.</p>	<p>The idea of workshops rather than a large conference seems more manageable and more appropriate for our association. The topic will be brought back to the Executive Board and the division chairs can poll their divisions for topics of interest.</p>
8. September Meeting: Questions / Lunch Patrick Dowd, JD – Director Ombudsman Office	<p>Patrick Dowd will be at our September association meeting for one hour. Some topics for possible discussion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaliation • Licensing • What they're hearing from foster parents and what their office is looking at • What are appropriate calls that their office would want to get and that they can do something about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen will send Linda the Ombudsman report on group care facilities to post on the website • Linda will make note of the report and let members know Patrick is coming when sending out the September meeting reminder
9. October Meeting: Ross Hunter, Secretary Dept. of Children & Families	<p>We are hoping that Ross will be able to attend</p>	
10. Executive Committee Update: Bylaws Revision / Discussion w/John Smith, Luma Consulting	<p>Revisions to the Bylaws around rotating the division chairs' terms is still in process.</p>	

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	<p>The Executive Board had a conversation with John Smith and got a little more clarification. From a number of possible choices, WACF was the leading contender to handle the funds. John explained what it might look like practically if WACF worked collaboratively with the Foster Care Funding Collaborative. There are still questions that need to be answered before we can move forward.</p>	<p>Tom will call John and discuss further.</p>
<p>11. Check Out / Adjournment</p>		<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:02.</p>

Prepared by Linda Conchi