

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday August 18, 2015**  
**Meeting summary, Association Meeting**  
**Lutheran Community Services**  
**4040 South 188<sup>th</sup> Street, SeaTac WA 98188, Third Floor**

## **Attending:**

Tom Rembiesa  
Greg Dootson, LCSNW  
Scott Hanauer, Community Youth Services  
Nikki Brown, Community Youth Services  
Rod Johnson, CFSF  
Anne Snook, Olive Crest  
Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs  
Cacey Hanauer, YMCA  
Linda Thomas, CCS  
Jeff Clare, YFC Tacoma  
Mike Canfield, FPAWS  
Mark Fullington, CFSF  
Charlotte Booth, IFD  
Joanne Stimson, CFSF  
Josh Hinman, YFC West Sound  
Carol Almero, FOY  
Erin Larson, Navos  
Diana Crawford, Crawford Counseling Services  
Jessie DiPardo, Service Alternatives, Inc.  
Ryan Kiely, Excelsior (phone)  
Erin Shea McCann, The Mockingbird Society (phone)  
Seth Dawson (phone)  
Linda Conchi, WACF

**Call to order:** Tom Rembiesa

Erin Larson started the meeting by reading aloud the WACF Purpose Statement.

## **Check-Ins:**

Jessie DiPardo – Pass  
Charlotte Booth – Wants to make sure we get the benefit of Seth's input on any lobbying issues while he's on the phone. Charlotte also introduced Diana Crawford, Crawford Counseling, our newest member of the FPSS Division.  
Jeff Clare – On agenda  
Chuck Cole – The Supreme Court's decision to fine the legislature \$100,000/day until they implement a law funding education

Mike Canfield – Introduced himself as our newest member, FPAWS

Mark Fullington – FPAWS is on his mind

Greg Dootson – EBP contract cut by 80%?

Nikki Brown – First meeting, pass

Scott Hanauer – On agenda

Joanne Stimson – Will save for division updates

Rod Johnson – Colorado FFTA conference debrief

Anne Snook – Pass

Josh Hinman – On agenda

Carol Almero – On agenda

Cacey Hanauer – On agenda

Linda Conchi - Pass

Linda Thomas – On agenda

Erin Shea McCann – First meeting, Mockingbird getting ready for their foster youth alumni & leadership summit

Tom – Reported on the merger of Emberhope and TFI Family Services and how his position was eliminated so he is in transition.

**Legislative Strategy:** Seth talked briefly on the most recent Supreme Court action of the legislature being fined \$100,000/day and he doesn't feel like it's that significant. It will amount to about \$14 million by the first of the next session. All that money would be earmarked for education and the legislature's going to allocate that much and more anyway. The Governor's meeting with the legislative leaders yesterday was pretty good. There's no need to call a special session.

Seth stated that our strategy moving forward should be to re-present the three rate increases that we had advocated for and acknowledge the progress that was made on BRS but also address the other two rates that were not addressed. We want that to be included in the budget for next year. We don't want to give up on the package that we were presenting. We need to at least lay the groundwork for the next bi annual budget. Charlotte asked what deadlines we should set. It was decided that October would be a good target for finalizing our platform. Seth suggested presenting the same paper that we presented the past session only acknowledging that the BRS was partially addressed.

Mike from FPAWS reported that they had a group of representatives reach out to them and they want to organize groups of foster parents from around the state to tell them what they need to do to support foster care. Mike suggested that it would be good for members of WACF to be there when they meet. Scott Hanauer added that they have been approached by Ruth Kagi's and Senator O'Ban's offices and they're taking the lead on doing some foster parent focus groups. Scott referred them to Mike.

Jeff Clare reported that their division met last week and they are in the process of developing their division's message. As far as strategy goes, Jeff thinks it would make sense to focus on CPA since BRS and FPSS have already received some additional funding.

Charlotte wanted to encourage the divisions to remember, it is not a budget year, it's a policy year. The FPSS Division is going to (maybe) bring some FAR reform forward and they are still working on another background check bill. It is a good way to get in the door, and then they can start talking about rate increases.

Rod referred to a message from the Colorado FFTA conference, "Controlling your marketing message," and suggested that we might want to start advertising all the great things foster families are doing and the message, "And we're doing it underfunded all the time." He also suggested that we try to identify a reporter that we could get the messages too.

**Minutes** of the previous meeting approved as written.

**Financial Report:** Jessie reported that the bank balance is \$41,200. Quickbooks has not been updated since mid-June. If you receive an automatic notification that you have not paid, but you have paid your agency's dues, please contact Jessie directly. The new bank account is not syncing with Quickbooks. Jessie will meet with Kim to try to get Quickbooks synced.

**Recruitment/Marketing:** Paulette Caswell brought up continued education at the last Executive Board Meeting. It was agreed that it was a great idea. There was a motion to establish an ad-hoc committee for continued education. The motion carried. Tom asked for volunteers to become members of that committee. Paulette was suggested, and Charlotte and Mike Canfield volunteered to assist. It was mentioned that the continued education trainings would be a great way to reach out to potential new members.

Affinity Groups was dropped, and it was decided to add **Training Events** to the next association meeting agenda and possible create another ad-hoc committee for that.

**Advocacy Mentoring of Members:** Scott Hanauer stated that CYS would be willing to take on a leadership position, or at least an advocacy position, since they are in Olympia. He would need support from leadership at WACF and Seth about what the issues are and what the talking points of the issues are. Joanne said that several people from the CPA Division would like training and could be back-ups to Scott. It was suggested a group be formed of those who would like to be mentored and they could work with Scott and Brian. Scott will contact Brian to initiate the process and anyone who is interested in being mentored can contact Scott.

Josh said it would be nice if during the legislative sessions, we could host conversations with legislators over a meal. He has been impressed with some that he has been to that were hosted by Housing Providers and Community Action Agencies.

Mike said that legislators like to hear from foster parents more than agencies. He is looking for more foster parent leaders from around the state and requested that if any of our agencies know of any foster parents that might like to step into that role, to contact him. Erin, from Mockingbird, said that legislators also like to hear from foster youth and they would like to be involved in the conversation and help in any way.

**Individual Membership in WACF:** The proposal was that individuals may become voting members of WACF. The definition of which individuals could join was discussed. Some suggestions were alumni, and individuals who have demonstrated leadership experience and direct services to children and families. Whether or not individuals should have voting rights, or hold office, was also discussed. Charlotte proposed taking it back to the Executive Board to work on. It was decided that the Executive Board would present again at the next association meeting.

It was mentioned that Children's Alliance added individual memberships many years ago and it made them stronger.

**Children's Administration Provider Directory:** CA has a proposal to have one directory. It would be maintained by CA and be Read Only to WACF. WACF would be responsible for sending CA updates to the directory.

There were technical issues so Tim Kelly and April Potts were unable to join the conference call.

**Division Reports:**

**CPA:** Joanne reported that at the last CPA meeting they covered a lot of the legislative issues that were discussed today, licensing issues, communication with DLR, and trying to facilitate licensing at an efficient pace due to the ongoing placement crisis. The next CPA meeting is Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Joanne has had a lot of communication with Joe Menko of POC. They've been looking at statistics and data they might be able to use for their legislative agenda. Joe will be coming to a CPA meeting and will be looking at data on the numbers of licensed homes, the need for placements, etc.

Jeff added that they also had a conversation around (in Region II North) the priorities of placements, state homes vs CPA homes, which has been a consistent issue. CPA will talk about that at their next meeting.

**FPSS:** Charlotte reported that the SafeCare train the trainers project is moving along well. One applicant has been selected to be the trainer on the West side of the state, Marie Preftes Arenz from Pioneer Human Services. Unfortunately, we didn't get any applicants from the East side. At the end of September Marie will go through her workshop.

Not as part of the FPSS Division report, but Charlotte reported that the Background Check Workgroup (a workgroup within WACF), has been meeting every month for about a year and they will be proposing some things for legislation, including the length of time it takes to do a background check. Charlotte will continue to report on their progress.

Going back to Greg's "Check-in," Charlotte explained how last year Region II North drastically overspent their budget for all in-home services, but especially for EBP's. Starting in about January or February of this year they stopped all referrals out of Bellingham. They didn't actually cut anybody's contract by 80% but they stopped sending anybody. The person that talked to Greg probably meant that they had 80% less business than they had before. There will be no referrals in Bellingham until September of 2015.

**BRS:** Rose was unable to attend the meeting but sent an update:

Two issues the BRS Division will be focusing on, among others are:

- 1) Tracking WISE implementation statewide, encouraging the right continuum of care and smooth integration with BRS, CLIP and other services.
- 2) Educating ourselves on forecasting to analyze possible WACF support again in the next legislative session.

**WACF/CA Meeting Agenda:**

- Bellingham EBP Issue
- Jeff mentioned the inconsistency of placement, state homes vs. private homes
- Divisions will send issues that come out of their next meetings to Tom and Linda. Joanne will get the 2 - 3 bullet points from an e-mail she sent to Darcy following the last CA meeting to Tom and Linda.

**Next Association Meeting Agenda:**

- Legislative strategy
- Division results of their conversations
- Individual memberships
- Rod – FFTA conference debrief, response to FFTA regarding membership
- Training
- Bylaws

**Check-Out:** Mike Canfield reported the FPAWS has changed from a membership organization to a non-membership organization. Now they are looking at other ways of financing FPAWS. The foster parents are now paying a monthly membership fee of \$9.00/month. Mark Fullington talked a little bit about promoting FPAWS to help support foster parents and the organization.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.