



**10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday January 17, 2017**  
**Meeting summary, Association Meeting**  
**Lutheran Community Services**  
**4040 South 188<sup>th</sup> Street, SeaTac WA 98188, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

<b>Members Present:</b> Charlotte Booth, Alexa James, Roger Iinu, Susan Brook, Brian Carroll, Tom Rembiesa, Karen Brady	<b>Members on phone:</b> Jessie DiPardo, Linda Thomas, Kymm Dozal, Mary Johnson, Jeff Clare, Paulette Caswell, Kerry Ann Shaughnessy
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions
<b>1. Call to order / Check in</b>		The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.
<b>2. Review of minutes of the December meeting</b>		The motion to approve the minutes carried.
<b>3. Financial Report</b>	The current bank balance is approximately \$32,000. Jessie has tax return items to take care of in January for Linda and Seth.	
<b>4. Division Reports</b>	<u>CPA</u> – Jeff reported on the CPA Division meeting. There was a good turnout. They debriefed on the meeting they had with Darcy Hancock and talked about the bill that Senator O’Ban is proposing. They also talked about what items they’d like to add to the WACF/CA quarterly meeting agenda. They had a robust conversation about working with birth parents and what each organization’s philosophy is on that. They want to work with birth parents and engage foster parents to relate and connect more with birth parents. Meri Waterhouse, Foster Care Recruitment & Retention with CA, came to the meeting and the Intensive Services Division joined for that talk. Meri said that they are processing 500-600 inquiries from potential foster parents a month, statewide. She also said the applications are up this year. There was conversation about how CPA’s could partner more and she asked that CPA’s keep brochures updated so families receive correct information.	

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	<p><u>Intensive Services Division</u> – Karen reported that Michael Campbell, HQ Intensive Resource Manager came after Meri Waterhouse. One question that the Intensive Services Division asked was how many hours of training are required for volunteers. They were told it is 16 hours of orientation and then 24 hours every year after that. For BRS, it is 30 hours/year. It’s been a particular hardship on some of the agencies and receiving care homes that utilize volunteers for mainly typically developing kids. The amount of training that is required is disproportionate between foster parents who are required to have 12 hours/year and volunteers who are required to have 24 hours/yr. The other question that arose was about language in the contract for the RACS that says you may not take a placement with a child that has disrupted from placement. This includes children that have been removed from foster homes or relative placements related to abuse allegations and not because of the child’s behavior. Because of this interpretation, children who do and could do well in a RAC are either diverted or taken out of the RAC resulting in an additional move. The original intention was to prevent children who disrupt from placements due to their own behaviors being placed in a RAC. In order to clarify what is meant by “disruption,” the RCW needs to be changed. The question was also asked where CA is going with the Continuum of Care Proviso. Michael wasn’t able to answer the questions that were brought up.</p> <p><u>FPSS</u> – Kerry Ann reported that the FPSS Division talked about the Governor’s budget and what decisions were made at that level. The FPSS Division would really like the legislature to understand that preventative services are an important part of addressing the issues in foster care, and that contracts and the funding for these services improved. They want to see that last year’s unspent service dollars be added back into the CA budget and that in-home services be expanded. It goes hand in hand with FAR timelines being extended so that in-home services can be more effective under the FAR contracts as well.</p>	
<p><b>5. Public Policy Updates</b></p>	<p>Brian reported on the Senate’s work session on the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission’s recommendation. Brian, along with three others from our member agencies were there to testify; Annie Blackledge, The Mockingbird Society, Terry Pottmeyer, Friends of Youth, and Ben de Haan, Partners for Our Children. Ross Hunter, head of DEL, and Interim Secretary Lashway of DSHS also testified. Ross Hunter talked about the restructuring of existing services and how to efficiently combine CA and DEL. Secretary Lashway emphasized keeping safety first and keeping the tribes involved. The report looks really good and there is opportunity to make positive changes in the culture moving forward. Brian pledged WACF’s support for the recommendations of the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission and expressed a desire to be included in the process throughout the restructure. There is hope that Senator O’Ban will sponsor the recommendations of the BRC on the Senate side.</p>	

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	<p>The other significant bill discussed was SB 6229. Senator O’Ban is rekindling the foster care licensing bill from last year. Senator O’Ban pulled the bill from the calendar and it will continue to be worked on. Brian also told David Del Villar Fox that WACF would try to support more DLR licensors in the rewritten bill.</p> <p>As follow up on the Continuum of Care Proviso, the report that was supposed to be done by CA was due December 1<sup>st</sup>. It is not done. The report should be done by the end of this week.</p> <p>Charlotte reported on Representative Kagi’s package called A Fair Deal for Foster Kids. The draft package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding Network Administration</li> <li>• Parent/child visitation</li> <li>• The new Dept. on Delivery of Services to Children and Families</li> <li>• Expanding Wendy’s Wonderful Families (adoption)</li> <li>• More of the Mockingbird Society’s model</li> <li>• Revitalizing of Family Reconciliation Services</li> <li>• Improving retention of state workers</li> </ul> <p>Charlotte communicated with Rep. Kagi and said the package looked great, and that what was missing was support for travel to provide in-home services other than FRS. Rep. Kagi agreed this is important. A new draft of the package will come out by the end of the week.</p> <p>Senator Ann Rivers has agreed to put \$2 million in the budget for travel.</p>	<p>Charlotte will send the revised package when she gets it and Linda will post on the homepage.</p>
<p><b>6. Annual Conference Ad-Hoc Committee</b></p>	<p>Paulette is looking for volunteers to sit on the committee.</p>	<p>Tom suggested that everyone keep polling their agency staff to see if anyone would like to be on the committee.</p>
<p><b>7. WACF/CA meeting agenda</b></p>	<p>Some ideas for agenda items presented were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing Bill – SB 6229</li> <li>• Coordinated Care – CPA case workers having access to their medical information</li> <li>• CA’s report on the Continuum of Care</li> <li>• Status on out-of-state kids</li> <li>• Ruth Kagi’s Fair Deal for Foster Kids package</li> <li>• Budget for in-home services not being cut back because of money being underspent last year</li> <li>• Report on parent-child visitation in Region 1</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Adjournment</b></p>		<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.</p>