

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday November 17, 2015**  
**Meeting summary, Association Meeting**  
**Lutheran Community Services**  
**4040 South 188th Street, SeaTac WA 98188, Third Floor**

## **Attending:**

Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs  
Carol Almero, Friends of Youth  
Greg Dootson, Lutheran Community Services  
Jeff Clare, Youth for Christ  
Kristen Zinsky, Catholic Community Services  
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor  
Charlotte Booth, Institute for Family Development  
Scott Hanauer, Community Youth Services  
Joanne Stimson, CFSF  
April Cathcart, Empowering Inc. Services  
Jessie DiPardo, Service Alternatives  
Rose Quinby, Seattle YMCA (phone)  
Mike Canfield, FPAWS (phone)  
Seth Dawson, lobbyist (phone)  
Laurie Lippold, POC (phone)  
Paulette Caswell, Bethany (phone)  
Linda Thomas, Catholic Community Services (phone)  
Kymm Dozal, Comprehensive Life Resources (phone)

**Call to order:** Tom Rembeisa

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approved as written.

**Financial report:** Jessie reported the current bank balance is in excess of \$40,000 with \$15,000 committed to Georgia State University for the SafeCare Train the Trainer program.

**Legislative Agenda/Strategies:** A suggestion of how to use WACF funds resulted in an Ad Hoc committee of Legislative Committee members, Jeff Clare and Scott Hanauer, to hire a marketing person to put together marketing tools consisting of a WACF briefing sheet and three additional sheets addressing the division agendas. These will be sent to the Exec for final approval within the next two weeks if possible. BRS Forecasting was suggested by CA to be added to the agenda as a Proviso and has language previously suggested by Rep. Kagi. Laurie suggested we describe the impact on limited resources, and how illogical it is that BRS was

separated out from the continuum. Brian, again, encouraged all agencies to contact and meet with legislators.

The Keeping Kids in Families campaign is focusing on seeking child welfare finance reform and redistributing IV-E money for prevention and supporting projects like WISE and In Home BRS services to prior to placement. The information is posted on the WACF website. **WACF APPROVED a motion to support the agenda.** The Family-Based Foster Care Services Act, which is included, and was previously presented to WACF, has changed their agenda from a focus on therapeutic youth being served in accredited agencies to youth being served in state licensed agencies. Maria Cantwell is co-sponsoring Senate Bill 1964, the Family Stability and Kinship Care Act which is also included in the agenda as is All kids Matter and Foster Youth Independence Act.

In the last meeting WACF approved a motion to support Host Homes which was approved by WACF. This will likely become a bill per Rep. Kagi. Laurie reported that there have been additional meetings with other organizations, including WACHYA and CWAC expressing concern over the lack of health and safety details provided. Some concerns include the ages of youth served, mixing under 18 with adult youth, referrals generated from the Host Home program, oversight with the lack of a licensing process, excluding dependent youth from being served or keeping older youth out of CA system when they have the right to services. Brian Carroll will follow up with Jeff Judy (Olive Crest) to clarify. The legislation is being written by Columbia Legal Services. Meetings are on-going discussing this issue

Members who attended the WACF / CA meeting last month reported on the discussion(s) related to BRS Forecasting; Wise Rollout; Exceptional Cost Plans; BRS out-of-state placements; CPA Rate Restoration, Licensing efficiency w/ OAC#; Utilization of CPA homes; Paying a full rate for travel time; Funding of EMP Training and QA; Update on SafeCare training; Tracking what community services FAR families receive; and successful linkages. Minutes of the meeting have yet to be published.

Performance Based Contracting (PBC) via Family Based Impact (FIN) is facing many serious challenges in Spokane. The Oliver IT system as well as increased reporting procedures created an increased and unforeseen workload and resulted in two agencies withdrawing from providing visitation services. The same agencies were told they have a December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to reinstate their visitation service contracts with FIN Vancouver, WA appears to be the next PBC site.

#### **Division Updates:**

**CPA Division:** Joanne says the group continues to work on rate restoration and include foster parents. Retention issues include the increased use of ECP's in regular foster homes rather than stepping kids up to BRS. Youth are also moving from BRS to ECP and back to BRS. The parents did not sign up to take higher level youth and are leaving FC faster. CA reports they are fully staffed for licensing. They also report the days it takes to license is reasonable and this will continue to be addressed.

**FPSS Division:** Charlotte said notes went out on their meeting. She said they are focusing on training needs and travel dollars.

**BRS Division:** CA presented a power point on forecasting and supports using a Proviso to get BRS back into the forecast. There continues to be difficulty in identifying the numbers of kids served out-of-state. Some resources include the kids in states with licensing agreements and contracts with CA (around 50) and others do not include them (around 30). Most youth out of state are reported as DD, aggressively violent requiring restraints or Level III sex offenders. The state wants to focus on procuring short term placement beds.

Exec Board Report: By-Laws are being revised, an annual calendar is under construction, a new membership application and procedure is being drafted, and a WACF logo is close to being finalized.

Adjourned 12:00