

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday November 18, 2014
Meeting summary, Association Meeting
Lutheran Community Services
4040 South 188th Street, SeaTac WA 98188, Third Floor

Attending:

Charlotte Booth, Institute for Family Development
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor
Jeff Clare, Youth for Christ
Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs
Seth Dawson (phone)
Scott Hanauer, Community Youth Services
Derek Harris, Community Youth Services
Sandy Hart, Casey Family Programs
Paul Johnson, Friends of Youth
Rod Johnson, Community & Family Services Foundation
Erin Larson, Navos Mental Health Solutions
Erika Olson, WACF Staff
Tom Rembiesa, Youthville (phone)
Jennifer Ryan, Secret Harbor
Joanne Stimson, Community & Family Services Foundation
Anne Snook, Olive Crest
Jim Theofelis, Mockingbird Society

I. Call to order – Brian

Minutes of the previous meeting approved as written.

II. Financial report & Membership report: Kim is not present but submitted the following:

Current bank balance is \$26,810. Most recent expenses were for the attorney fee (to develop language related to RAP sheet/liability)

III. Advocacy Strategies /Legislative Agenda: Brian

A letter has been drafted to Gov. Inslee and was distributed for review. This is to convey our official stance regarding the 15% reduction. The FRS and CRC position papers will be attached. Edits were made to include cc: to Jenny Greenlee (CA), Sen. Andy Hill, Rep. Ross Hunter, and also to correct Rich Pankkuk's office. Charles and Charlotte are working to finalize the attachments. The letter was approved as edited. Greg will also review the letter before it is sent.

Additional discussion about whether to take a position re: CRCs moving to Department of Commerce with general agreement that it could be a positive move. Once the governor's budget is out, WACF's session strategy will be finalized. Seth will send links to the budget work session recordings. We don't know the exact

timing of the budget release. Conversation is that the new class size initiative may be suspended or new revenue considered (or both). We don't know what the sources of new revenue might be, or if sources will be identified in the governor's budget.

Discussion of how we as an association should prepare if the budget is released without the immediate release of book 2. We need to be prepared to make a large outcry and a ton a negative reaction. If needed, Erika will send a group email with an ask to respond in a specific way. Jim T. is drafting letters in advance at his agency – to the governor, to individual legislators and individual budget chairs. Seth adds that online comments, letters to the editor, etc. are all valuable also – whatever measures you can think of for your agency. The budget is “due” by the 20th.

Further discussion about possible impacts of CRCs moving to Department of Commerce and how social workers would interface. A lot is not known. CA still needs 40-60% of the CRCs capacity but the rest could be made available to families in crisis. CRCs need to serve dependent and non-dependent youth. The group agrees on the main objective to keep the program safe, wherever it is. More beds are needed. 60% of the CRC population is state-dependent youth. Also, if the Homeless Youth Act passes, some programs might be moved to that new department. Everything is still being explored. Licensing and regulatory oversight remains, and systems with CPS and social workers would have to continue, so CA needs to stay involved. Seth noted again that not all of the kids placed there need to be in those beds – the conversation about permanency, reunification and well-being needs to keep happening so the system is focused and serving the right kids. We also need to be sure we are clear in our messaging points regarding secure vs. HOPE beds. Chuck noted that this discussion was prompted by knowledge of CA cuts; should we wait for the actual information to come out? Brian asked the group whether a position re: Commerce might be premature? Seth is seeing Commerce taking proactive steps and it gives an impression that it might be a better advocate. For example, sending representatives to community action meetings, even as far away as Lake Chelan.

IV FAR Changes – tabled until next meeting.

V. Event Committee update & poll - Erika

Erika gave the update on behalf of the committee. The group is working to put together an event for May; discussed via conference call to brainstorm content ideas, but more ideas are needed. We will draft and circulate a survey to get more input. So far, the possible topics are:

- Trauma and brain research
- Concurrent planning and child welfare reform
- Creating systems change
- Inspirational speaker. Speaker suggestions so far are:
 - 1) Karen Bass / The Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth: provides a forum for Members of Congress to discuss and develop policy recommendations to strengthen the child welfare system and improve the overall well being of youth and families. Co-chaired by Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA), Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)
 - 2) Dr. Jamie Schwandt: former foster child and author; recently published *Succeeding as a Foster Child: A Roadmap to Overcoming Obstacles and Achieving Success* based on his revolutionary research identifying and promoting opportunities for success in the foster care system.

The group discussed the general ideas. Charlotte notes that a lot of “brain” related material has been offered in King County. Jim notes that May is Foster Care Month, but also that the legislature will still be in session. There is a justice conference that month. Brian would prefer that our event focus on the work, rather than legislative issues. Rod suggests a focus on permanency. Erika will distribute the survey and include a space for general suggestions as well as rating ideas already put forward.

VI. Divisions

CPA Division, Jeff – CA has returned its version of the transfer of license document. It took nine months but it’s a very good result. Doug attended the last CPA meeting and April was on the phone to discuss contracts. April released a timeline for contract renewals, which Erika can post on the website. A November conversation about contracts is a big win. Doug will also come to the January meeting to discuss visitation.

No update yet from the attorney we retained to work on the RAP issue.

Linda T. and Jeff met with the Puyallup Tribe regarding WACF. They had good questions related to tribal providers. They are a CPA with CA but moving toward becoming a tribal agency. She had heard about our PALs work. Jeff invited her to visit the next meeting to try it out.

Jeff is also meeting with Senator O’Ban on the 2nd regarding rate restoration.

BRS Division, Rod – BRS now has a standing meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month, from 10AM-Noon at LCS. Trying to build momentum with the division and hoping that a set standing meeting will help. Secret Harbor has an ongoing conflict; Rod will be sure to communicate with them. Paul will be retiring from FOY in mid-December. Tom is not getting the emails – Erika resolved an earlier delivery problem but will look at again.

Brian said the placement coordinator in Region 2 North shared that BRS will be \$1.9 million overspent. We know we need to fight to get BRS back into forecasting. There are significant discussions happening about BRS being limited to 3 months vs. 9 months. We know what we can accomplish in 9 months with families and how different that looks at the 3-month mark. Scott said it seems inevitable that if CA can defer BRS in favor of WISe, they will. Jim T. and Laurie Lippold have an upcoming meeting with Senate staff to recommend a return to forecasting. Brian is trying to match the geographic areas of key legislators against our member agencies to find gaps. We need a strategy to cover those. Jim T. notes that Rep. Ormsby in Spokane is friendly to child welfare issues.

FPSS, Charlotte - In August, we had a meeting with Tim Kelly regarding EBPs. Now we are into next steps. Our next meeting is in December with in-home staff from WACF agencies invited to attend. There seems to be a lot of back pedaling so members are very interested to see what is said.

The SafeCare Train the Trainer effort is moving along. A webinar happens December 3rd and everyone who is eligible has been invited (not just WACF members). Four have replied so far. Erika and Charlotte are following up. Charlotte can still approach the potential funder and Jim T. can help with that, but Charlotte can’t design the selection process. Charlotte asks that members of the Executive Committee who are not applying do the selection process. Brian agreed that is reasonable. Anyone else who wants to be included is welcome. GSU will vet the list first. Brian is also willing to help in the approach to the funder. The cost is \$20K though Charlotte may need to add some funding for travel, etc. We would like to ask Jennifer to state something about the commitment in writing. Erika will send that communication when it is ready. Scott referenced the lack of

referrals and a lot of frustration around investing in EBPs. Charlotte agrees that there are genuine concerns. But, if CA commits to this, that helps stabilize. There's a lot of frustration with the lack of training; there is no way to replace trained staff when they move on. SafeCare does stand apart from some of the other EBPs with its safety and health modules.

The group noted these positive efforts of the Association. This example should be used in helping to grow the membership. It was also noted again that we wish to expand efforts to reach out to the east.

Additional discussion:

Do we want to recognize Randy Hart's retirement? Exec Committee will discuss.

Forecasting for BRS: Jim asked how to get our position on the record. We can add this as we formalize our legislative agenda.

Extended foster care: Scott reported about an August meeting with Randy Hart discussing concerns that EFC is draining the budget. Have not heard back since that time. Rod noted that we brought this up as a concern with the CA at the regular meeting. The next quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled. There appear to be regional differences. Some regions aren't going EFC and others are over budget with it. Jim would like data from the groups on numbers we are seeing of BRS youth entering EFC. Current categories allowing entry include high school, voc ed, reducing barriers criteria, working more than 80 hours a month and now significant medical conditions (medical/mental health/disability). CA/State imposed rules are more limiting than federal guidelines. Scott noted CA's concern about these youth taking beds for kids who could be coming into the system; how can youth be more connected with adult services.

Adjourned – Data Security Training to follow, 1st floor.

Next meeting: December 16th at LCS.

