

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday October 20, 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
Anne Snook, Olive Crest
Paulette Caswell, Bethany
Kristen Zinsky, Catholic Community Services
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor
Charlotte Booth, Institute for Family Development
Rod Johnson, CFSF
Mark Fullington, CFSF
Kerry Shaughnessy, Youth for Christ
Susan Brook, LCSNW
Erin Larson, Navos
Jeff Judy, Olive Crest
Joanne Stimson, CFSF
Rose Quinby, Seattle YMCA
Linda Conchi, WACF Staff
Seth Dawson, lobbyist (phone)
Susan Maney, Children's Home Society of Washington (phone)
Mary Johnson, Pioneer Human Services (phone)
Linda Thomas, Catholic Community Services (phone)
Kymm Dozal, Comprehensive Life Resources (phone)

Call to order: Brian Carroll

Minutes of the previous meeting: Approved as written.

Financial report: Brian reported for Jessie who was unable to attend. Current bank balance is \$46,282. Jessie wrote one check yesterday for \$5,400 to Georgia State University, the first installment for the SafeCare Train the Trainer program. The balance will be roughly \$40 - \$41 K after the check clears.

Legislative Agenda/Strategies: Brian went over the 2016 WACF Legislative Priorities and explained that they are listed as priorities because although they are very important issues, they may not require legislation or funding. The Legislative Priorities haven't changed much since our September association meeting and they are:

CPA Division: Rate Restoration for Child Placing Agencies

FPSS Division:

- 1.) *Payment of full rate for traveling to client homes.*
- 2.) *Funding for CA and DBHR to provide Evidence Based Practices training and Quality Assurance activities.*
- 3.) *Tracking and reporting on services received by FAR families.*

BRS Division:

Return BRS to the revenue forecast.

Charlotte reported that if they can get a commitment from CA to do the tracking and reporting, then #3 (above) will be removed from the FPSS legislative priorities.

There was a motion to approve the Legislative Priorities. The motion carried.

In the past, WACF has formed a Legislative Committee. At the last Executive Committee meeting, it was proposed that a new Legislative Committee be formed consisting of the three division chairs; Charlotte Booth, Joanne Stimson, and Rose Quinby, along with Tom Rembiesa, Brian Carroll, Scott Hanauer and Jeff Clare. The Legislative Committee would provide weekly updates during the session.

There was a motion to approve the Legislative Committee. The motion carried.

Seth sent us some proposed legislation on the Host Home Program for Homeless Youth and asked that WACF review it and take a position.

Jeff Judy explained that their Safe Families Program, along with three or four other agencies that have host home programs have had an active role in the formulation of the legislation written by Columbia Legal Services. Jeff stated that the proposal is very simple. When a child is not part of the Child Welfare System that they should be allowed to stay in a home where the parent has granted complete consent (a notarized letter from the parent). There are no public funds spent. DLR has taken the position that since there is no pre-existing relationship between the child and the host family, families should be licensed foster families.

Brian read aloud the proposed legislation on Host Home Programs for Homeless Youth.

There was a motion to support the Host Home Programs. The motion carried.

Charlotte was pleased to report that three of our legislative priorities got into the CWAC (Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition) agenda:

- 1.) CPA Rate Restoration for Child Placing Agencies
- 2.) Funding for EBP training and Quality Assurance activities
- 3.) BRS returned to the revenue forecast

Brian added that he has a meeting with Representative Ruth Kagi on Monday, and that our WACF/CA Quarterly meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday October 21st.

Continuing Education Update: The Continuing Education Committee is currently made up of Paulette Caswell of Bethany, and Mike Canfield of FPAWS. They would like to recruit more members to the committee. Paulette described her vision of how WACF could offer continuing education including continuing education credits. She mentioned the Oregon Adoption Group's model and how she thinks it is very well done. Each agency has a different expertise. If we could get volunteers from each agency that would be able to offer their time, or someone on their staff's time, we could offer a variety of classes. The committee still needs to work out the process and determine where the classes could be held, how long the classes would be, and what the cost (if any) would be. Paulette also thinks it could be a good recruiting tool. Please e-mail Paulette if you're interested in joining: pcaswell@bethany.org. Kerry Shaughnessy would like to help and said she will check with her organization to get approval.

CA Provider Directory: At the last association meeting, Tim Kelly presented CA's proposal for a CA Provider Directory. We committed to getting back to Tim by October 20, with feedback on our agencies' capacity to route calls. The main concern brought up was cost. Others also felt like social workers would be more likely to use their own networks rather than a central number and have to wait for a list of phone numbers for each service area. There would be no change for agencies with only one phone number but many agencies need more than one phone number.

Division Updates:

CPA Division: Joanne reported that the CPA Division has been requesting that foster parents attend some meetings and that foster parents write letters to support the CPA Rate Restoration. They've had a number of discussions around retention issues. She mentioned a subgroup (Representatives Kagi and O'Ban) that's looking at recruitment and retention. Their main focus at their last CPA meeting was on their legislative agenda and the rate restoration. Joanne is looking forward to feedback from Darcy at the CA meeting on the licensing process and OAC #'s. Joanne felt like their meeting with Representative Kagi went well. She was very knowledgeable and supportive.

FPSS Division: The FPSS Division has been spending most of their time working on their legislative agenda and getting ready for the CA meeting so Charlotte didn't have a lot to report. She did mention that the SafeCare Training of trainers project is moving along well. The training of the trainer has been completed and the first payment has been made to Georgia State University. Now, CA will offer trainings where the newly trained trainer will train their staff.

Charlotte will send Linda a link for the CA In-Home Services ListServe. Linda will send out to membership.

BRS Division: Rose reported that some of the issues the BRS Division have been discussing are forecasting, and WISE - the need for standard assessments. They'd also like to see more collaboration between RSN and the Behavioral Healthcare organizations in the regions. There's been a lot of discussion about out-of-state kids and how it continues to be a problem. Brian will be addressing the issue at the CA meeting and it will become a major focus of the BRS Division.

Adjourned 11:55 a.m.

Next quarterly CA-WACF meeting: Wednesday October 21st in Olympia

Next Association meeting: Tuesday November 17th at LCS