

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday September 15, 2015

Meeting summary, Association Meeting

Lutheran Community Services

4040 South 188th Street, SeaTac WA 98188, Third Floor

Attending:

Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs
Susan Brook, Lutheran Community Services Northwest
Paulette Caswell, Bethany
Carol Almero, Friends of Youth
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor
Kerry Ann Shaughnessy, Youth for Christ
Scott Hanauer, Community Youth Services
Cacey Hanauer, YMCA
Julianne Peterson, Amara
Joanne Stimson, CFSF
Rose Quinby, Seattle YMCA
Ifeanyi Chukwu, Washington National Counseling
Erin Larson, Navos
Anne Snook, Olive Crest
Charlotte Booth, Institute for Family Development (phone)
Josh Hinman, YFC West Sound (phone)
Kymm Dozal, Comprehensive Life Resources (phone)
Linda Thomas, CCS (phone)
Jessie DiPardo, Service Alternatives (phone)
Mike Canfield, FPAWS (phone)
Erin Shea McCann, The Mockingbird Society (phone)
Ryan Kiely, Excelsior (phone)
Seth Dawson (phone)
Tim Kelly, CA (phone)

Call to order: Brian Carroll

Minutes of the previous meeting: Approved as written.

Financial report: Jessie reported that the current bank balance is approximately \$45,000, with \$20,000, a grant from the Gidden's Foundation, earmarked for SafeCare training. There are 28 members and 7 members with dues outstanding. Some of those 7 have been in communication with Jessie.

Legislative Strategy: Brian distributed the 2016 WACF Legislative Priorities *Working Draft* document. Each division will decide at their meetings on their legislative agenda and present it to the Executive Board and hopefully, an initial final draft can be presented at the October association meeting.

2016 WACF Legislative Priorities *Working Draft* document:

CPA Division: Rate Restoration for Child Placing Agencies.

FPSS Division:

1. Full rate for traveling to client homes. Currently is funded at 50% for travel time.
2. Funding for CA and DBHR to provide evidence based practices training and quality assurance activities. Currently these funds come from direct service dollars or must be funded by the private providers.
3. FAR
4. Background Checks
(We are not sure if numbers 3 & 4 are legislative issues or not)

BRS Division: Return BRS to the revenue forecast. Currently is a separate item and monies are restricted to budget amount.

Seth advised that when we move ahead that we need to do so cohesively with the **full** agenda that we adopt. We should have meetings with key legislators like Representative Ruth Kagi, Senator Steve O'Ban, and Senator Jim Hargrove before the next session.

Paulette reported that the CPA Division sent out a survey to private agencies all over the state requesting information on the number of homes licensed, the number of children placed, the number of vacancies, etc. They received 28 responses. Of the agencies that responded, there are approximately 1,000 homes represented in the private sector, 800 regular foster homes, and 200 treatment foster homes. Paulette encouraged members to complete the survey if they had not done so.

Linda will post the list of the 28 agencies that responded to the survey on the WACF website.

There was discussion about how state licensed homes are decreasing and private homes are increasing. It was also mentioned that it would be good information to find out the number of smaller private agencies that have gone out of business due to rates. It was suggested that we should ask DLR for that information at our next quarterly CA meeting.

Brian reminded that the next legislative session is a supplemental session, not a budget session.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to get the names of everyone on the Subcommittee on Early Childhood and call each one of them.

Mike Canfield with FPAWS reported that they have a conference in Bellingham in November and legislators will be there. Mike will get Linda the information about the mini conferences so that she can post them on the website.

Individual Membership/Bylaws Vote: The Executive Board looked at other membership agencies nationally and within the state and how they dealt with individual memberships. The proposed change to the Bylaws basically created a new membership category for **individual alumni members**. The pool of eligible individuals would be small due to the requirement of previous participation in the association and they cannot be currently associated with a member agency.

There was a motion to approve the amended Bylaws. The motion carried.

There was a motion to have a **Vote of Confidence for our current president to remain in office**. The motion carried.

Membership in National Organizations: Brian distributed an information sheet on the benefits of membership of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. He stated that Secret Harbor is a long time member of FFTA and the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. The Alliance has a formal membership category for state associations and the dues are \$800/year. Members of WACF would receive discounted prices for conferences. The main reason Brian recommends the Alliance is that there are two pieces of legislation that the Alliance is promoting, at a national level, that are pertinent to WACF and those we serve. One of them is the legislation to make treatment foster care a Medicaid eligible service, and the other is SB1964 which is around 4E funding for preventative services for families to avoid placement in foster care and out-of-home care. Washington State has a waiver for 4E so some monies are used for in-home BRS.

Joining the Alliance could help WACF by enhancing our legislative agenda, enhancing our public policy, and enhancing our credibility.

There was a motion to join the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. The motion carried.

Children's Administration Provider Directory: Tim Kelly talked about a proposed new Provider Directory. Children's Administration would like to create a current contractor directory that would be a resource for social workers to help them select services. The new directory would be transparent. CA staff would have access to it, and providers would also.

The goal is to have a directory that is kept up to date and accurate. It would have information for each provider agency about what services are offered and in which counties they are offered.

One of the issues mentioned is that the directory would only have the capacity to list one contact phone number for each provider agency.

Rose asked if it would only be state agencies, and Tim's response was that the objective would be to offer both state and private agencies.

The feedback from the group was that it sounded like a good idea and they would take it back to their agencies. There was some concern about the cost for smaller agencies.

Tim asked for a general thumbs up, or thumbs down by our next association meeting on October 20th. He said he would put something in writing and get it to Charlotte to share with the association.

Division Reports:

BRS: Rose reported that at the last BRS Division meeting they talked about how BRS youth can suddenly become traditional with an Exceptional Care Plan. They also talked about WISE and how is the WISE rollout going in the counties where it has been rolled out. They discussed CLIP and how is WISE interfacing with CLIP. In the Thurston and Mason counties there is a steering committee for WISE and it seems to be a helpful in fine tuning the process between BRS and CLIP.

CPA: Joanne reported that Joe Menko from POC is looking at data on licensing, number of homes that are licensed, private homes vs. state homes.

WACF/CA Quarterly Meeting Agenda:

BRS: BRS Forecasting
WISE Rollout Status?
Status on FAR?

CPA: Licensing Process (finger printing done in a more timely manner)
Background Checks
Number of smaller private agencies that have gone out of business due to rates?

FPSS: Give CA a heads up about what will be on our legislative agenda (all divisions)
Update on SafeCare Training and thanks for their collaboration

Create Ad-hoc Committee for Training Events: This agenda item was skipped because we ran out of time.

Adjourned 12:00 p.m.

Next quarterly CA-WACF meeting: October TBD

Next Association meeting: Tuesday October 20th