

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday March 17, 2015

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

Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs

Linda Conchi, WACF Staff

Jessie DiPardo, Service Alternatives (phone)

Greg Dootson, LCS

Bob Faltermeyer, Excelsior

Mark Fullington, CFSF

Casey Hanauer, YMCA

Rod Johnson, CFSF

Jeff Judy, Olive Crest

Erin Larson, Navos Mental Health Solutions

Laurie Lippold, POC (phone)

Susan Maney, Children's Home Society

Erika Olson, WACF Staff

Rose Quinby, YMCA

Jennifer Ryan, Secret Harbor

Shawn Sivly, Friends of Youth

Linda Thomas, CCS

Megan Walton, Amara

Kim Zacher, CLR

Kristin Zinsky, CCS

Call to order: Greg

Introductions: all attendees introduced themselves, and Erika introduced Linda Conchi, who is going to assume the WACF staff position. Linda can be reached at the info@wachildrenandfamilies.org address. Erika's contract will conclude at the end of March. (NOTE: thank you to all for the very kind thank you card and gift card!)

Minutes of the previous meeting approved as written.

Financial report: Kim Current bank balance is \$17,969.20. Kim did not receive any questions about the revised budget presented at the last meeting so assumes it is acceptable. The revision allows flexibility in allocating money toward the spring event if needed.

Legislative: Brian

SB 5852/HB 2905 both died in committee. Our request is still before Senate Ways & Means and House Appropriations to include our ask in the budget. Brian distributed an updated legislative one sheet which is also posted on the website. Brian has an additional sheet that breaks down the numbers in greater detail if anyone would like to see that. We need to continue asking committee members to support us. Our numbers are the same numbers that Children's Administration used in its request to the Governor. We still need more legislators to support us, and letters sent to Andy Hill (Sen) and Ross Hunter (House).

Linda T. said there is still an impression of unspent money in BRS so that education effort must continue. Laurie Lippold will be talking to Jenny at CA and has figures to address. Bob F. stated that numbers are public info and did appear as underspent two years ago, but discretionary line item "transfers" make it very difficult to decipher some of the real information. Local regional offices have a lot of latitude to borrow from one line item to another. The group discussed whether to request numbers from CA for exceptional care (and percentage of kids who are receiving) as well as stats on populations being served out of state/out of region. Legislators need accurate data about BRS and the distribution of kids across the system. We need to be prepared to explain how this all works together. Linda T. can collect and forward any data collected on to Donna Christianson. This will be discussed on the next BRS call (March 23rd, 11am).

Further group discussion clarifying the ask: not "more" money but restoration of rates so that providers are no longer subsidizing the system.

Charlotte added that the additional FPSS ask to keep 40-60 FRS staff is not looking good; hoping to keep the \$1.3 million in service dollars.

Last meeting debrief: Greg

There was not a lot of time at the end of the last meeting to finish discussion of "rules of engagement" when it comes to advocacy and individual agencies lobbying. The group agrees that members seem to have moved on but that some language about disclosure/member values/operating framework should be developed. Transparency is valued and discussion among members can be proactive. The association should be able to expect that a member will be straightforward in acknowledging potential conflicts.

Spring Event: Erika

Erika distributed an updated summary sheet outlining the schedule for the spring event as well as the instructions about how to register. Each member agency receives one complimentary ticket for the conference. Additional tickets are available for purchase. See the MEMBER LOGIN page for full instructions and links. Someone needs to introduce each speaker. Greg will introduce Jim Shapiro, Rose will introduce Keith Hall, and Brian will introduce Jim Theofelis. It will be important to have plenty of WACF brochures on hand in the room and be ready to field questions the association.

Nominations: Greg

Brian, Erin, and Jeff are members of the ad hoc nominations committee. Erin is the point of contact. Anyone can self-nominate. Voting will be electronic, then ratified at the meeting (May). June will be a transition period and July 1 is the start of the new term for President and Treasurer. Divisions need to elect chairs by the first week in May.

Divisions:

BRS, Rod The next meeting is by phone on Monday, March 23rd, 11AM. Rod has also heard from Darcy that there will be an extended foster care workgroup meeting on the 19th.

CPA, Linda (for Jeff) At the last meeting, CPAs talked through the complexities of CA's ask for staff to be available for evening and weekends. This is not possible knowing there is no additional compensation. Pam McKeown was on the phone. The conversation will continue and the need will be further defined.

FPSS, Charlotte: The division did get some very good results coming out of discussions with Tim Kelly about FPS redesign. Agencies were not willing to sign the contract the way it had been re-written.

- 1) CA took out the provision to use veteran parents to do safety checks
- 2) Agencies said the work could not be done for \$50/hour and it is possible rate restoration can be done directly; will know more within the next couple of weeks.

Other business: Bob F. offers to host an association meeting in Eastern Washington at Excelsior; the offer is appreciated and a date will be discussed.

Adjourned 12:10pm

Next quarterly CA-WACF meeting: June 17, 2015 at LCS

Next Association meeting: April 21, 2015 at LCS

