

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday May 19, 2015**  
**Meeting summary, Association Meeting**  
**Lutheran Community Services**  
**4040 South 188<sup>th</sup> Street, SeaTac WA 98188, Third Floor**

## **Attending:**

Tom Rembiesa, Youthville  
Carol Almero, Friends of Youth  
Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs  
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor  
Rod Johnson, CFSF  
Julianne Peterson, Amara  
Jeff Clare, Youth for Christ  
Anne Snook, Olive Crest  
Jessie DiPardo, Service Alternatives  
Carey Hanauer, YMCA  
Erin Larson, Navos  
Greg Dootson, LCSNW  
Kim Zacher, CLR  
Rose Quinby, YMCA  
Linda Conchi, WACF  
Paulette Caswell, Bethany Christian Services (phone)  
Seth Dawson (phone)  
Ryan Kiely, Excelsior (phone)  
Susan Maney, Children's Home Society of Washington (phone)  
Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children (phone)  
Jim Theofelis, The Mockingbird Society (phone)  
Kymm Dozal, Comprehensive Life Services (phone)

## **Call to order: Greg**

Minutes of the previous meeting approved as written.

## **Financial report: Kim**

Current bank balance is \$14,360. We have not received the bill for the spring event yet. Invoices will be going out in the next couple of weeks for next year's dues.

## **Legislative Report: Seth**

The new revenue, approximately \$4 million could be pretty speculative or one-time money based on a temporary boom in the housing market. It's currently looking like there will be a second special session in June. Everyone in Olympia has been sent home for now and everything is in limbo. Any talks that are going on are behind closed doors.

The following bills were signed into law: Extended Foster Care Services, SB5740 Homeless Youth Protection and the sealing of juvenile records.

Brian continues to e-mail the budget negotiators and has sent out a second legislative call to action urging our members to contact the legislators on the negotiating teams for both the House and the Senate. We need to keep the BRS increase included in the House Budget on the radar so that it has a chance to be included in the final budget.

**New Executive Board Members:**

The new executive board members were announced:

President: Tom Rembiesa, Youthville

Treasurer: Jessie DiPardo, Service Alternatives

FPSS Division: Charlotte Booth, Institute for Family Development – Chair

Kerry Ann Shaughnessy, Youth for Christ – Vice Chair

CPA Division: Joanne Stimson, CFSF – Chair

Paulette Caswell, Bethany Christian Services – Vice Chair

BRS Division: Rose Quinby, YMCA – Chair

Ryan Kiely, Excelsior – Vice Chair

Tom says he feels like WACF has all the makings for long-term sustainability. Greg agrees with Tom and thinks this association can be very powerful. He will continue to cultivate the smaller partners that might be eligible for the Carey Forward fee waiver and get some representation from the smaller partners.

Thank you to the outgoing board members for their leadership that has been invaluable to this organization.

The new executive board members will meet with the current executive board members at the next executive board meeting on June 2, 10:00 a.m. – noon (in person) at Lutheran Community Services, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, small conference room. Division Vice-Chairs are welcome to attend as well. The new board takes office July 1, 2015.

**POC Debrief:**

Most who saw the presentation think that the collaboration between agencies would be great. It would be nice if we could start measuring and counting some of the same things and performing quality assurance. Using the data portal would hopefully eliminate paperwork and give providers one place to enter and view data, which would be more efficient and would hopefully allow more face time/client interactions.

Jessie shared that the pilot is in Region 1 North only, which includes Spokane Counties and the surrounding counties in region 1 North. The work that begins June 1st is the supervised visits services, which will now be contracted through FIN instead of CA. FIN is in partnership with POC for the pilot. Beginning January 1st the current plan is to expand FIN oversight of these services to the surrounding counties. Other services will transfer at a later determined date.

Some issues were brought up about how some clients may not want all their records shared, for example mental health records. The confidentiality and privacy piece is a big deal. Even if an agency's not sharing a client's mental health records, if they're sharing child welfare records on a portal for a client that's in their mental health program, it's a HIPAA violation.

#### **Thoughts on Conference:**

- Great first conference
- Well organized
- Good mixture of vendors
- Lunch was great, location was tough
- Presentations were quality – Some notable presentations were: Jim Shapiro, A Better Fundraising Co., and Amanda Madorno, Succession Planning
- Brian suggested that in the future, maybe we should focus on bigger child welfare issues and trying to promote the association better (pre-conference)
- Kim added that in the future we might want to look at training for clinical people as well as managers and she suggested the **Children's Justice Conference**
- Jessie also recommended **The System of Care Institute** (2 day conference)
- Tom suggested finding out if Washington Nonprofits has organizational members

#### **CA/WACF Agenda for June:**

Meeting is June 17, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at LCS, Jennings Board Room - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Meeting will include representatives from CA along with WACF's current and new president, vice president, division chairs and vice chairs, if they'd like to come.

CPA Division is meeting with Doug Allison on June 4, from 11:00 a.m. - noon. Doug is coming to discuss how to engage and recruit foster homes that are effective with kids that run and also upcoming contract changes.

It was suggested that processing, or licensing of foster parents is taking far too long. In some cases, up to nine months, and then we lose them. Rod mentioned that in Region 3 (old region 5) it has been moving more rapidly. State homes are being processed more rapidly than private agency homes.

The point was made that DLR is interested in safety only, not in retention. This creates barriers for people that want to become foster parents and drives them away. DLR is not flexible with kids with behavioral issues. Kim suggested asking if a taskforce could be created to work on retention and processing licenses faster to help add new foster homes. We are hoping to partner with CA to work on it and WACF will also need to add it to their legislative agenda for the next year.

Brian suggested asking CA in advance of the meeting, about the 28 kids that are out-of-state. Where are they, how long have they been there, and what are the issues that are keeping them out of Washington? "Out of state," does not include border states (OR, ID).

The out-of-state topic might be better discussed outside the CA/WACF meeting? Rod said that maybe they could get Doug Allison to come to one of their BRS meetings to discuss.

Suggested agenda items:

- DLR – Timeline for licensing & retention and recruitment of foster homes
- Placement Crisis
- Educational Requirements - approved list of degrees
- Contract changes – Providers need adequate time to review and respond

CPA

- CPA Rate Restoration
- Home Study disclaimer statement
- Thank you for working with us in a collaborative effort and giving us opportunities for input on: Data security verbiage and assisting DLR in drafting new policies and procedures around home studies

BRS Division:

- Re-address the goal of serving more of our kids in-state, closer to their homes

Laurie (on the phone) reported that Rep. Tom Dent, Rep. Michelle Caldier and Rep. Ruth Kagi are planning to meet with groups of foster parents around the state during the interim. They interested in focusing on issues related to recruitment and retention. They are hoping to meet with six to eight groups around the state. The number of licensed homes has been on the decline so that is what they are looking at. Laurie added that she can steer the representatives to WACF as a resource.

Adjourned 11:55 a.m.

**Next Association meeting : June 16, at Casey Family Programs - 1123 23rd Ave Seattle, WA 98122**

**Next Quarterly WACF/CA meeting: June 17<sup>th</sup> at LCS, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Jennings Board Room**