

## WACF BRS Division Meeting Notes

July 9, 2015

Attendees: Erin Larsen (Navos), Karen Brady (Ryther), Carol Almero (Friends of Youth), Jesse Dipardo (Service Alternatives), Karen Kremkaw (Catholic Community Services), Nicki Brown (Community Youth Services), Laurie Lippold (lobbyist), Rose Quinby (YMCA), Seth Dawson (lobbyist), others – if we missed you apologies, and please let Rose know!

**Introductions** were made.

**Vision and Goals for the BRS Division** will be discussed at the next meeting when fewer members are on vacation and able to contribute. It was agreed that it was critical to debrief the legislative topics today.

**Legislative:** Both Laurie and Seth were available to comment on legislative items.

Seth and the group discussed **lessons learned and new strategies going forward after the success of the BRS rate restoration/increase**. Agreed it was a multi-pronged approach that led to success – individual agencies, WACF and individual citizens all advocating together at the same time. He mentioned that clarity of communication is needed as we move forward with supporting a rate increase recommended for CPA and Family Preservation services for this year's budget. He said the way to begin is to thank the legislature for moving forward with 1/3 of the requested package and reminding them of the 2/3's we have to go. He said success comes from asking and continuing to ask, involving the negotiating team to get it on the committee priorities, involving the rank and file to ask, and to rise visibly through e-mails and requests. He stressed that we must go through the majority party to not distance them and that they are the same group as the last budget session. He added that an improvement area is to ensure we always have at least one person to attend hearings to speak to keep our item on the priority list.

Laurie and the group discussed our request for BRS **forecasting** by the legislature for numbers and designated funds. CA is also in support of this. In 2009, BRS was taken out of forecasting because it was lumped with traditional FC, without a clear designation, resulting in those funds being mixed. It requires legislative authority to create a new BRS forecast. The legislative staff who present the data and numbers to their legislators currently do not have enough knowledge and experience with BRS, the types of kids who access it and the referral process to be able to feel confident in forecasting the numbers. Much of the old expertise in the legislature is gone and conversations need to occur regarding the lack of knowledge. We must determine the most effective strategy to be able to move this forward.

### **Best Practice**

There is interest in continuing to discuss sharing best practice in the group, relevant to management functions (risk management, data security, staff development) and clinical practice (encouraging evidence informed and evidence based practice). All agreed that this would create a benefit to

members. The details on the "how and what" need to be decided. BRS members enjoyed the FFTA presentation and some agencies are considering joining. There are at least three current WACF member organizations, which allows WA to have its own chapter. Mark Fullington sent out a letter of discussion topics he plans to cover at one of his meetings addressing the high cost of accreditation for smaller agencies (?). Some organizations are members of Alliance for Strong Children and Families and find their materials helpful.

### **Quarterly WACF/CA Meeting June 17, 2015**

Erin (thank you Erin!) provided detailed notes to WACF members on this meeting. Notes include the previously agreed on agenda items: Staff Requirements, Contract changes, BRS placed out of state, CPA rate restoration, FAR, Background Checks, DLR Timelines effecting foster parent recruitment and retention, and barriers for CA in addressing the placement crisis (otherwise known as the general way of doing business). BRS Division members were encouraged to attend the CPA Division meeting following this meeting to discuss staff requirements and foster parent licensing delays in depth.

### **BRS Questions**

Region 3 South has 10 youth placed out of state. What is the review process to move these youth back to WA when behaviors change?

Can we get CA data on rate of expansion of traditional foster care with ECP's correlated with reductions in BRS placements in order to determine if there is a correlation between the reduction in BRS and an increase in ECP dollars spent?

### **Next Meeting**

Rose or Ryan will send out a meeting doodle to determine the best day/time for the next BRS meeting. She also needs ideas to determine frequency and location and if only by phone or in person, and potential continued quarterly overlap with the CPA Division for topics of mutual interest such as those focused on foster care. General thinking was every other month.