



Washington Association
for Children & Families

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2018 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Lutheran Community Services
4040 South 188th St. SeaTac, WA 98188
Jennings Board Room - 3rd floor**

Members Present: Megan Walton, Charlotte Booth, Brian Carroll, Nikki Brown, Karen Brady, Jill May, Jeff Clare, Jessie DiPardo - phone

Members Absent: Tom Rembiesa

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions
1. Call to order		The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. Approve minutes of the August meeting		The motion to approve the minutes carried.
3. Steven Grilli, Director of Child Welfare Programs - DCYF	<p>Steven comes from a provider background. He worked for a large not-for-profit agency in Philadelphia. He is now the Director of the Division of Child Welfare Programs, that used to be called Program & Policy. He said they are kind of the “think tank” of the dept., bridging the field and policy people and determining how to work better with both the field and the providers. His division is made up of program managers and leads assigned to thinking through those things and advising dept. leadership.</p> <p>When asked what Connie’s role was, Steven replied that Connie is the Assistant Secretary over Field Operations (the 6 regions).</p> <p>The areas that fall under Steven’s division, child welfare services, are:</p>	

- BRS
- Foster Care
- In-home
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Kinship Care
- Visitation
- Recruitment & Retention may move over to Licensing

Steven stated that DCYF leadership is very interested in "culture change." He said that he wants his division to understand that it's a customer service orientation and that they need to work internally, as well as externally, on collaboration, respect, and better listening.

In September and into October, Steven will be heading out to all the regions meeting regional staff and stopping at field offices to see how they work.

Jeff asked how Steven views the changes that are being proposed to visitation. Steven reported that there is interest in expanding the STRIVE model but they haven't landed on a fully thought-out visitation model yet. One of his concerns is that the visits that have to happen in the first 72 hrs. haven't been happening. What's being proposed is that an internal people would do the first 30 -60 days of visitation and then a contractor would take over from there. Steven doesn't like the idea of switching the person that does the visitations. This part still needs to be worked out and he is open to input.

Brian stated that he thinks the biggest missing piece in child welfare in WA State is the evaluative piece. There's never a built-in component to evaluate how things are going when programs or legislation is implemented, especially the unintended consequences. Brian is concerned that the FFA accreditation will have unintended consequences. A few Board members echoed Brian's concern and added that they are worried

	<p>that FFA accreditation will cause agencies, especially smaller agencies to go out of business. All the infrastructure needed to maintain accreditation and the cost is significant.</p> <p>There was discussion on who should attend the WACF/DCYF quarterly meetings. Steven said the Program Managers could be worked out and asked who else would be important from the DCYF to attend. Connie Lambert-Eckel, Jenny Heddin, Luba Bezborodnikova, and David Del Villar Fox were mentioned. It will depend on the focus of the meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Executive Director report/updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Report 		We did not cover this agenda item.
<p>5. WA OT Exemption Threshold</p>	<p>Jill reported that Washington State’s Department of Labor and Industries is currently engaged in rulemaking to update our state’s overtime pay exemption threshold. More information can be found here: http://washingtonnonprofits.org/comment-on-wa-overtime-pay-policy-options/</p>	Jill will share with WACF members since it will impact them.
<p>6. Membership Recruitment</p>	<p>Jill stated that the time is now to focus on recruitment because FFA gives us an incredible opportunity. She is getting a lot of calls from agencies in Eastern WA wanting to know how FFA will impact them.</p> <p>Jeff followed up with Brenda Sipes at Community Resource Group (CRG) in Yakima and said she is very interested in joining. He told her she is welcome to join the next CPA Division meeting.</p>	
<p>7. Division Legislative Agendas</p>		We did not cover this agenda item.
<p>8. Adjournment</p>		The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.