

**WACF/CA Quarterly Meeting Agenda**  
**1:30 – 3:00 PM, Wednesday, February 18, 2015**  
**DSHS OB-2 Garden Room (Max 16, 4th floor)**

**Attending:**

WACF: Charlotte Booth, Jeff Clare, Greg Dootson, Rod Johnson, Erika Olson, Linda Thomas

CA: Doug Allison, Darcy, Jenny Greenlee, Connie Lambert-Eckel, Pam McKeown, Toni Sebastian

**General Agenda Items:**

Efforts regarding rate restoration

WACF's efforts continue regarding rate restoration for all three divisions. Regarding SB5852, Jenny states that the fiscal note hasn't come out yet. Especially regarding the 150% rate, there is not clarity about who this would apply to. Initial numbers indicate \$26 million/year (vs. a 15% increase which would be about \$8 million). Doug has analysis of 2014 kids showing that about 55% of the kids spend some portion of the year in facility-based care. A higher number of kids are in 1A; that makes sense given the issues being handled within foster care; we are seeing those kids in a variety of settings. There are a lot of misconceptions about facility-based care; this is an ongoing need to educate legislators. They need to understand the full spectrum of resources and the full spectrum of ages/issues. Doug also notes that while Washington state sex offender laws do apply to juveniles – that is not the case in other states (ID, OR) so they can accept kids that we can't in some settings. Linda also notes that reimbursement is a big factor; if a provider wants to be creative and accept a kid but the top rate is 1A, it's not feasible to recoup costs. Probably 25 kids are currently being served out of state. The legislature doesn't understand that this population (juvenile sex offenders/sexually aggressive) is being served by CA. These are very serious behaviors and disruptions in care make it worse.

Update on DLR and proposed WACs vs. final WACs

The WACs are now online and printable. See [www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting). (Click on Guidelines, Laws & Rules on the left) Darcy also distributed a handout. The goals were to make the WACs simpler to read and navigate. CPA, foster care and group care have all been pulled into one chapter. Common language is used whenever possible. There is also an index in the back.

**FPSS Division:**

The FPSS division has been working very actively with Tim Kelly and getting great support from him and from Jenny Heddin. Chris Parvin is participating in a background check workgroup, which is also very helpful. There are still a lot of differences between in timeliness and results of background checks.

FAR: some of the EBPs are FAR "unfriendly" regarding time limits. Senator Hargrove stated some support for the idea of allowing CA to keep paying after 90 days for families who are engaged successfully. The CA expressed concern about liability if this occurred. Toni states that if a family is in a specific EBP that takes longer than 90 days and we want to trigger an extension, that option needs to be created via legislation. The group agrees that family experiences have been positive but that being pulled at 90 days is having a negative impact on some. Vet parent/testimonials perhaps should be collected.

**CPA Division**

New item: Pam would like to introduce a request that came out of a DCFS meeting yesterday. Because of the shortage of homes, would like to ask for access to homes after 5PM with CPA staff available for emergency placements/weekend/evening. Rod notes that receiving care contracts are in place in Pierce and Kitsap counties. If request falls outside of receiving care, then cost will be a huge factor – how to cover costs for on-

call staff. The need is understood. The requester would need to have full information so the agency can make an appropriate placement. Pam states that a state worker would be printing everything known in the full profile. Linda notes that if you don't have 24/7 contracts, it could be very difficult to find capacity. Receiving homes are set up for this but regular homes are not. Jeff will carry this idea back to the CPA division for discussion and connect back with Pam.

Flu shots: The WAC is in place, though it was not in the April draft. Hearing about issues from families where a flu shot is medically contraindicated in the family or where personally opposed. Some families are changing licenses to 2+ voluntarily. Some initial contacts indicated that kids might be removed from homes if no compliance but this is not happening. If families don't change license or get shots, have to waive with admin approval. Darcy notes this WAC was initiated due to Department of Health/CDC recommendation. The question of what to do/how to handle when the flu season ends and shots are not available (May-June-July) the AG thinks a policy can address (vs. having to change the WAC).

Jeff also notes that CPAs need help navigating Adoption Services language in the WAC (training and staffing). Darcy will need to look at that specific language. Discussion of Prudent Parenting, related to parents who can provide permission ex. a field trip. Linda notes social workers dictating/needing education. Going against the goal of "normalization." Darcy also notes foster parents using PP vs. following supervision plan. Rod notes being told that BRS kids can't be under PP. Darcy and Doug both state that as long as it doesn't interfere with supervision plan, it's fine for common sense, normal activities/decisions.

**BRS Division:**

Extended Foster Care Workgroup will meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> and dive into the question of whether a placement for an 18+ kid takes a spot away from another potential placement. There is a change in liability when an adult is in a program designed for up to age 18. Even more complicated when a child leaves and then comes back. Jenny notes significant financial challenges with federal requirements (placement/case management). This is another area of education with legislators. Medical, DD, juvenile justice/adult – other states have these challenges too. Lots of grey areas. Connie sites an example of JJRA case going direct to Extended Foster Care when there's been no prior CA contact with the person. That case would otherwise go another direction – SSI, DDA, etc.

Other Items

Regular meeting schedule of BRS program managers and providers? It has not been consistent. Doug will assess; turnover in managers has probably led to inconsistency. Will follow up and help build.

**Adjourned 3:10 PM**