



**WACF CPA Division Meeting Minutes**  
**November 1st, 2018 9:30am to 11:30am**  
**Lutheran Community Services**  
**4040 South 188<sup>th</sup> Street, SeaTac WA 98188, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

<b>Members Present:</b> Jill May, Renee Johnson, Cindy Steele, Jeff Clare, Anna Thompson, Rose Quinby, Susan Brooke, Rosie Cullen, Joanne Stimson, Linda Thomas, Mark Fullington, Jennie Brusco, Nicole Mazon, Katie Ferguson, Ezechiel Bambolo	<b>Members on phone:</b> Bryttany Hemingway, Carla Arnold, Mikaela Chandler, Wes Patterson, Mike Canfield, Carly Baughn, Ray Deck
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions
<b>1. Agency Updates</b>		This item was skipped.
<b>2. Meet Rosie Cullen – WACF Public Policy Manager</b>	Rosie has spent most of her career working primarily with young people that have experienced foster care and homelessness, both working in drop-in centers and as a case manager. She has worked with a lot of youth in their transition years and helped them learn to be self-sufficient. Rosie has always been driven by the idea that she could have a greater impact by working on the larger, systemic issues that were impacting young people’s lives by doing more policy level and legislative work. The last two years she has worked at the Mockingbird Society helping young people with foster care experience advocate for changes in the system. Rosie is excited to work with WACF and support all the different agencies.	
<b>3. Debrief Meeting with Steve Grilli and Luba Bezborodnikova</b>	Jill, Rosie, and a few WACF members met with Steve, Luba, Barb Geiger, Holly Luna, and Brandy Otto yesterday. They talked about the FCFC project, moving forward, and how to partner with the state and reduce the amount of overlap. They also discussed how to better define the role of CPA’s and the CPA contract. It was the first conversation of hopefully, many. It was very helpful having Laurie Lippold there because she was able to bring some historical perspective of how things used to be vs. how they are now and legislation that has occurred. Jill’s overall sense was that they realize we have additional	

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	resources and they want to make use of those resources but they didn't walk away with any tangibles. It was encouraging that they seemed to be all-in on Binti licensing software and offered an opportunity to see the new program.	
<b>4. Discussion: Identifying the value of CPA's and tracking data to support it</b>	<p>There was a group that got together to come up with a list of things CPA's do that add value to the system. The discussion of their list lead to a conversation of what would be the best thing to track to show CPA's value-add to the state. It was decided we should track "well-being." Moving forward, we need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create definition of well-being</li> <li>2. Decide how to collect the data/which assessment tool to adopt</li> </ol> <p>It would be interesting to track length of stay in relationship to well-being as well.</p>	<p>Jill will come back with a recommendation on the definition of well-being.</p>
<b>5. Project Gratitude Update - Amara</b>	<p>Katie Ferguson gave an update on Project Gratitude. (The name will be changing this month). The idea of Project Gratitude was conceptualized by leadership wanting to engage the business community as an untapped resource. It was paired with the idea of the community having a lot of misconceptions around foster families. The idea was that businesses could offer a tangible show of support through a discount program. After receiving feedback from families, the strategy changed. The discounts were helpful but the families felt it was more about awareness. The scope was broadened to the Puget Sound area to focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing awareness of children in foster care</li> <li>2. Building community-wide support for fostering</li> </ol> <p>The goal of the initiative is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased awareness in general</li> <li>• greater public understanding of root causes that lead kids into care</li> <li>• increase in positive perception of foster families</li> <li>• caregivers feeling more supported by the community</li> <li>• public and businesses can see what their role is in support</li> <li>• increased positivity in the media and having more solutions-oriented media</li> </ul> <p>The next steps are to finish the brand develop, continue conversations with businesses, focus groups around the messaging to honor all groups involved (birth parents, foster parents, foster kids, and anyone who wraps around that child). Katie will share more materials and information soon.</p>	
<b>6. Issues with Obtaining Child File Information &amp; Partnership - Update</b>	<p>The issues of obtaining court orders and reports was discussed at the R5/R6 meeting. The reason for the difficulties was blamed on turnover. Deputy RA, John March, said to have birth parents sign an ROI to get the information. John</p>	<p>Jill will call Erin Shea McCann to consult and will consider another conversation with Connie.</p>

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	also said he would reach out to the AG and ask which statute is was that made the drastic change in information sharing.	
<b>7. Issues regarding Visitation billing</b>	<p>It was brought up that some agencies are having issues in R4/R5 because state workers are asking the agency not to bill for a missed visit because it's "excused". In the visitation contract they can bill for 3 missed visits in the contract period or the referral needs to be sent back. Agencies are losing money on the missed visits and asked if others are experiencing this and how they are handling it.</p>	
<b>8. Sharing Best Practices – TOPIC: Developing Families</b>	<p>Some of the ways agencies are trying to develop families are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCS Tahoma Center pilot program - Healing Homes – Give foster parents the tools they can use every day in their homes. A group has been identified and if CCS determines that they're making a difference, they'll add another group.</li> <li>• Olive Crest – CCT trainings to strategically help families get a new vision of what foster care really is, support dinners, support groups, frontload young employees with a lot of training.</li> <li>• CCS – Mockingbird Model important for developing foster homes, training for staff and foster parents, respite available instead of waiting for a crisis to happen.</li> <li>• CFSF – Regular trainings of foster parents, activities for foster parents to meet each other and get support, also builds a good system for respite.</li> <li>• Amara – Assessments help to prepare families and inform where families need to be supplemented, focus on training staff so they have a sense of what the process looks like from the kid's, birth family's, and foster family's perspectives, making sure the family understands what type of kids they're best prepared for.</li> </ul>	

Prepared by Linda Conchi