

**Joint Council Board Meeting  
December 19, 2007  
Conference Call**

**Attendees:** R. Gibson, H. Stultz, S. Cox, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, A. Schlicht, J. Ruben, R. Pearlman, K. Sacco, L. Wetterberg, N. Fox, J.Sciortino, K. Wallace

**Absent:** J. Peterson, D. Murphy-Scheumann, P. Singer

**Call to Order & Agenda:** R. Gibson at 11:09 AM EST

**Secretary's Report:** H. Stultz

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from November 7, 2007.  
N. Fox MOVED/ J. Rolsky SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

**CEO Report:** T. DiFilipo

Fundraising

A full report will be presented at the in-person January board meeting.

International Relations Initiative

*China*

A China caucus conference call was held last Friday.

*Russia*

Tom recently returned from a speaking engagement at the Ministry of Education Conference.

*Africa*

Joint Council will travel to Ethiopia and perhaps one other African country around the last week of January. Many thanks to Children's Home Society for their participation and financial contribution towards the trip.

*Nepal*

Efforts to assist in-process families are making some progress, it is estimated that it will take until August to get all the assigned children home. Discussion is underway to strategize about how to get the committee to process more than ten cases per week.

### *Vietnam Summit*

The summit was held at the end of November. Efforts were made to generate Standards of Practice that all Joint Council members working in Vietnam can adhere to. Joint Council anticipates travel to Vietnam in February to present the SOP to the International Adoption Department there along with DOS & CIS.

### *Guatemala*

The definitions needed to clarify the process for grandfathered cases have not been solidified. All parties are working towards finalizing them before 1/1/08. The goal is to structure the grandfather process to dovetail with the new law.

### Global Awareness Campaign

Conferences attended by Joint Council were reviewed during the last board call. The only additional one since that time was the one in Russia at the Ministry of Education.

Joint Council has recently participated in adoption related pieces that have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, NY Times, BBC & CNN.

### Staffing Update

Jennifer Mellon Peterson has resigned effective 12/31/07. Tom is working with the staff on a transition plan. Positions will be reconfigured to help Joint Council move forward in 2008.

### *Transition Planning Session, Thursday, December 20, 2007*

Jennifer Mellon Peterson & Meghan Hendy will come in to meet with Joint Council staff to assist with 2008 planning.

### *Additional Updates*

#### DOS

Joint Council, Firefly & Kidsave will be meeting today with Maura Harty regarding a position within DOS that would have one person responsible for policy for all international children's services. Joint Council will also attend the annual DOS celebration party tomorrow.

#### UNICEF

Tom went with David Pilgrim and Jim Hobman to meet with Alexandra Yuster at UNICEF in NY, as well as Karen Stiles, President of US UNICEF fund and Erin Greenberg from Better Care Network, along with six additional staff.

**Membership Drive 2008:** A. Schlicht

Membership applications are now available online. A comprehensive review of 2007 & 2008 membership will be conducted at the January in-person BOD meeting. Joint Council will request that all renewing members re-submit their 501(c)(3) to refresh internal documentation.

**Financial Report:** T. DiFilipo & J. Ruben

The financial summary statement emailed to the board was reviewed.

**Conference 2008:** J. Ruben

Conference planning is on pace. Further discussion will be held in January.

Exhibitor Booths & Journal Sponsorships

Forms are ready and staff have proactively reached out to all who had a table top or message ads in the past.

Conference Sponsorships

Tom & Joelle reviewed types of sponsorships that Joint Council has traditionally offered. Strategic changes were made to offer new opportunities. Sponsors so far include COA, Adoption.com, Morris & McDaniel, Adoption & Beyond, HagueAccreditation.com and a final answer from Insurance Services Group is expected within the next few weeks.

Registration Form Availability

Online registration fees are the same as 2007.

Confirmation of Keynote Speakers

Victoria Kelly & Janice Jacobs will both be speaking; staff are working with them to solidify topics.

CE's

Staff have a call this afternoon to know how many credits will be offered.

Going Green

Joint Council took a strategic look at conference materials that are distributed. This year will feature an online format for presentations that attendees can download & print vs. distributed hand-outs used in the past. The conference journal will still be made available.

**CIS/DOS Update:** T. DiFilipo

Joint Council will be having further discussions with USCIS regarding the situation in Guatemala. DOS has deposited the instrument for Hague ratification so the timeline is moving forward.

**COA/Hague Update:** J. Rolsky

Things will be quiet through January. COA has completed 2/3 to 3/4 of all on-site and desk reviews. No agencies have been rejected to date as COA has been requesting additional information.

**Research & Evaluation:** J. Ruben

*Webinar Series*

The webinar series was created based on 2007 conference comments. Members were requesting more information on management issues. As a result five presentations were brought in by outside contributors in the areas of grant writing, technology, strategic planning, and so forth.

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** R. Gibson

Next In-Person Board Meeting

January 7-9, 2008 at the River Inn hotel with meetings to be held at The Watergate.

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:26 PM EST.**

**L. Wetterberg      MOVED/ J. Sciortino SECONDED      PASSED by Majority**

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

**Action Items:**

**Open Action Items from July 11, 2007:**

1. R. Gibson, J. Rolsky, D. Murphy-Scheumann – examine the expansion of employee healthcare benefits.

**Open Action Items from May 8, 2007:**

1. T. DiFilipo, J. Peterson & R. Gibson – draft proposed language changes for by-law and policies/procedures that address the incorporation of the CEO title.

**Open Action Items from April 13, 2007:**

1. T. DiFilipo – email investment policy to the board for a vote.
2. BOD – acknowledge receipt, give comment and vote on proposed investment policy.

**Open Action Items from September 19, 2006:**

1. Staff and/or Education Committee – investigate post-adopt resources by state.