

**Joint Council Board Meeting
January 8, 2008
In Person**

Attendees: R. Gibson, H. Stultz, S. Cox, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, A. Schlicht, J. Ruben, P. Singer, R. Pearlman, K. Sacco, L. Wetterberg, N. Fox, J.Sciortino, K. Wallace, D. Murphy-Scheumann

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 9:04 AM EST

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

MOTION: To approve the minutes from December 19, 2007.

S. Cox MOVED/ K. Wallace SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Financial Report: J. Rolsky & J. Ruben

2007 Financial Report

2008 Proposed Budget Review

Financial realities for agencies and Joint Council were discussed. There is a need to identify and approach potential major donors.

MOTION: For passage of the revised 2008 budget as proposed.

K. Wallace MOVED/ S. Cox SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Nominating Committee Update: L. Wetterberg & D. Murphy-Scheumann

Nominees have until 1/18/08 to submit all required documentation.

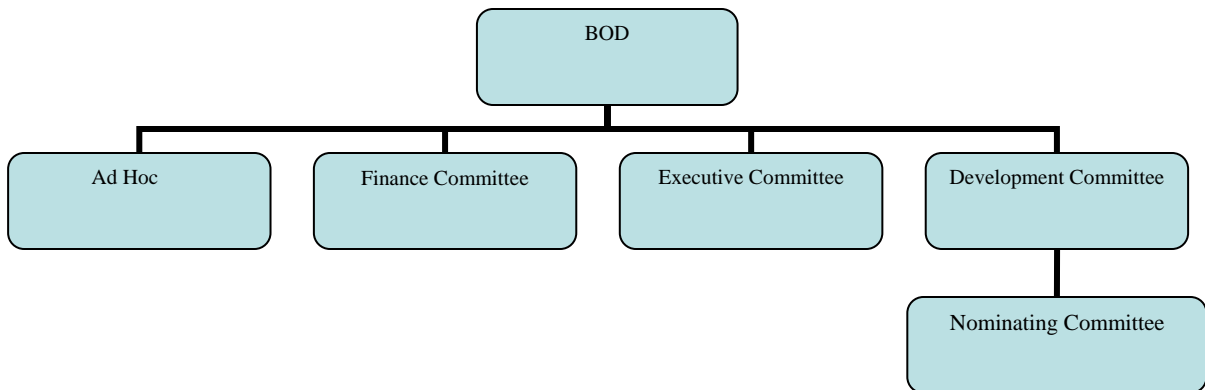
Structure of the Board & 2008 Committees: BOD

Diagram of Current Board Committee Structure

The Executive Committee and Nominating Committee are the only standing committees named in the bylaws. HR is covered by the Executive Committee. The formation of a Finance Committee to assist the treasurer with fiscal oversight and a Development Committee to set policies and goals for Joint Council around fundraising and strategic formation of funding streams was discussed. Once a Development Committee is formed, the Nominating Committee should be a working group that falls under that category as it involves BOD recruitment.

MOTION: To create a new committee structure as follows.

P. Singer MOVED/ S. Cox SECONDED PASSED Unanimously



Parameters

Development Committee: Develop resources to continue the mission of JCICS.

Finance Committee: Provide fiscal oversight and integrity for JCICS; to be chaired by the treasurer.

General Terms: At the discretion of the chairs, committee participants can include Board members, JCICS members and non-members.

Development Committee volunteers include Susan Cox as chair, Keith Wallace, Paul Singer, Richard Pearlman, and Deb Murphy-Scheumann.

Finance Committee volunteers include Jarod Rolsky as chair, Lynn Wetterberg.

Each committee will need to meet to develop a charter.

Bylaws

Discussion was held about discrepancies throughout the bylaws

MOTION: The proposal to the membership is that bylaws may be amended by a 3/5 vote of the BOD.

K. Wallaced MOVED/ D. Murphy-Scheumann SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

BOD Meetings: BOD

Timing/Structure

It was decided that 3 in-person meetings plus the conference will be held. Flight and hotel compensation for the conference will no longer be provided except by grant on a case by case basis. Structure of board meetings going forward will include CIS/DOS & pm BOD meeting on Day 1 and BOD meeting am-3pm of Day 2.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, April 12, 2008 – brief lunch at approximately 1pm to elect officers
Tuesday & Wednesday, June 24-25 – next in-person BOD meeting (beginning 1pm on 6/24 and ending 3pm 6/25)
Monday & Tuesday, September 15-16 – fall in-person BOD meeting

Fundraising: T. DiFilipo

COA/Hague Update: T. DiFilipo & J. Rolsky

Membership: A. Schlicht

2007 Membership Report

Trends since 2002, 2007 numbers, retention rates, demographics, geographical distribution, statistics and revenue were reviewed.

Joint Council has reached out to all state licensing boards but no feedback has been received to date.

Current 2008 Members vs. 2007 Contribution

Annual Report & Year in Review/Updates: T. DiFilipo

Annual Report

The annual report is still in progress due to staffing shortages.

Review

Vietnam Summit

Working on finalizing Standards of Practice for Vietnam

Ethiopia

Also working to develop Standards of Practice. Africa task force is assisting with this.

China

Conference call to discuss issues resulting from slowdown of referrals.

Guatemala

Tomorrow the Supreme Court should appoint their member to the Central Authority. Bienestar & the MFA have already done so. According to PGN there are 2,186 pending cases. Joint Council is still working with UNICEF, DOS and agencies to clarify definitions of grandfathered cases. Joint Council has also asked DOS & CIS to work together to modify their web statements regarding this situation.

UNICEF

Met with UNICEF in NY. Twelve representatives attended, eight of those were with the US fund for UNICEF. The fund has indicated that they plan to make a donation in Guatemala to assist with the care of the waiting children impacted by the delay.

CAFI Initiative

Joint Council is working with DOS on a Child and Family Initiative that will create a government position that has oversight of all child related policies. Part of this would include proper metrics to create a realistic picture of adoption.

Adoption Tax Credit

Joint Council is working with members of Congress to make this a permanent benefit. Lugar will reintroduce this legislation in the Senate if needed.

Russia

Tom and Jody were invited to the conference by the Ministry of Education to present on violence in adoption. Efforts to work with Interpol regarding accreditation proved to be difficult. Agencies who have received recent accreditation were able to convince the government to accept state police clearances.

CARA

Working with individual orphanages to join Joint Council.

Columbia

Eight children's homes are looking for assistance, may join Joint Council.

Mexico

Invited the First Lady to speak at the Joint Council conference, she is very pro-adoption. Trying to arrange a get-together for agencies and the government in Mexico City.

Ukraine

Joint Council has not been for a year. Joint Council has assisted with arranging foster care trainings there. This has expanded to a regional presentation for Eastern European countries.

Nepal

Cases are being released, but at the current rate it may take eight months to complete all 400 pending cases. Joint Council has made various offers to assist with reducing that timeframe.

Korea

Haiti

Achieved a reversal of DOS policy to keep adoptions open.

2008 Initiatives

- Adult Adoptee Institute during Annual Conference
- Adoptipedia

Caucus Structure: BOD

Discussed removal of board liaisons from April 2008 going forward now that the board is no longer in a management role.

Standards of Practice: J. Rolsky

Discussed the need for an Ethical Practice Statement (Code of Ethics) that is separate from the Standards of Practice. The SOP then also need revision in light of the Hague. Nancy, Jared & Jody will take a look at this.

MOTION: To recess the meeting at 4:24 PM EST.

R. Pearlman MOVED/ L. Wetterberg SECONDED PASSED by Majority

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

Action Items:

1. Staff – notify membership that dues can be broken into quarterly payments.
2. Development & Finance Committee – develop charters.
3. BOD – develop presentation for proposed bylaw change.
4. Staff – post proposed by-law change on members-only site.

5. A. Schlicht – prepare NCFA/ JCICS member analysis for February board meeting.
6. Finance Committee – set membership rate for state licensing bureaus.
7. Development Committee – investigate existence of organization representing state licensing adoption professionals.
8. Staff – finalize annual report.
9. Staff/BOD – determine who will coordinate conference caucus meetings.
10. J. Rolsky, N. Fox & J. Sciortino – craft ethical practice statement.
11. BOD – further discuss revising the SOP to incorporate current Hague standards.

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. 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 January 23, 2007:

1. J. Rolsky, J. Sciortino & Staff – solicit members to work on SOP Committee and submit enhancements for board vote.

Open Action Items from September 19, 2006:

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