

**Joint Council Board Meeting
July 11, 2007
Conference Call**

Attendees: R. Gibson, J. Sciortino, H. Stultz, J. Peterson, N. Fox, S. Cox, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, D. Murphy-Schuemann, J. Ruben, K. Wallace

Absent: R. Pearlman, K. Sacco, L. Wetterberg, A. Schlicht (staff)

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 3:11 PM EST

CEO Report: T. DiFilipo

International Relations Initiative

Nepal

During the trip to Nepal, the Joint Council delegation met with the party leader, Minister, Secretary, Vice Secretary, staff, families, and press over the course of three days. Meetings were also held with the Federation of Children's Homes, an NGO affiliated with 100 children's homes in Nepal. Most everyone present all share similar sentiments regarding the issues at hand, including the processing of the 400 worldwide pipeline cases. The Minister must authorize these cases before they can be completed. Most were also on like mind regarding suggested reforms to the adoption system such as transparency with fees, the creation of a true central authority, the ratification of the Hague Convention and the elimination of non-accredited agencies working in-country.

Vietnam Meeting in Bangkok

Joint Council may call a one or two day meeting of member agencies with Vietnam programs. The purpose would be to have a frank and open dialogue regarding the present issues that only agencies are in a position to address. Joint Council members are doing a large percentage of the placements.

India Letter & CARA Conference

The India caucus has been working on a letter that will go to CARA tomorrow. It asks for clarification on a few issues and also inquires regarding CARA conference details and how Joint Council might assist and/or participate.

Haiti

A resolution has been reached regarding language in the court decrees, all are now considered fully valid by USCIS. Joint Council is in the process of forming a working group to meet with IBESR regarding continued passport delays and general processing issues.

UNICEF Meeting

USDOS official Katherine Monahan accompanied Tom & Adam to meet with Alexandra Yuster. A long positive conversation was held about how Joint Council can work together with UNICEF in various countries around the world. Tom's goal is to engage them so they can observe adoptions being done properly.

Africa

A trip to Ethiopia, Kenya & Uganda has been tentatively scheduled for August 10-20.

Fundraising

Summer Ask – Annual Appeal

The summer ask letter has gone out and a few donations have already come in. A follow-up email will be going out this week. Then the BOD will be asked to make follow-up calls.

Financial Report: T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky & J. Ruben

Tom shared that the new contract accountant will be coming in to make some changes.

Board Expansion: T. DiFilipo

Tom hopes to present a name to serve on the board within the next few months, along with a revised policy that will be more applicable to all board members, including those who are not agency directors.

President's Advisory Council: T. DiFilipo & R. Gibson

It has been suggested that due to the success of the multiple Joint Council delegation trips to Guatemala and Russia, Joint Council create a President's Advisory Council. This council would include a standing group of representatives from Joint Council members that could help pool resources to help advocate for children and advance specific projects that are in line with the strategic plan and mission of Joint Council. Tom has drafted an outline that clearly defines the role of the BOD, the caucuses and this proposed group.

Executive Director's Report: J. Peterson

Conference

2008 Keynote & Speakers

Jennifer needs additional BOD feedback regarding potential keynotes to contact; would like to solidify a speaker within the next two months. Names for new presenters and fresh topics are also needed. The deadline for RFP's is September 10, 2007.

2007 Conference Location

Tom, Jennifer and Jean Marie will be going to see the Holiday Inn on the Hill on Monday.

Intern

Joint Council is pleased to have Musu Hadad, a refugee from Liberia as a summer intern. She will be working with Joint Council for about another 6 weeks.

Membership

Report

There are 236 members to date. Once all exit surveys are completed the BOD will be provided with a list of follow-up calls to make to non-renewing members. The exit surveys have generated at least three renewals, two were agencies and one was a medical clinic who simply forgot to renew.

Adoption Tax Credit: J. Peterson

Jennifer is hoping to meet with CCAI and staffers on the Hill to advocate for the removal of the sunset clause from the adoption tax credit bill.

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

Action items were reviewed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from June 13, 2007.

J. Rolsky MOVED/ N. Fox SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

COA Update: J. Rolsky

COA has fully scheduled all applicants through October. They will be doing upwards of 10-15 reviews per week during the busiest periods. There are times available for agencies who want their review to take place beyond mid-October, however they cannot guarantee that those organizations will appear on the final list published during the first quarter of 2008. There have been some staff changes as Beth Rubenstein has gone to graduate school and been replaced by Elizabeth Spinoza. There are continued requests for DOS to clarify intent/definition of various regulations, but things have been quiet as most organizations are working on their self-studies and getting ready for site reviews.

Parent Prep System: J. Peterson

There are only a few copies left of the current parent preparation manual. Before it goes to print again it is clear that it needs to be updated. Kathy & Jody will be reviewing it and

seeing whether or not it also needs to go to the Education Committee for suggested changes.

Upcoming Board Meetings: R. Gibson

Next In-Person Board Meeting

The next in-person board meeting will be held August 28 & 29, 2007. A joint meeting with DOS & CIS has been scheduled at 2 PM the afternoon of August 27. Everyone will meet at the hotel at 1 PM. The board meeting will start the following morning at 8AM and will conclude on Wednesday at 3PM. Tecker Consultants will be present, they are the firm that assisted the board in drafting the current strategic plan.

Flights

Flights booked in advance will be reimbursed immediately upon receipt. The BOD is encouraged to book flights ASAP.

Rooming List to Joelle by July 16th

Rooming preferences should be submitted to Joelle as soon as possible.

Budget & Folders

The budget and board information packets will be sent out to the BOD members mid-August. The BOD should read these ahead of time and bring them to the in-person meeting.

Next Board Call

Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 3:00 PM

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:26 PM EST.

N. Fox MOVED/ J. Sciortino SECONDED PASSED by Majority

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secry

Action Items:

1. T. DiFilipo – email proposed plan for the President’s Advisory Council to the BOD.
2. BOD – give feedback regarding the proposed President’s Advisory Council.
3. R. Gibson, J. Rolsky, D. Murphy-Scheumann – examine the expansion of employee healthcare benefits.
4. Staff – send out board packets mid-August.

Open Action Items from June 13, 2007:

1. BOD – send suggestions for 2008 Conference Keynote speaker, presenters and new workshop topics to Tom or Jennifer.
2. J. Peterson – distribute list of follow-up calls for the BOD to make to non-renewing members by the August meeting.
3. Staff – make recommendations to the BOD regarding potential volunteers for additional review committee to be formed.
4. BOD – book flights for August meeting ASAP and email rooming preferences to Joelle by July 16th.

Open Action Items from May 8, 2007:

1. BOD – liaisons for caucus/committees that do not have a chair, please contact and see if one can be elected this week.
2. 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 January 24, 2007:

1. Staff – investigate feedback on Morris & McDaniel and report back to the board.

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.