

JCICS Board Meeting
July 16, 2008
Conference Call

Attendees: A. Hayo, H. Stultz, S. Cox, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, A. Rough, J. Ruben, R. Gibson, K. Sacco, K. Wallace, T. Fleeson, L. Brownlee, K. Altwies Nicholson, N. Fox

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 3:05 PM EST

Financial Report: T. DiFilipo

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

Action items were reviewed.

Board Committee Updates: S. Cox

Development

Susan is working with staff to contact NASAP (National Association of State Adoption Providers) and invite them to become a member of JCICS.

Grievance Policy

Keith has not yet received any comments. Some were forwarded to the main office and others are pending. Discussion took place regarding the phrasing of the opening line.

Firefly

Firefly has all the documents they requested from JCICS for the first round review. Kristine is now waiting to receive the documents requested by JCICS from Firefly.

CEO Report: T. DiFilipo

Conference

Plans for next year's annual conference continue to be underway.

Africa

Tom's most recent trip was to Rwanda & Ethiopia.

Rwanda

Gladney & Saddleback church attended the trip to Rwanda. Adoptions are moving forward there. Most likely the government will limit the number of agencies working there to five worldwide, with two of them being from the U.S.. Tom was able to tour an orphanage and found it to have one of the poorest levels of care he has seen to date.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia was considering a suspension of adoptions. The meetings held seemed to have deterred the government from a closure to a reduction of adoption service providers from 70 to 40. At least a dozen will be delisted as they do not offer a broad range of child welfare services there. The issue of whether or not agencies need to be Hague Accredited was also raised by some officials.

The standards of practice developed by JCICS were well received; two of the ministries (MOJ & MFA) communicated their desire to continue and strengthen their relationship with JCICS. To that end they have strongly encouraged JCICS to have an official representative on the ground to be present in Addis. This is not covered in the current budget so JCICS must rely on fundraising and a request to help fund this position will be included in the annual ask.

Rental Space

The landlord of the current office space has been spoken to and JCICS will increase the square footage rented there as of September 1, 2008.

Staffing

Interviews for additional staffing will begin taking place this week.

COA/Hague Update: J. Rolsky

It has become increasingly clear that the COA appeal process is not effective. It appears that once an agency is denied Hague Accreditation there is no significant way to try to change the outcome. There are concerns that COA has become increasingly less responsive since JCICS has raised this issue. Tom will investigate this further upon his return to the U.S. It was also mentioned that it does not appear that any agencies have been able to begin doing the required data tracking.

Discussion took place regarding how agencies are advertising their Hague Accreditation status or lack thereof; how to guide families who are working with two agencies when only one is accredited and the perception that JCICS is making trouble overseas for non-Hague members.

Next Board Meeting

Board Call

The next board call will be held August 13, 2008 at 3PM EST.

In-Person

The next in-person board meeting will be held September 15 & 16, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

Action Items:

1. T. DiFilipo – follow-up with COA regarding the current structure of the accreditation appeal process.
2. BOD – email Taylor with travel plans for the September in-person board meeting ASAP.

Action Items from June 25, 2008:

1. N. Fox, R. Pearlman, R. Gibson, & J. Rolsky – create CEO assessment tool within the next four weeks.
2. Staff – investigate offering a webinar on legal advice for agencies contemplating closure or merger.

Action Items from June 24, 2008:

1. R. Gibson & J. Rolsky – examine the expansion of employee healthcare benefits.
2. Staff – survey membership as to whether they anticipate being in business next year.
3. T. DiFilipo – send statement regarding members advertisement of pending Hague status to Executive Committee for review.
4. Staff – post finalized Hague status statement on JCICS website.
5. BOD – provide feedback to K. Wallace regarding draft grievance policy.

Open Action Items from April 23, 2008:

1. Staff – notify BOD 24-48 hours before new website goes live.

Open Action Items from January 9, 2008:

1. Ethics Committee – review current SOP to revise sub par standards to Hague language.

Open Action Items from January 8, 2008:

1. J. Rolsky, N. Fox – review Golden Cradle model and craft ethical practice statement.
2. BOD – further discuss revising the SOP to incorporate current Hague standards.