

JCICS Board Meeting
June 13, 2007
Conference Call

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

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

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

Action items were reviewed.

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from May 8, 2007.
R. Pearlman MOVED/ J. Sciortino SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

CEO Report: T. DiFilipo

International Relations Initiative

Guatemala

Guatemala has reaffirmed the Hague. JCICS is working with DOS, the Hague Permanent Bureau and the Guatemala Congress to organize a working group that can make any necessary revisions to the proposed legislation as opposed to drafting something completely new. A JCICS member posted a recent warning statement from the UN regarding Guatemalan adoptions, which seems to just be a reiteration of the stand they have been taking right along.

Nepal

Nepal has been a fairly active program, but has recently closed due to the new Maoist government that has assumed leadership there. It appears that they were not familiar with how to process international adoptions so they have stopped cases altogether for the time being. However, new adoption friendly legislation has been introduced that will help ease restrictions on adoptive parents and clarify some previously gray areas. There are approximately 400-500 cases worldwide that are caught in the pipeline, approximately 200 of those are US families. JCICS may travel to Nepal at the end of the month with Holt and Faith International to meet with various ministries and officials to address the cases in question as well as creating a more transparent process going forward. President Carter will be there around the same time; as such JCICS has contacted a senator to ask the President to address this issue during his trip.

Haiti

JCICS has been working with DOS to resolve the extremely lengthy timeframes in obtaining passports for adoptees. Currently this is the longest part of the adoption

process. Dialogue is being held with various ministries and offices to understand why this is the case and how the timeframes can be shortened. Another problem involves that fact that USCIS used to turn a blind eye to the fact that the language in the court decrees did not specifically say irrevocable. Now USCIS is requesting that the wording be changed, but trying to get courts in Haiti to do this is very problematic. Efforts are being made to address this with USCIS by having birth parents issue irrevocable relinquishments. Keith will work with staff on this issue as even US court decrees do not use “irrevocable” language.

India

CARA will be holding a conference in India this fall. JCICS will be writing a letter to them indicating that we would be willing to speak. JCICS may also seek to visit China, Vietnam and/or Nepal during this same trip.

Africa

DOS is working with JCICS to assist with arranging potential trips to Ethiopia, Uganda and possibly South Africa.

Other

On June 26th JCICS will be meeting with Alexandra Yuster, a representative from UNICEF. The “Children on the Other Shore” documentary will be released the same day. Representatives from the Russian Consulate in NY as well as DOS will attend. The hope is to organize similar events in Chicago and DC.

Fundraising

Build-A-Bear Campaign

JCICS is expecting the donation from this event to arrive by the end of the month.

Summer Ask

JCICS will be asking agencies to support the Global Awareness Campaign and the International Relations Initiative again. A letter will be going out within the next couple of weeks, and then the BOD will be requested to assist with follow-up calls. 75 agencies responded last year. If each would support these programs with ½ of a 10th of a percent, JCICS would raise \$80,000. A few members have already indicated that they will offer matching funds.

Executive Director’s Report: J. Peterson

Conference

2007 Conference CE Evaluations

The results of the CE Evaluations at the conference have been compiled and emailed to the board. These results are confidential and will help direct conference planning for future years. The most significant complaint was that many of the workshop topics and presenters are the same from years past; attendees would like to see more variety.

2008 Keynote

Tom and Jennifer will be going to see the Holiday Inn on the Hill on July 16. It is a tighter space than the Hyatt was. Staff are in need of suggestions for keynote and workshop speakers. Discussion was held about how to increase variety in the topics and to include a quality business track.

Committees and Caucuses

Every caucus and committee needs a chair. Though each group may not always be active, there needs to be a leadership structure in place should any issues arise during the year.

Membership

Report

Presently there are 232 active members. Exit surveys have been sent out to those who did not renew. A good percentage of those were medical clinics and after some follow-up calls many have started to renew. In most cases there had either been a change in management or the renewal application was still sitting on someone's desk. Jennifer is compiling a list of follow-up calls for the BOD. Other non-renewals were due to agency closure, merges or lack of financial resource. Presently there are 9 affiliates. Two of those are agencies waiting for their 501c3 approval. Others are attorneys going through Hague, one is a database company, another is DNA diagnostic, and then there are a few students. JCICS will make efforts to recruit more students and retirees from the adoption community, as well as begin reaching out to NGO's in other countries.

Half-Year/Half-Off

The Half-Year/Half-Off promotion is in full swing. This is to recruit all potential new members who have not been a part of JCICS for at least the past 3 years. They will be able to participate in JCICS from June to January for half the cost.

Financial Report: J. Rolsky & J. Ruben

The year to date new income is 23% ahead of what was budgeted. Presently the net income is \$134,000. Income is down slightly as compared to a year ago, however, this is due to the fact that JCICS was firm with the conference fee deadline this year. Additional assests are anticipated with the Build-A-Bear donation as well as support for the IRI program. Expenses are below budget for the month despite several one time expenses for summer, such as registration for the UNICEF NGO committee. The CD's were just consolidated last week, so until formal confirmation is received this information will not

appear in the budget. Additionally, JCICS will be contracting with a new CPA to consult with on an as needed basis.

Benefits & Phone Compensation: R. Gibson

Healthcare Benefits

A few rounds of conversation and email exchange were held on these topics. Regarding employee healthcare benefits it was determined that JCICS could not make any changes given the short window of time before the new enrollment period. Those who wish to volunteer to take a closer look at this issue should contact Rick. It was suggested that the ad-hoc committee examine this for the CEO/President, who would then determine what the benefits would be for all other staff.

Telephone

An online vote was held that increased the budget by \$1000 to cover the increased cost of cell phone usage. Included in this figure is a \$150/month stipend for the CEO/President's cell phone. The vote was unanimous.

Review Committee & Complaints: T. DiFilipo & J. Peterson

JCICS is beginning to receive new complaints and the existing Review Committee is already overworked. It was recommended that an additional committee be formed to handle new complaints. Staff have already begun to reach out to various individuals to serve in this capacity. Recommendations will be made to the BOD once potential volunteers have been identified.

It was suggested that staff report back to the BOD quarterly or bi-annually regarding the number of complaints filed, significant patterns, and whether or not the complaints are originating from adoptive parents and/or members.

CIS & DOS Staffing Update: T. DiFilipo & J. Peterson

Ellen Conway & Chris Lamora will be leaving their current DOS positions in July. In addition DOS is losing other key staffers on the bi-lateral side such as Jill Larson. Kemy Monahan will remain in her position through 2009. Additionally, Lisa Lopez will be changing positions within CIS and will no longer be involved with international adoptions. It is anticipated that the BOD will be able to meet the individuals filling these vacancies at the board meeting in August.

COA Update: J. Rolsky

COA is solidly scheduled with reviews through November 5, 2007. There are only about 5 or 6 agencies that could've been scheduled who are presently unscheduled. In addition there are approximately 40 agencies with unreturned agreements that have not yet made a decision whether or not they plan to pursue Hague accreditation. Jared is monitoring the Hague listserv, de-identifying questions and then submitting them to COA so they can be

aware of what the current issues are. Discussion was held about the number of organizations who are still not grasping basic timelines and concepts and how JCICS can reach out to them.

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 16th

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

Next Board Call

Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 3:00 PM

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:44 PM EST.

R. Pearlman MOVED/ N. Fox SECONDED PASSED by Majority

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secry

Action Items:

1. T. DiFilipo – send talking points to BOD for Summer Ask follow-up calls.
2. BOD – send suggestions for 2008 Conference Keynote speaker to Tom or Jennifer.
3. J. Peterson – distribute list of follow-up calls for the BOD to make to non-renewing members by the July meeting.
4. BOD – contact Rick if willing to participate on an ad-hoc committee to examine employee healthcare benefits.
5. Staff – make recommendations to the BOD regarding potential volunteers for additional review committee to be formed.

6. BOD – book flights for August meeting ASAP and email rooming preferences to Joelle.

Open Action Items from May 8, 2007:

1. BOD – send minutes from committee/caucus meetings to Jennifer.
2. BOD – liaisons for caucus/committees that do not have a chair, please contact and see if one can be elected this week.
3. BOD – send a post to assigned caucus/committee to introduce self as liaison and also introduce caucus/committee chair.
4. T. DiFilipo, J. Peterson & R. Gibson – draft proposed language changes for by-law and policies/procedures that address the incorporation of the CEO title.
5. J. Peterson – email call list of non-renewing members to the BOD.
6. J. Peterson – submit feedback from exit surveys to the BOD.

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.