

JCICS Board Meeting  
June 28, 2006  
In Person

**Attendees:** M. Hendy, R. Gibson, J. Sciortino, R. Pearlman, D. Murphy-Scheumann, L. Wetterberg, H. Stultz, L. Vollman, K. Wallace, J. Peterson

**Absent:** S. Wu (e), S. Pitkowsky (e)

**Call to Order & Agenda:** R. Gibson at 8:33 AM EST

**Introductions & Overview of Board Operations:** M. Hendy & R. Gibson

An overview and refresher of board duties and the knowledge based governance approach as previously presented by Tecker Consultants were discussed.

Discussion was held about member feedback regarding the strategic plan and doing an annual survey with targeted questions to keep a pulse on member perspectives.

Strategic Plan Goals

1. Public Awareness & Outreach
2. Membership Services
3. Collaboration
4. Advocacy
5. Association Funding

**Staffing Update:** M. Hendy

Jessica Clark is no longer with JCICS. Two interviews to fill the position have been conducted and a third is scheduled for Thursday. The hope is to have someone hired by July or August. Since the position is not entry level, it may require additional funding.

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

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from May 10, 2006.**

**L. Wetterberg            MOVED/ K. Wallace SECONDED            PASSED Unanimously**

**Mega Issue: With the membership initiative failing to pass in April, is this an issue the Board would like to revisit? Is this plan the best way for JCICS to reach its goals as outlined in the strategic plan and spend its energy?**

Article IV – Membership

Original Wording:

The corporation shall consist of organizational members.

Organizational membership shall include any non-profit North American organization or US licensed, non-profit agencies that directly or indirectly arrange for intercountry adoption placements; or provide pre-placement or post-placement services; or provide adoptive parent support services, that are concerned with international adoption, or provide services to children in countries other than Canada and the United State. Each member organization shall have one vote.

#### Proposed Wording

(Part 1) Organizational membership shall include any non-profit organization that provides permanency services for children, including but not limited to, adoption agencies and home study or post-placement service providers, adoptive parent support groups, medical clinics providing services to internationally adopted children and their families, and child welfare advocacy organizations focused on permanency for children. Each member organization shall have one vote.

(Part 2) An affiliate non-voting status is permitted as approved by the Board of Directors.

#### Rationale:

Part 1 – By clarifying the organizational membership section in the bylaws and expanding eligibility to organizations outside of North America, JCICS will be able to continue our existing structure while ensuring JCICS is a global entity with representation in various countries.

Part 2 – Creating an affiliate non-voting status will allow individuals to join JCICS demonstrating their commitment to the mission and cause of permanency for children. This would allow students, retired agency professionals, and for-profit entities to join at an affiliate level receiving fewer benefits than the core organizational membership, but still affording them an opportunity to be involved in the organization. More detail and criteria would be explained in the Affiliate Membership Policy.

Discussion was held that the bylaw change did not pass because not enough people voted. It required 66% approval to pass, but only received 60% approval. Feedback at the business meeting requested that under Part 1, the phrase “including, but not limited to” be removed, to clearly maintain the core membership.

**MOTION: Whereas the BOD of JCICS desires to be consistent with its strategic plan; and whereas JCICS seeks to expand its ability to advocate on behalf of children; and whereas JCICS desires to diversify revenue sources to broaden its collaborative reach, be it therefore resolved that the proposed wording of Article IV – Membership be changed to:**

**(Part 1) Organizational membership shall include any non-profit organization that provides permanency services for children, whose goals and policies are consistent**

**with the JCICS mission and values, including adoption agencies and home study or post-placement service providers, adoptive parent support groups, medical clinics providing services to internationally adopted children and their families, and child welfare advocacy organizations focused on permanency for children. Each member organization shall have one vote and be entitled to full membership benefits.**

**(Part 2) An affiliate non-voting status is permitted as approved by the Board of Directors and will have affiliate benefits.**

**K. Wallace MOVED/L. Vollman SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

Committee: Sam, Lynn, Richard & Heather

- Flush out member vs. affiliate benefits
- Review affiliate policy
- Propose affiliate fees
- Plan targeted communication to the membership

Complete by August 15<sup>th</sup> so membership can complete vote by September 8<sup>th</sup> and everything will be in place for the fall membership drive.

**Mega Issue: How can JCICS prepare for the unexpected and ensure that an unforeseen leadership transition is handled as smoothly as possible and will help JCICS become even stronger?**

Meghan attended workshop that addressed succession planning put on by Transition Guides. She will request that the company draft an RFP to present this topic to members at the next annual conference.

A sample Emergency Succession Plan from the Center for Nonprofit Advancement was reviewed. Meghan & Rick will fill in the blanks for future board review and will check it against the current policies and procedure.

Meghan's maternity leave plan was reviewed.

**Financial Report:** L. Vollman & M. Hendy

Two sets of financials were reviewed, one from January 1, 2006-May 31, 2006 and January 1, 2006-June 23, 2006.

Meghan spoke to auditor about having \$100,000 in Bank of America. For a specific account it is not best practice, but given the security of this bank it will be left as is.

Children's Charities for 2006

JCICS is a part of Children's Charities, which is a Federal workplace giving program. A few years ago JCICS' operating name was changed to Adoptions International – Joint

Council. JCICS used to take in about \$3,000 and now takes in \$15,000-\$16,000. A large portion of the donors were US staff overseas.

The cut off for the percentage of the budget allocated for administration is 25%. JCICS' 990 form for 2005 reflects that administrative costs were 28%. JCICS will apply again this year in July/August, but to receive funds the Office of Personnel Management must approve an exception for this year. The JCICS' auditor may have misallocated some budget items under administrative that were misappropriated. He offered to do an amended 990 and was requested to write a letter to Children's Charities to explain the budget categorizations. Meghan recommends that JCICS find a new auditor as discussed in the past for best practice. The BOD should be aware that this will cost about \$5,000 more.

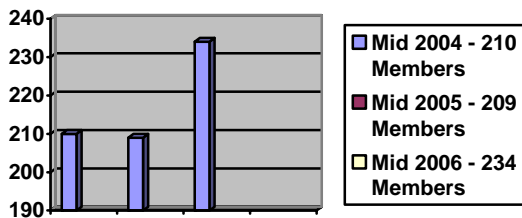
**Fundraising Report: Reynolds & Rowe**

Tom sent a Power Point to Meghan but it did not come through, and he is currently in Russia. The report will be sent out to the BOD upon his return around July 10. He will be focusing more on fundraising after his international trips have concluded.

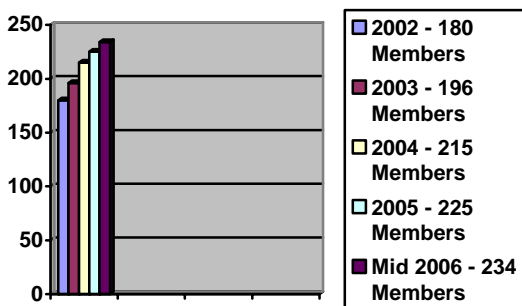
**Membership Report: J. Peterson**

JCICS membership is at an all time high!

Mid Year Membership Trends



Year End Membership Trends



Mid Year – 2006 Summary

- 234 Members

- **25 New Members**
- 209 members renewed from 2005
- 15 members did not renew in 2006

#### Retention Rate

- Currently have a **93.3%** retention rate (goal of 90% higher)
- Board called 15 non-renewing members
- Staff sent letter and application packets

#### Goals for 2006

- Goals
  - o Increase new membership by 18% or more = 40 new members
    - **By June 2006, JCICS has 25 new members**
  - o Keep retention rate at 90% or higher
    - **By June 2006, retention for 2006 at 93.3%**
- Recruiting Strategy
  - o Half Year/Half Price
    - **Recruitment packets sent to 176 organizations** (many in Canada, several medical clinics and adoptee organizations)
    - **In 2005, sent packets to 30 organizations, 14 became members**
- Retention Strategy
  - o 15 members did not renew in 2006
    - **Letter with application and reminder emails sent from staff to all 15 organizations**
    - **Personal phone calls from Board**
    - **Exit survey**

#### Membership Dues

Membership Dues to Date = \$207,936.31

Budget is \$210,000

- need \$2,063.69
- non-renewing members = \$10,189.00

Jennifer is confident JCICS will meet goal with half year/half off program. Many new members that joined this year were not agencies and pay less in dues.

#### 2006 Member Demographics

- 25 new members
  - o 13 new agencies
    - Total = 188/ Last Year = 188/no change
  - o 5 new parent/ advocacy groups

- Total = 24/ Last Year = 21/ increase 14.3%
  - 7 new medical clinics
    - Total = 22/ Last Year = 16/increase 37.5%

- **JCICS Members are located in 41 states and 2 members in Canada**

### 2006 New Members

- ABA Adoption Services, Inc. (Miami, FL)
- Adopt Abroad, Inc. (Nutley, NJ)
- AdoptionLink (Jewish Family Service of Greater Springfield, MA, Inc.)
- Adoptions of Indiana (Carmel, IN)
- Adoptive Family Services, Inc. (Cross Lanes, WV)
- Angels' Haven Outreach (Santa Clarita, CA)
- Center for Adoption Policy (Rye, NY)
- Children of the World, Inc. (Fairhope, AL)
- Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois (Rockford, IL)
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)
- Children's Hospital and Research Center of Oakland (Oakland, CA)
- Claar Foundation (Boulder, CO)
- Decolores Adoption Agency (Lake Charles, LA)
- Focus on Adoption, Inc. (Philadelphia, PA)
- Home At Last Adoption Agency (Cocoa Beach, FL)
- Korean American Adoptive Family Network (KAAN) (El Dorado Hills, CA)
- Laurelwood Pediatrics (Memphis, TN)
- Oregon Health & Science University Adoption Health Services (Portland, OR)
- 'R Kids, Inc. (New Haven, CT)
- Texas Children's Health Center for International Adoption (Houston, TX)
- The ICD Child Center for Growth & Development (New York, NY)
- The Theraplay Institute (Wilmette, IL)
- UAB International Medical Center (Birmingham, AL)
- University of Virginia Children's Medical Center (Charlottesville, VA)
- Vietnamese Orphans Relief Fund (Cleveland, OH)

### State/Country Demographics

WA – 8  
 OR – 7  
 ID – 1  
 MT – 1  
 CA – 18  
 AZ – 2  
 UT – 4  
 WY – 2  
 CO – 5  
 NM – 1

TX – 9  
 OK – 2  
 KS – 3  
 NE – 1  
 MN – 4  
 IA – 1  
 MO – 1  
 LA – 2  
 WI – 6  
 IL – 13  
 TN – 4  
 AL – 3  
 MI – 5  
 IN – 6  
 KY – 3  
 OH – 8  
 GA – 6  
 FL – 12  
 HI – 1  
 SC – 3  
 NC – 6  
 VA – 7  
 DC – 2  
 MD – 12  
 WV – 2  
 DE – 1  
 PA – 11  
 NJ – 5  
 CT – 8  
 NY – 22  
 MA – 13  
 Canada – 2

Membership Statistics

<b>Organization Size</b>	<b>Percent of Members</b>	<b>Percent of Revenue</b>
0-25 (\$478)	22.2% (52)	12%
26-50 (\$635)	19.2% (45)	14%
51-75 (\$955)	12.3% (29)	13%
76-125 (\$1276)	8.1% (19)	12%
126-175 (\$1596)	5.5% (13)	10%
176-250 (\$2389)	5.5% (13)	15%
250+ (\$3187)	6.4% (15)	23%
Parent/Advocacy\$105/\$210	10.6% (25)	2%
Medical Clinics (\$210)	9.4% (22)	2%

## New Benefits

- ReadyConference – Conference Calling and Web Conferencing Services  
Conference calling will be offered to our membership at the competitive rate of \$.06 per minute and web conferencing will be offered at \$.08 per minute.
- Corporate Express – Discount Office Supplies: Corporate Express is a low cost office supply company which will offer our members discounted rates and free next-business-day delivery.
- Online Employment Systems – Online Policy and Procedure Delivery Solution:  
Online Employment Systems (OES) is a web-based company that offers a unique online human resource information delivery tool. OES will be offering this tool to JCICS members at a discounted rate.
- Mondial Translation & Interpreting: Is a foreign language translation and interpreting and website localization firm. Mondial Translation & Interpreting is offering their services to JCICS members at a discounted rate.

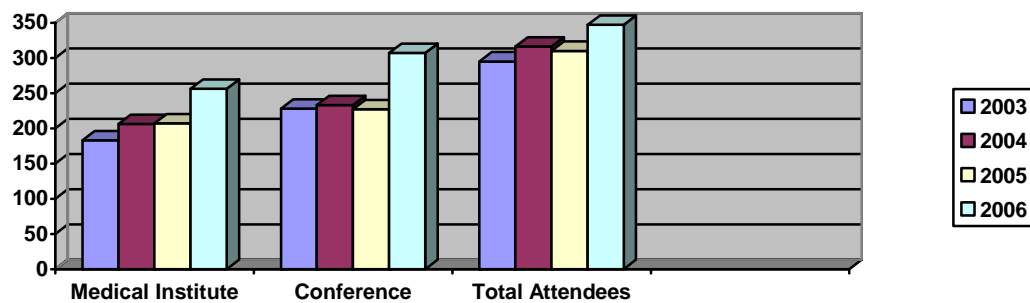
UPDATE: DHL Express – Audit is complete and over 55 members needed to be recoded.

Jennifer has been in regular contact with Robin Castle at DHL. Of the 77 JCICS members signed up, 55 were improperly coded due to human error. 8 old members were removed from the benefit list, and the 55 will receive cash reimbursements. Members can receive up to a 40% discount. Staff investigated a Fed Ex discount, but they rejected the proposal.

Jennifer has been reaching out to the largest JCICS members this week to ask what benefits would be most helpful to them to make their membership worthwhile.

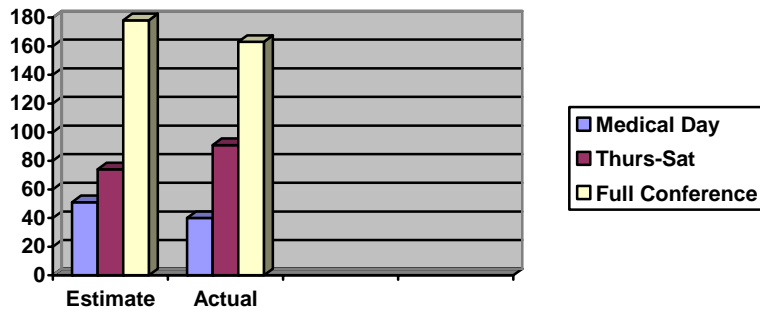
## **2006 Conference Recap: M. Hendy**

### Conference Attendance (2003-2006)





## Attendance – Estimated vs. Actual



Estimated Attendance – 303

Actual Attendance – 370

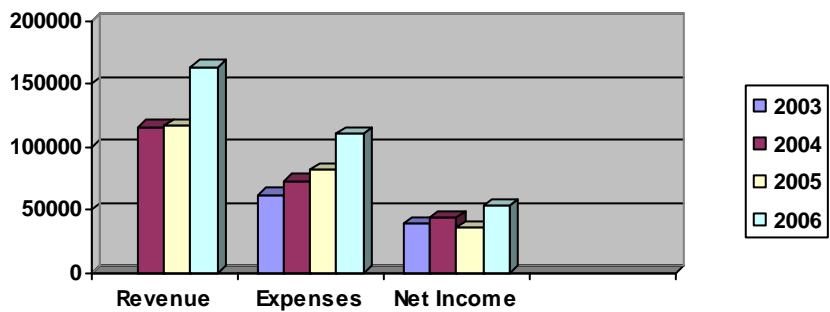
- No cost increase from 2005
- Discounted non-member rate so it was more attractive
- Conservative with our estimates of the number of attendees (estimated an increase 12%)
  - o 2003-2004 increase of 7%
  - o 2004-2005 increase of 1%
  - o 2005-2006 **increase of 22%**
- Why the increase?
  - o Hague topics/ relevancy in field
  - o Improved planning and communication ahead of time
  - o Track system
- 2006 – Out of total attendees only 332 paid
  - o 38 were speakers, exhibitors, comp. tickets and staff which doesn't add to the bottom line

## Attendance Breakdown

- 170 organizations attended (Increase can be attributed to advanced planning, more materials and a track system)
- Organizations brought anywhere from 1-12 employees
  - o Average = 2
- 19 Non Members (excluding exhibitors)
  - o Adoption Network Law Center
  - o America World Adoption Association
  - o Doubleday Broadway Publishing Group
  - o The Assistant Stork
- Other Attendees
  - o US CIS
  - o DHs
  - o CCAI
  - o COA

- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), India
- States with the Most Attendees
  - MD – 35
  - CA – 24
  - PA – 23
  - NY – 22
  - IL – 17
  - TX – 16
  - MA - 15

Financial Report



- Revenue
  - 2003 - \$100,207
  - 2004 - \$115,968
  - 2005 - \$116,546
  - **2006 - \$163,425**
- Expenses
  - 2003 - \$61,809
  - 2004 - \$72,888
  - 2005 - \$81,298
  - **2006 - \$110,196**
- Net Income
  - 2003 - \$38,398
  - 2004 - \$48,080
  - 2005 - \$35,248
  - **2006 - \$53,228**

Income Breakdown

- Registration Fees = \$135,425.07
- Other Income = \$28,000
  - Journal Sponsorships = \$5,225
  - Exhibits - \$6,775
  - Conference Sponsors = \$16,000

- Gala Income = \$13, 689.98
- Gala Expenses = \$16,018.60
  - o Total Loss = \$2,328.62
- Conference Profit = \$53,228.79
- Minus Gala Loss = \$2,328.62

**NET PROFIT = \$50,900.17**

### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

- Projected a \$5,000-\$10,000 loss
- Actual loss - \$2,328
- Income = \$13,689.98
  - o Table Sponsorships - \$5,050
  - o Seat Sales - \$4,450
  - o Silent Auction Revenue - \$2,654
  - o Program Advertisements - \$1,050
  - o Donations - \$490
- Expenses = \$16,018.60
  - o Reception - \$245
  - o Plated Dinner & Wine - \$13,942
  - o Entertainment - \$100
  - o Decorations - \$1,066
  - o Printed Materials (invitations and program) - \$664

### Goals Accomplished

- New design of Conference Website – began promoting conference earlier than any previous conference!
- \$50,900 in net income
- Distributed handout packet for Medical Institute & Workshops
- Expanded Exhibitor Hall
- Introduced Track System for Workshops
- Hosted 30<sup>th</sup> Year Gala with over 170 attendees
- Conducted 2 Hague sessions
- As per member request, initiated 2 new caucus/committees which now have listservs (Africa & Local Service Agencies)

### Feedback Analysis

101 Responses (30% of attendees)

### POSITIVES

### ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Medical Institute had excellent presenters
- Attendees enjoyed the handouts & bags
- Pre-Conference Communication and check-in overwhelmingly awarded "5s"
- Appreciated the increased diversity of topics
- Exhibitors were great, continue to have Exhibitor Hall
- Did not like the weekend format
- Business meeting was too long on a Saturday afternoon
- Hotel too expensive
- More time for caucus meetings
- Include more administrative workshops (rate all workshops as "basic" or "advanced")

Meghan will add on the RFP's for next year's annual conference that presenters mark whether or not their workshop will be basic or advanced.

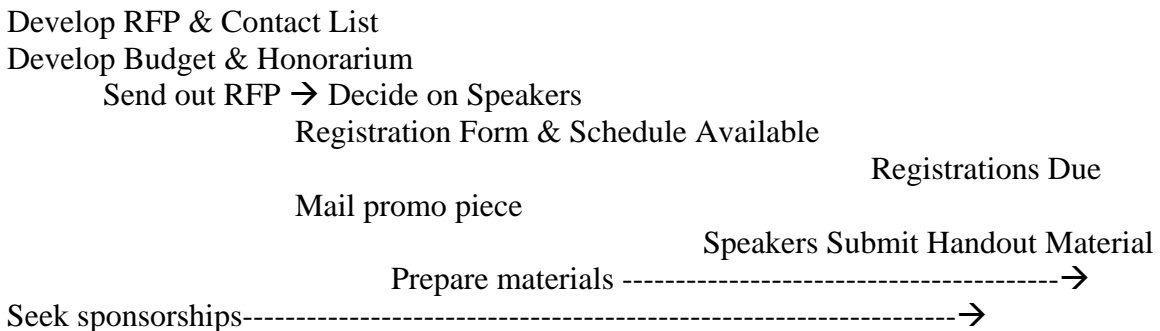
Feedback Continued

- Most valuable part of the conference:
  - o Education Programs (68%)
  - o Social/Meal Times (44%)
  - o People who Attended (35%)
- 72% of attendees gave the overall conference a rating of a "4" or "5"
- 52% retention rate from 2005 (greatest percentage of return attendees in 5 years!)

2007 Topics

- Continued Hague workshops
- More administrative topics
- Track topics by staff position in organization
- Legal topics
- Best practice issues between homestudy and placement agencies
- Staff retention/hiring issues
- Post adoption/Post placement services
- Humanitarian Aid programs
- Sensory Integration
- Succession Planning

Timeline for 2007



←----->  
July    September    October    December    January    February    March

### Board Action Items

- Recommendations for Keynote(s)
- Spread the word about the conference and help build excitement
- At the conference, be JCICS Ambassadors
  - o Introduce yourself and the speakers (full names and agencies)

The overall 2006 Conference Evaluation, Workshop Evaluation/Summary and Specific Workshop Comments were distributed to be reviewed by the board.

**Education Committee Report:** J. Sciortino, Board Liaison

**Question: Should JCICS review educational products as suggested by the Education Committee?**

### Committee Chairs

- Georgia Leonard – The Family Network
- Janet Hirsch – MAPS
- Erica Sheahan – World Links

### Conference Calls

- May 25
- June 9
- July 14

### Desires

- The Education Committee would like to participate in the development of training standards and vehicles for adoption workers as well as adoptive parents.
- The Education Committee is interested in organizing and facilitating trainings for membership to allow them to better train and support adoptive parents.
- The Education Committee would like to review current curriculums (both face to face and online) against Hague standards and pre-adoptive parent education.
- The Education Committee would like to develop a database of educational curriculums and courses available as an option for members.
- The Education Committee would like to facilitate the development of a database of resources throughout the nation for adoptive families post adoption through the capitalizing on the knowledge of JCICS membership.
- The Education Committee would like to provide links to current research and information resources online.

Potential Problems (with review/critique of training curriculums)

- First question, “Who are we and what expertise do we have to review curriculums”?
- Potential political landmine of critiquing memberships work, posting it on JCICS website/endorsing it/not endorsing
- Some members in particular have their own personal “bend” which is reflected in their reviews

Thoughts:

- Clearinghouse for what is out there
- Develop training standards for adoption professional or use Hague guidelines
- Offer regional courses by members for adoption professional training
- Resource database

Jody will go back to the committee to work on two goals:

1. Gather existing education curriculums (form JCICS clearinghouse)
2. Explore regional training seminars for social workers

**Board Vacancy: BOD**

**What to do with the empty spot on the Board left by Tom’s resignation?**

Options:

1. Do nothing – bylaws stipulate 7 or more Board members so that Board does not have to have 11 members
2. Appoint someone to complete the remainder of Tom’s original term (two more years).

Discussion was held regarding two candidates not elected at the 2006 conference, and whether the board should make a choice based on skill set or the runner-up with the highest number of votes.

Discussion was tabled until the candidates’ applications could be reviewed.

**Updates: M. Hendy**

International Relations Update

Tom mentioned the possibility of free office space in Moscow and Kiev. It is unclear who would staff it and what the purpose of it would be at this time.

GAC: Documentary Film Proposal

Film maker in NY who is an adoptee was interested in making a film. She has since changed direction and is making a film on the Vietnam Baby Airlift so this proposal will not move forward at this time.

**Romania:** L. Wetterberg

Concern was raised over negative adoption language in news articles where adopted children are referred to as “exported”. Discussion was held about a JCICS press release to address this.

Discussed approaching local film schools to produce a short video addressing common adoption myths.

**JCICS Insurance Program:** M. Hendy

2006 Mid Year Update

ISG Insurance just saved one JCICS member \$15,000. Staff are thinking of ways to promote the program more and gather testimonials.

Market Overview

- Coverage is readily available in all 50 states
  - o Professional Liability and D&O
  - o Decreasing premiums
    - Rates are down roughly 5% from last year

Highlights

- New Markets
- Faster Service
- More Clients
- Excellent Renewal Rates

New Markets

- ISG Insurance now offers admitted Professional Liability coverage in 32 states
  - o Lower rates, better coverage
    - No taxes
    - Defense cost outside of limits
    - Recently saved a member over \$15,000
  - o A broader range of coverages
    - More clients who place entire insurance program

Faster Service

- No middlemen
- Preferred service from underwriters
- Increased ISG staffing

- In the right circumstances, quotes can be obtained in less than one week

### Client Breakdown

- 27 Existing clients
  - o 2 proposals that are expected to be accepted
  - o 5 additional members actively in process
  - o 3 members in pipeline for later this year
- Agencies in 18 different states represented
  - o All portions of the country

### Success Profiles

- Agencies looking for coverage for the first time/ Hague requirements
- Start up agencies
- Mid sized agencies looking to consolidate coverage from multiple brokers
- Virtually 100% success rate in last 90 days

### Challenges

- Large Agencies
  - o Skeptical of program
  - o More pushback from the existing brokers
- BOR's
  - o Including a letter to potential clients with applications (due to fact that members took his quote to other agents who took the business; letter advised agencies not to do this)
- Continued awareness

### Goals for the Next Year

- Double total premium base
  - o From \$250,000 to \$500,000
- Add additional services
  - o Offer more complete insurance programs instead of just D&O and Professional Liability
  - o Several members have asked about creating a benefits group
- Continue to be a key resource to JCICS and members on insurance & Hague issues

Note: Another broker attended 2006 Conference. When JCICS was in talks with ISG, he was another broker JCICS considered. At that time he solicited several JCICS members claiming a relationship with JCICS. The JCICS' attorney sent him a letter of cease & assist.



**Utilizing the BODs Expertise & Traveling to Other Countries:** R. Gibson & R. Pearlman

China

Recommend that Snow Wu be the go-to person to run by communications with the CCAA. It would be helpful to have her be the JCICS liaison as she understands Chinese culture.

Discussion was that the Board already does this.

**Country Updates: BOD**

Guatemala Proposal: R. Pearlman & L. Wetterberg

Proposed Outline for JCICS Role in Assisting Guatemala in Becoming Hague Compliant

- 1) JCICS representatives designated by Board, simultaneously confer with:
  - a. CIS officials and,
  - b. DOS officials

To discuss and confirm the steps noted officials above think Guatemala needs to take in order to be in compliance with the Hague.

- 2) Discuss with CIS and DOS the possibility of JCICS acting as an NGO in cooperation with CIS and DOS to consult with Guatemalan stakeholders regarding the exploration of measures they can take that would assist Guatemala in making their adoption process Hague Compliant.
- 3) Integrating the information culled from items #1 and #2 above, draft a memo addressed to select Guatemalan government officials, PGN officials, select lawyers, and select facilitators – offering the services of JCICS as a consultant, for no fee, regarding Hague compliance.
- 4) Meet with key Guatemalan stakeholders to facilitate discussion and map out a plan designed to assist Guatemala in developing structures and processes that would be acceptable to CIS and DOS and allow the adoption process in Guatemala to continue following US ratification of Hague.
- 5) JCICS Consultation would include facilitation of small and large group seminars/meetings with the purpose of achieving stakeholder “buy-in” and would include assistance with fostering implementation of ideas generated by Guatemalan stakeholders.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

- Who designates Guatemalan stakeholders who will be asked to take part in discussions?
- What will be the roles of the Guatemalan Caucus, Caucus Co-Chairs, Board and Staff regarding the Task Force?

Discussion was held regarding the practicality/logistics of the above ideas. Further discussion will be held after meeting with the DOS on June 29, 2006.

### **ICARE Discussion:**

On Tuesday June 13, Meghan and Jennifer met with Nash Molpus, Office of Senator Mary Landrieu, Brooke Roberts, Office of Senator Larry Criag, and Kimberly Gluck, Office of Senator Jim DeMint to discuss the ICARE Amendment which was drafted by their Senators. This Amendment serves to establish an Office of Intercountry Adoptions within the DOS and to reform laws governing intercountry adoptions in the US.

The ICARE Amendment, S.AMDT.4025 was agreed to by the Senate by voice vote and thus added to the Immigration Reform Bill, S.2611 which was passed by the Senate. The Co-Sponsors of ICARE are Senators Mary Landrieu, Sam Brownback, Tim Johnson, and Jim DeMint. S.2611 will eventually be sent to a Joint Committee of House and Senate for mark-up. This committee will most likely be members of the Judiciary Committee. The House has asked for further hearings on the Bill and the prospective S.2611 going to committee for negotiations before September is unlikely.

JCICS discussed our concerns with ICARE in the meeting. Major points of concern are:

#### **1. Timing**

With the final regulations issued in February by DOS, the US' Hague implementation is currently proceeding. JCICS believes that the Office of Children's Issues has undergone significant improvements over the past few years and has increased staffing and attention to Hague Implementation and intercountry adoption in general. JCICS is concerned that at the present time, the introduction of ICARE would impose broader and more complex changes to the intercountry adoption process. JCICS would prefer to have the US ratify the Hague Convention and assess at that time how the DOS is performing as the Central Authority and whether additional reform is needed. There is apprehension that this new legislation would impede the Hague process and cause more complication and further delay to the implementation of the Hague.

#### Senate Offices Rebuttal

They recognized that the timing may not be the most favorable; however, Congress has only few opportunities to strategically pass legislation. They hope JCICS will recognize the safeguards for children and necessary reforms in this bill and the need for it to pass. They acknowledged JCICS' concerns over timing and said that the timing in the text of the Amendment, which states this must take place in 180 days, could possibly be revised so as to not impede upon the full implementation of the Hague. They stated their concern that if this is defeated in committee now due to lobbying efforts, it will be very difficult to pass such reforms in the future, when they will be needed. They shared that if time is JCICS' main concern, they can make changes to the implementation of the Amendment. They vehemently agreed that they are against any complications or postponement of the

Hague implementation due to the ICARE legislation They stated that they would ensure this would not happen.

## **2. Funding**

The Senate Offices shared that all funding allocated to DHS for their adoption processing would be moved to DOS. They assured JCICS that there would not be a lack of funding, as all resources would be moved from the other agencies working on adoption to DOS. Any additional funding needed would be garnered through the Appropriations Committee on which both Senators Mary Landrieu and Sam Abrownback sit.

In closing, the Offices shared that if JCICS has any substantive concerns with the language of the legislation, JCICS should share them with the Senators and they would discuss potential revisions.

### **JCICS ACTION PLAN:**

- Should JCICS review the ICARE legislation and submit any substantive changes to the Senators for review?
- Does JCICS go to additional offices, perhaps on the Judiciary or Appropriates Committees to lobby against this legislation? *This could potentially cut ties with Senators offices that drafted and support this bill (Landrieu, Craig, Brownback, DeMint, etc.)*
- Does JCICS maintain its current stance and continue to watch the legislation for the time being and discuss major actions once JCICS has a better idea of how the legislation is moving in the future?

Discussion was held that if the Immigration bill does not pass ICARE may be tacked onto another bill yet again. It has passed both the House and the Senate, but as two separate versions. Most likely the Judiciary Committee will modify it into one bill to be signed by the President. If it does not go to committee until September, given that a new Congress takes over in November, it is unlikely that it will be modified by then.

The board will re-read the legislation and further discuss tomorrow.

**MOTION: To recess the meeting at 5:00 PM EST.**

**K. Wallace MOVED/ D. Murphy-Scheumann SECONDED**

**PASSED Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secry

### **Action Items:**

1. R. Pearlman, S. Pitkowsky, H. Stultz & L. Wetterberg – draft affiliate benefits and fee structure for board to vote on August 15, 2006.

2. Staff, R. Gibson & R. Pearlman – do brief review of website and membership materials in anticipation of membership bylaw change.
3. Staff – add to July BOD meeting agenda further discussion regarding who JCICS should reach out to in anticipation of the membership bylaw change, how JCICS can better collaborate and with whom, as well as a policy for how the BOD can reject membership applications.
4. R. Pearlman – draft bullet points for regional training proposal for USCIS.
5. M. Hendy & R. Gibson – will fill out draft Emergency Succession Plan for future board review.
6. R. Pearlman – will send L. Vollman suggested opportunities of other insured accounts that JCICS may want to look into.
7. M. Hendy – will request the auditor to file an amended 990 form for JCICS.
8. Staff – will send out fundraising presentation as soon as Tom DiFilipo returns from Russia.
9. J. Peterson – investigate how many NCFAs are agencies accredited in Russia and how many JCICS members have COA accreditation.
10. R. Pearlman & J. Peterson – draft language for a disclaimer to be posted on the membership services area of the website that participation in ISG is not required and that members are encouraged to do due diligence when selecting an insurance agent.
11. BOD – brainstorm suggested Keynote Speakers for the 2007 Conference and submit names to Meghan.