

JCICS Board Meeting
March 14, 2006
Conference Call

Attendees: L. Wetterberg, S. Pitkowsky, H. Stultz, S. Wu, R. Gibson, M. Hendy, J. Clark, L. Vollman, K. Wallace, R. Hackworth, J. Mellon, T. DiFilipo, K. Wallace, R. Gibson

Absent: D. Murphy-Scheumann (e), R. Martin (e)

Call to Order & Agenda: L. Wetterberg at 3:01 PM EST

Executive Director's Report: M. Hendy

DC Area Staffing Updates

Kathleen Strottman has left Senator Landrieu's office. Nash Molpus is the new contact there.

Courtney Holden, formerly of Voice for Adoption, will be joining CCAI.

Memory Maps

JCICS met with David Talley who is interested in supporting JCICS through the Global Awareness Campaign. Mr. Talley owns a small online company, MemoryMaps.com, where he creates and sells maps of regions where individuals have a vested interest. To date, he has been profiting from veterans who wish to have a map of their tour of duty. A portion of the proceeds from the maps goes to specific Veterans charities. Mr. Talley is starting a new project of adoption prints and has been doing research to find an organization that he can support with a percentage of his profit. He has chose Joint Council as that organization and asked to meet with JCICS on February 21, 2006.

JCICS established that we would not be partnering with him, advertising for nor endorsing this product. He was very clear that there were no strings attached and that he did not need anything from JCICS. He simply wishes to support the work of JCICS through donations to the Global Awareness Campaign. He is not sure what the proceeds will amount to, but he looks forward to sending a percentage of what his company earns through the sale of the adoption maps. He will use the JCICS name/logo on the adoption maps page of his website to inform customers that a portion of the cost to print the maps will benefit Joint Council.

CWLA

The recent CWLA meeting had a split agenda between international and domestic adoption. They also discussed the Hague regulations with Anna Mary Coburn.

Media

Reporters from Washington Post, the Associated Press and Geraldo have repeatedly contacted JCICS regarding the China baby smuggling story. Geraldo originally requested that Meghan to a TV interview spot last week, however, Geraldo is now planning to do a full story on the subject and will get back in touch with JCICS. In the event they contact JCICS again, Meghan consulted with the pro bono public relations firm who felt it would be fine to participate though those who watch Geraldo are not necessarily JCICS' target audience.

2008 Conference

Based on board feedback, Meghan informed the Hyatt that JCICS was not interested in the mid-March dates for the annual 2008 conference. Lynn recommended that Meghan speak with her contact at a conference search firm she has used for ATTACH. Meghan has already sent them the RFP and 2008 Conference details. They are searching and when there is a potential match they will notify JCICS. The firm is looking in DC and surrounding area at no charge to JCICS. If they make a match they will take 10% of the fee from the hotel.

NCFA

At the meeting of Russia accredited agencies held last December, the group chose NCFA as their organizational spokesperson. It has been brought to Meghan's attention that NCFA was requesting these agencies to join NCFA so they could provide a list of members accredited in Russia and better speak on their behalf. Some agencies were not comfortable with that and did not want to join due to domestic adoption policy differences. NCFA is no longer requesting agencies to join, but NCFA has invited the Prosecutor General from Russia to attend their conference, being held the week before the JCICS conference. Agencies are invited, but must pay to attend the workshop where the PG will be speaking and the NCFA member reception.

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

MOTION: To approve the minutes from February 14, 2006.

L. Vollman MOVED/ R. Hackworth SECONDED PASSED by Majority

Financial Report: L. Vollman & J. Clark

The current balance sheet, profit and loss statement and budget to actuals were emailed to the board today. Some funds have been redistributed. As of February 28 there was approximately \$121,000 in the main account and \$36,000 in the director's account. Approximately \$40,000 was transferred from the main account to the director's in anticipation of paying the hotel for the upcoming annual conference. JCICS cash reserves are distributed between the various CDs and the Etrade account.

Membership Report: J. Mellon

Dues

Membership is significantly ahead of schedule. To date there are 218 members as compared to 184 this time last year. 14 of them are new. Jennifer is drafting a letter to non-renewing members and will be sending them another copy of the application. There are approximately 28 organizations that have not yet renewed. Many of them have contacted JCICS and are planning to renew, but just haven't mailed out their application forms yet. The Board requested that Jennifer investigate whether or not the non-renewing members are joining other organizations. The main office will contact non-renewing members first, and then Jennifer will send the list to the BOD for further follow-up.

Benefits

Jennifer has looked into a new member benefit. She has spoken with Tammy of Mondial Translations who is willing to offer JCICS members a 15% translation discount. The company works with experienced, educated, native translators in-country, representing over 75 language combinations. The pricing ranges from .16/word for Spanish to .23/word for Chinese. The board acknowledged that many members probably have comparable rates, but would be nice to offer to members as an additional resource.

Concerns

JCICS has received an application from an agency whose former state of residence was poised to revoke their license. The agency pulled their license prior to the revocation and relocated to another state where they are now licensed. The board discussed the situation and decided to deny the application on the basis of the previous state's violated standards and intent to revoke licensure. Jennifer will send a letter notifying the agency of the decision and the policy the agency has for recourse.

MOTION: To deny membership to the above discussed agency.

S. Pitkowsky MOVED/ S. Wu SECONDED

PASSED by Majority

California Hearing on Facilitators: R. Hackworth

Meghan drafted great comments, which Rebecca read halfway through before the Senator said, "Can we just talk?" In summary, those present felt the Hague would not be of help in this situation because it is not a country participating in the convention. Several other JCICS members attended including Holt, Lynn Jacobs and Family Connection's AAAA attorney. Several good facilitators were also present, including Marie Caldwell. They were very supportive of more regulations and some sort of licensing for facilitators. The Senator took information from everyone and said she would get back to everyone present. The first group that spoke were facilitators currently working in CA, the second group that spoke were adoptive families that have worked with facilitators, the third group that

spoke consisted of agencies, and the final group that spoke included organizations such as JCICS and AAAA. Thanks to Rebecca for attending the hearing on short notice!

IAC World Council Meeting: T. DiFilipo

The IAC World Council meeting was held a few weeks ago. CWLA, SOS and a few other agencies were also present. Prior to and subsequently, the organization has also met with representatives on the hill. DOS was initially concerned that their efforts would be a duplication of UNICEF, but has given a more positive response as of late. Tom's overall sense was that it would be great if the World Council can accomplish their goal, but they might have bit off more than they can chew. There are some concerns regarding their funding and affiliations, as well as where their policies will be set from. IAC claims that their policies will be set from independent research to be conducted rather than preset notions. Tom recommended that JCICS join on the basic level and see how things progress, as well as attend their upcoming conference this October in the Netherlands. \$900 is lowest membership level and the conference will be \$700 plus travel expenses. There are a few outstanding questions regarding their funding sources, their relationship with other organizations and evidence of their financials and non-profit status in the Netherlands. Meghan will further discuss membership with them and report back to the board.

MOTION: JCICS join the IAC World Council as a basic level member and that JCICS be represented by the Executive Director at the October conference subject to the ED obtaining satisfactory answers from IAC regarding their structure, policy and funding.

K. Wallace MOVED/ R. Hackworth SECONDED

PASSED by Majority

Interagency Agreement: R. Gibson

Rick obtained suggested language for an Interagency Agreement from Kristine Altweis-Nicholson, Keith Wallace, Children's Home Society, and Karing Angels. The document still needs to be edited and reviewed by the board, then it can be posted on the member's only site for agencies to use or not use as they see fit.

Conference Update: M. Hendy & J. Clark

Registration

All board members need to register as soon as possible. Late fees will apply to any registrations received after April 7.

Exhibition Hall

The hall will hold 18 conference exhibitors. Hagueaccreditation.com will be present, and the conference program will state that this does not imply endorsement. Their product is

essentially the Hague regulations with suggestions of what to do, legal documents and sample contracts to be in compliance.

General Update

Many new sources and students have contacted the main office wanting more information about the conference. Approximately 140 registrations have been received, 100% of the hotel rooms are booked, 80% of those registered plan on going to both the medical institute and the conference. 60 people are signed up for the Hague workshop. Several agencies are sending multiple representatives, Bethany is sending 12, Spence Chapin is sending 8, Maps, Wide Horizons, Commonwealth & Christian World are sending 5.

Gala

Discussion was held that because the registration form did not mention the gala that it is included in the price of the conference. This will be clarified when the Gala Announcement is emailed to the membership.

Rep. Delahunt's office has been approached about either him or his daughter from Vietnam to speak at the Gala, as has Rep. Smith who has helped intervene with Romania. Both Impact Award recipients have been notified and are planning to attend. A Gala Committee conference call will be held this Thursday with Linda, Heather and other volunteers. BOD members should notify the main office what they plan to donate for the silent auction by April 11th. Please include the estimated value of the item.

Hague Update: M. Hendy

Meghan is putting the final edits on the Hague analysis document. It will be sent out to the membership tomorrow. The document goes through all the changes made from the proposed to the final regulations. The Hague Survival Guide is also being updated and will be placed on the members only web site as a PDF file. The email to the membership will outline all steps that JCICS has taken addressing the Hague regulations.

COA has 49 current accredited bodies. These 49 do not have a head start nor will they receive any reduction in standards. COA is in the negotiating phase with DOS. Meghan will be setting up a conference call with COA this week.

Miscellaneous Updates: M. Hendy

Nominating Committee

The update on nominations will be going out in the newsletter this week.

CCAA Letter

The letter to the CCAA will be Fed-Ex'd tomorrow and a follow-up call will be placed.

Fundraising

JCICS met with Unlimited Partners yesterday. They still have several leads but no funding has been obtained to date. They are very disappointed. The one meeting they thought they had with Ross ran into some difficulties. At first they were not returning phone calls and then when they reached the Secretary she asked them to resend the proposal. Unlimited will continue to follow-up. They are definitely working hard but are finding that it is very difficult to find funding for anything international. In regards to finding funding from pharmaceutical companies, because JCICS does not offer credits for medical professionals at the Annual Medical Institute, JCICS does not look as legitimate. The reason JCICS does not offer them is because when the doctors were approached they felt that the process was too complicated for JCICS to bother with. There are still five outstanding requests for conference sponsorship, four for this year and one for next year. The fundraising contract will be revisited after the conference to see if JCICS will reduce the amount of hours/week or terminate the relationship altogether. Discussion was held that donations are usually based on relationship and cold calls are not relationships. JCICS will receive their list of contacts regardless of what decision is made in the next month or two.

Next Board Call: BOD

The next board call will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at 3:00 pm EST.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM EST.

L. Vollman MOVED/ S. Wu SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secry

Action Items:

1. J. Clark – re-send the current JCICS financial statements to the board.
2. J. Mellon – investigate whether or not non-renewing members are joining other organizations.
3. M. Hendy – further investigate IAC World Council membership and report back to the board.
4. R. Gibson – email networking agreement language for board review.
5. BOD – notify main office of your silent auction item and its estimated value by April 11th.
6. M. Hendy – email Hague Analysis document to the membership.
7. M. Hendy – update Hague Survival guide and post on members only web site.

Open Action Items from February 14, 2006 Minutes:

1. M. Hendy – write Hague article for NCFA.
2. M. Hendy – work with NCFA on the Ukraine post-placement issue, post list of families on the member's only web site.
3. D. Murphy-Scheumann – send Meghan sample of what was sent out for Romania when they were concerned with missing post-placement reports.
4. BOD – submit January board meeting reimbursement forms and receipts ASAP.
5. J. Mellon – distribute database of non-renewing members to the BOD for follow-up calls.
6. M. Hendy – notify IRS of JCICS name change.

Open Action Items from January 25, 2006 Minutes:

1. BOD – submit comments on 2005 Annual Report to the main office.
2. J. Mellon – send to the BOD list of the 2004 members who did not renew in 2005.
3. BOD – send contact information on any newly opened agencies to the main office for membership recruitment.
4. Staff – ask for suggestions regarding dues restructuring at the 2006 Annual Business Meeting.
5. J. Mellon – email BOD the number of JCICS parent support groups that are made up of adoptees.
6. Staff – add explanation for limited branch listing at the top of the online membership directory.
7. BOD – complete phone calls to members and report back to the board regarding comments on the strategic plan.
8. Staff – finalize annual report and include groups JCICS plans to collaborate with in the future. Suggestion for next year is to pattern the annual report after the strategic plan.
9. Staff – send follow-up email to the membership regarding the revised Standards of Practice.
10. D. Murphy-Scheumann – follow-up with national ICPC.
11. Staff – consult with CPA regarding diversification of the JCICS Bank of America account.

Open Action Items from June 17, 2005 Minutes:

1. M. Hendy – formalize MOU with ISG using “exclusive” language by August 1.