

JCICS Board Meeting
February 13, 2008
Conference Call

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

Absent: J. Sciortino

Call to Order & Agenda: L. Wetterberg at 3:06 PM EST (on behalf of R. Gibson)

Chair's Report: R. Gibson

Board Vacancy

Jody Sciortino is no longer employed with Kidsave and has accepted a new position in forensic social work in her state. As a result she is unable to fulfill the remainder of her term.

MOTION: To approach Dr. Dana Johnson about serving the remainder of Jody Sciortino's term on the JCICS Board of Directors.

R. Pearlman MOVED/ K. Wallace SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

Action items will be emailed to the board to review.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from January 8 & 9, 2008.

K. Wallace MOVED/ N. Fox SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

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

The financials have a new format for 2008 in terms of reports presented to the Board. A class system has been implemented in Quickbooks, negating the need for detailed charts of accounts. More detailed information will be presented to the finance committee as requested. Staff will also be available to answer specific questions as requested by the Board at-large. The Membership Drive results to date are lower than budgeted. Adam will explain in further detail during his Membership report. Conference-related numbers are ahead of what was budgeted. Many thanks to Taylor Fleeson for her great efforts.

Also of note, the reduced assets was a strategic move by Tom. A decrease was expected and the actual amount was less than expected.

Board Committee Updates: S. Cox & L. Wetterberg

Finance

Lynn is working to rewrite finance-related documents and bookkeeping procedures. She worked with Joelle at length to capture needed information. Jared will resend feedback as original email did not reach Lynn.

Development

Susan has written a draft for the development committee. She will finalize and present to the Board as soon as it is completed.

CEO Report: T. DiFilipo

Fundraising

Tom will be traveling to Kansas City to meet with Deb this upcoming Saturday to speak with a potential Board Member.

International Relations Initiative

Vietnam

After three comment periods, Joint Council will be finalizing the current draft of the Standards of Practice and asking for agencies to sign no later than February 25. The SOPs will then be taken on upcoming trip to Vietnam during the first week of March. Both Tom and Keith will be visiting at the provincial level and with the DIA in Hanoi, potentially the Ministry of Social Welfare

The standards are to be released on Joint Council website on February 14; they will also be sent to CIS and other groups that assisted in the project.

A series of meetings was held with DOS regarding Vietnam.

Guatemala

JCICS had an in-person briefing with 29 Congressional offices regarding the Casa Quivera cases. JCICS has also been working with John Lowell regarding the transfer of cases to the new system. To date 2,717 cases have been registered with the new Central Authority. However, since the initial registration process was altered, 100 cases were not re-registered with the most recent changes. It will be up to the Guatemalan government as to whether or not the completion of those cases will be honored.

Nepal

Of the 400 original pipeline cases, only 15 have yet to be completed and all U.S. families are home with their children. JCICS worked closely with the consulate in Kathmandu to help finalize these adoptions.

China

A visit was tentatively planned at the same time as Vietnam, but could not be arranged due to various logistics at this time. JCICS hopes to reschedule a trip to China in the future.

Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government was extremely receptive to the JCICS delegation. JCICS met with various government agencies and local service providers. JCICS will be developing Standards of Practice for members working here, similar to what has just been done for Vietnam. JCICS also met with U.S. Embassy staff over a period of six hours regarding their concerns around the international adoption process and child welfare concerns. As a result JCICS has been asked to present again in the future and received multiple emails of thanks.

Staffing Update

Taylor Fleeson, former intern, became the full-time Programs & Services Assistant on February 1st.

USCIS/DOS Updates

Maura Harty's resignation will take place this month.

The CAFI initiative is moving forward. This has been in the works for the last 5 or 6 months and will create an office within the Bureau of Populations, Refugees & Migrations. It will be responsible to set policy for orphans and vulnerable children in a more comprehensive way than the OVC office within USAID has done. They typically have focused on AIDS cases; now some USAID money will have to help fund permanency efforts. The four person workgroup assisting DOS with this is lead by Teri Ball from Kidsave. Tom and Sally Shea, JCICS volunteer are two of the other members.

Consular Affairs is supporting the initiative as it means they will no longer have to be in primary receipt of questions and concerns.

Miscellaneous

Kellogg Grant

A formal approval is expected next week for a grant allocation of \$75,000. Thanks to Susan Cox for bringing this opportunity to JCICS and Kathy Sacco for her efforts to help

secure it. The grant would be for one year. Approximately \$40-50,000 would be allocated for a post-adopt resource center/online “adoptipedia”. Additional monies would be put towards the creation of an Adult Adoptee Institute that would either be an add on day to the existing annual conference or a one day stand alone. \$2-3,000 will be designated as IRI support.

European Union

Lynn shared that talks are being held within the EU regarding policy on international adoptions for all member countries. A conference with starting talks will be held next week in Brussels. Further discussion will be held regarding how JCICS might be of assistance.

Nominating Committee Update: D. Murphy-Scheumann & L. Wetterberg

The nominating committee has interviewed all the candidates that submitted timely information. The committee is recommending all candidates as the 2008 slate.

MOTION: To accept the names presented by the Nominating Committee as the 2008 slate of Board candidates.

N. Fox PASSED/ S. Cox SECONDED

PASSED Unanimously

Policy & Procedure Update: R. Gibson & L. Wetterberg

Rick, Lynn, Jarod, and Jodi met over a weekend to review and revise policies and procedures at Lynn’s rustic retreat! They have begun restructuring policies that pertain to governance. They looked at membership eligibility, investment/finance policies and the complaint policy.

Membership Drive 2008: A. Schlicht

2008 vs. 2007 Membership Comparison

Discussion was held that lower numbers of ASPs were expected, but lower numbers of clinics, advocacy and parent groups were not. Adam is working to identifying ways that JCICS could make membership even more worthwhile for clinics and advocacy/parent organizations.

Per the BOD’s suggestion, Adam reached out to renewing members to advertise the availability of a quarterly payment plan. Many members were very receptive to this option. Adam will strategize on how to encourage non-renewing members to re-up for this year.

The member’s only site was updated with a new password yesterday. Membership certificates and packets will be sent out later this week or no later than next week.

Adam emailed a list of 2007 members that have not yet renewed. Each board member will be asked to call 5-10 organizations to follow-up. A smaller renewal application is being designed to help make the process easier.

Conference 2008: J. Ruben

Exhibitor Booths & Journal Sponsorships

There has been a positive response for sponsorships this year. Many organizations inside and outside of JCICS have proactively reached out inquiring about these opportunities.

BOD Responsibilities

An email has been sent to the BOD clarifying dates of arrival and departure for the board. A welcome reception will be held at the Hart building on Capitol Hill. Further details of times and places that the BOD will be needed will be reviewed during the March board call.

Hotel

At last count JCICS is 12 rooms away from hitting the 85% mark, which will help reduce overall conference costs. Jean Marie will be providing another update tomorrow.

Registration Update

Approximately 75-80 registrations have been received to date. Now that the Membership Drive has been completed, conference registration reminders will go out to the membership more frequently.

COA/Hague Update: J. Rolsky

The uniform notification date has been published as Friday, February 29th. Organizations will be notified by email, the list of those accredited will be published online and that will be followed by a formal letter in the mail.

Bylaw Adjustment Proposals: R. Gibson

Thanks to those who have provided feedback on the proposed bylaw changes. Rick will put out final draft for review shortly.

Next Board Call: R. Gibson

Wednesday, March 13, 2008 at 3:00 PM EST

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM EST.

P. Singer MOVED/ J. Rolsky SECONDED PASSED by Majority

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secry

Joelle Ruben, Staff (kept written record from the Call to Order up until the CEO Report while Secretary was in transit due to winter storm)