

JCICS Board Meeting
July 18, 2006
Conference Call

Attendees: M. Hendy, R. Gibson, J. Sciortino, R. Pearlman, S. Pitkowsky, S. Wu, L. Wetterberg, H. Stultz, L. Vollman, K. Wallace, J. Peterson, J. Rolsky, T. DiFilipo

Absent: D. Murphy-Scheumann (e)

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 3:03 PM EST

Executive Director's Report: M. Hendy

New Hire

Joelle Ruben has been hired as the new Administration Manager. She is a graduate of University of NC – Chapel Hill, where she was a Journalism/International Studies major. Joelle has studied abroad in Beijing, studied Mandarin and has always been very interested in international adoption. She has worked for Deloitte Consulting for the past year and was with the Corporate Executive board in DC prior to that. Joelle will start on August 1.

Reimbursement Checks

Reimbursement checks were sent out last week so all should receive those shortly.

Hague Webinars

The Hague webinars have begun. The first was held last week, two will be held this week and more will follow. The response has been overwhelming. There are a few remaining slots in this Friday's first session. The sessions on primary providers and COA are completely full. If there is continued member interest staff may schedule another webinar. Meghan is still waiting to hear back from COA to make sure they can join in on their session. A survey was sent to last week's webinar participants to gather feedback. The response was overwhelming appreciation for the webinar. Many of the questions asked were very elementary, so it seems that important education is taking place.

Auditor

Meghan requested an amended 990 from the auditor and should receive it this week. A list of points was sent to him as to why JCICS time allocation was not accurately reflected, resulting in 28% reflected as administrative costs. The amended 990 should reflect that administrative costs made up about 22% of the budget which seems more reasonable. The amended 990 will be used to apply to Children's Charities in early August.

Rick expressed thanks to Meghan and Jennifer for working double duty since Jessica's departure.

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

MOTION: To approve the minutes from June 28 & 29, 2006.

L. Vollman MOVED/ L. Wetterberg SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Financial Report: L. Vollman

June's financials will be available on the August board call.

Membership Report: J. Peterson

Half-Year/Half-Off

The half-year/half-off promotion has just wrapped up. Four agencies joined, two are home study only and two are placement and local service agencies. There are currently 238 total members.

Member Benefits

Jennifer emailed a succession plan template to the Director's list. She received very positive feedback and also placed the template on the member's only website.

At the request of the Government Affairs committee JCICS is exploring new Hague related benefits. Jennifer is working on negotiating discounts with both Mary Mooney & Debbie Spivak. Debbie will probably offer a 15% discount on her Hague workbook and Mary Mooney will do something similar. Jennifer is waiting to hear back from her regarding whether or not the discount will be retroactive. Jennifer also requested additional suggestions from the Government Affairs committee regarding Hague products. Mary and Debbie have both been told that this agreement is not a JCICS endorsement of their product, but just a discount for JCICS members. Discussion was held regarding the difference between the two products; Debbie's provides a legal framework, she offers one on one consultations as an attorney and provides a Q&A list serv, while Mary's is essentially a binder with all of the regulations laid out.

Development Report: T. DiFilipo

Tom thanked JCICS staff and Jody for assistance with preparation for the trip to Russia/Ukraine. The vast majority of time from May through the end of June was dedicated to the trip. In regards to development a basic game plan has been laid out and case materials are now being prepared. One of the first steps will be to submit grant proposals. Capacity grants are most needed for JCICS to capitalize on opportunities that are available. Staff will be sending out a survey to the membership to provide JCICS with additional detail regarding programs/services. One thing that is clear is that JCICS has

not effectively told its story to date. Survey questions will ask about total budgets, number of domestic and international placements, budget percentages allocated to programs/services and so forth. The goal is to obtain data that will help JCICS adequately speak to what it does and what its members do both in the US and abroad. By the end of the week an appeal will go out to members to help fund the international relations initiative. Richard has given \$1,000 to start. The board should further examine what contributions it can make to this end. It will be easier to approach potential funders if Tom can say that the board financially supports JCICS.

International Relations Update: T. DiFilipo

Tom shared that international perceptions of JCICS and adoption agencies are largely uneducated. One comment received on his recent trip suggested that all agencies do is assist families in compiling dossiers. JCICS MUST educate local and foreign officials regarding the scope of work that it does. Another example is that foreign officials were not aware that medical clinics and parent support groups are also members.

Tom will be meeting with the new head of the adoption department in Ukraine. They will discuss suggestions regarding summer camps and the adoption process in general, including the process for registering agencies. There is tremendous potential for JCICS to expand its reach around the world if it can generate the funding and the staff to do so. For example, there is funding available through the Embassies and DOS for PR campaigns. Next on the agenda will be a trip to Guatemala. Chris Huber & Rudy Rivera have both agreed to help facilitate the trip. The Guatemala task force will meet tomorrow to address any JCICS proposals to be brought to Guatemala.

Meghan thanked Tom for coming in under budget on this first trip. \$7,800 was budgeted and actual expenses were \$6,704. Discussion was held about board members and JCICS members donating frequent flyer miles to obtain free tickets for future trips. Miles from airlines within the Star Alliance would be the most helpful.

Guatemala: T. DiFilipo, S. Pitkowsky, L. Wetterberg

The Guatemala caucus was clear about direction they wanted to go in at this year's conference. Lynn put out several requests to the caucus to draft a proposal for board consideration but did not receive anything. Lynn and Richard created a brief preliminary proposal, which the board discussed at the June in-person meeting. Some JCICS individuals have disagreed with the larger caucus position and were not happy with what the board discussed. A task force meeting will be held tomorrow at 1PM EST. A proposal regarding how the entire adoption system in Guatemala could be overhauled to become Hague compliant will be discussed. The board has already agreed that someone may be identified to accompany Tom on the next trip to Guatemala. Their trip will be funded as they will attend to represent JCICS. All board members are encouraged to participate on the conference call tomorrow.

Membership Structure Proposal: R. Pearlman, S. Pitkowsky, H. Stultz, L. Wetterberg

Three categories of questions remain regarding benefit allocation:

Caucus Chair

Traditionally only agencies have served as chair. Discussion was held regarding whether or not other core members such as medical clinics, parent support groups or advocacy groups should be allowed to run for this position as well. The board felt the answer is yes.

Affiliate Logo

Discussion was held as to whether or not there should be an affiliate logo. Some felt it would be too confusing for public while others felt that any opportunity for branding is important. Problems with the abuse of the logo are already taking place when non-renewing members refuse to remove the JCICS logo from their website. Further discussion was held about legal action that could be taken. A possible compromise for affiliates might be a logo that says “affiliate member” underneath the image.

Of the ten board members polled, eight felt that compromise was acceptable and two were on the fence. Concerns voiced addressed how the members might feel and the protection of the integrity of Joint Council’s name.

Attendance at Town Hall/Business/Caucus Meetings

Discussion was held about whether or not affiliates should be able to attend these meetings. Further discussion will be held online. Heather will email the rough draft benefit chart to the full board.

House Hearing: M. Hendy

The hearing on the Hague Implementation process will be held next Tuesday. Meghan sent draft testimony to the board this afternoon. Please send any comments/suggestions to her by COB Thursday, Friday morning at the latest.

The chairperson of the hearing will be Chris Smith from NJ. He is generally supportive of intercountry adoption, though his views tend to be from the conservative Republican camp. Discussion was held regarding the JCICS response for any questions regarding single and homosexual parents.

Upcoming Board Meetings: BOD

The next board call will be held Wednesday, August 9, 2006 at 3PM EST.

The next in-person board meeting will be held September 18-20. The CIS & DOS meetings will be held on the 18, with the regular board meeting taking place on the 19 & 20.

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:42 PM EST.
S. Pitkowsky MOVED/ L. Wetterberg SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

Action Items:

1. M. Hendy – send announcement regarding new hire to the membership around August 1.
2. Staff – submit Children’s Charities application in early August.
3. M. Hendy – send full development report to the board.
4. J. Peterson – finalize Hague benefit with Mary Mooney.
5. BOD – consider ways to contribute resources to JCICS for the International Relations Initiative.
6. Staff & T. DiFilipo – send appeal to membership to raise funds/frequent flyer miles for future International Relations trips.
7. Staff & T. DiFilipo – finalize membership survey and distribute.
8. BOD – participate in the Guatemala Task Force conference call on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 1 PM EST.
9. H. Stultz – email membership information to full board for further discussion.
10. Staff – draft sample affiliate logo and email to the board for review.
11. BOD – send feedback to Meghan regarding testimony for Hague hearing by COB Thursday, July 20.
12. BOD – book flights for September 18-20 in-person board meeting.

Open Action Items from June 28, 2006:

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. R. Pearlman & J. Peterson – draft language for a disclaimer to be posted on te 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.
8. BOD – brainstorm suggested Keynote Speakers for the 2007 Conference and submit names to Meghan.

Open Action Items from June 29, 2006:

1. Staff – ask Joe Sutton to investigate the possible of group health insurance for JCICS members.