

JCICS Board Meeting
June 29, 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 10:30 AM EST

Mega Issue:

How does JCICS make sure it is maintaining a competitive edge but also remain focused on its mission and goals instead of being reactive?

Historically NCFA focused on domestic adoption, but has shifted over the past several years to an increased focus on international adoption as well.

| There is some concern that they mimic Joint Council's efforts.

NCFA has shared that they will be sending a large delegation to Russia and Ukraine at the end of July. JCICS shared with NCFA of Tom DiFilipo's trip to both countries as well.

Discussion was held that the issue is mostly about how JCICS needs to increase its presence at home and abroad. Further discussion was held about the capacity and resources available to be able to do this effectively.

JCICS Hague Overview & Strategy: M. Hendy & R. Gibson

JCICS has been asked to testify at the House hearing on July 25. Staff are working with the co-chairs of the Hague committee on setting up webinars. The next conference call is schedule for this coming Friday.

COA – Sponsorship Proposal: M. Hendy & R. Gibson

Background:

JCICS has been approached to become a COA sponsor. JCICS has completed the initial non-binding application. The COA BOD will review and make a decision in early August, at which time JCICS will need to definitively respond. The BOD has entertained this proposition in the past and given JCICS' restrictive endorsement policy, has not been a sponsor to date.

The Board needs to discuss:

- whether this is the best use of JCICS' name & finances; and

- what are the opportunity costs involved (i.e. how else could JCICS be using \$6,000+ to further the JCICS name & relationships); or
- is this position too important politically to pass up (e.g. given the other sponsor players, the clout COA will be picking up as THE Hague accrediting entity and relationships with foreign governments)

Benefits

- Participate on Sponsor Advisory Council
- Members receive 25% discount on full COA Accreditation (not Hague)
- Formalize relationship with COA
- Serve on COA Board Committees and Task Forces (but not BOD itself)
- Join other sponsoring organizations such as NCFA, CWLA, Alliance for Children & Family, Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies, Catholic Charities USA, etc.

Costs to JCICS

- \$6,250 annually (may be able to include in-kind costs such as if JCICS allowed COA to have a two-page conference journal sponsorship message, etc.)
- Promote COA accreditation to members and public
- Provide opportunities for COA to promote accreditation at the JCICS conference at no cost to COA
- Prominently recognize and promote relationship on promotional materials, website, etc.

Discussion was held about the tangible versus political benefits. Some states (i.e. Missouri) will be requiring all agencies in their jurisdiction to become COA accredited. The annual charge may be part cash and part in-kind.

MOTION: Whereas COA will be the primary accrediting body; and whereas sponsorship would provide an accreditation discount for members; and whereas it would be beneficial for JCICS to serve on the COA advisory council; and whereas the political benefit is in line with the goals of the strategic plan, be it therefore moved that JCICS become a sponsoring organization of COA.

L. Vollman MOVED/ J. SCIORTINO SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

2008 & 2009 Conference Planning: M. Hendy

Jean Marie at Helms Briscoe has been working with JCICS to identify hotels for future annual conferences. Her assistance is pro bono as she will get a cut from the hotel JCICS contracts with. She will begin shortly to identify a larger hotel for 2009 in the DC Area. If there is positive feedback after the Indianapolis conference, JCICS will consider going outside of DC for 2010.

A few weeks ago Meghan and Jennifer met with the Holiday Inn on Capitol Hill.
Potential venue: Holiday Inn on The Hill

Pros List

- Only option in DC at this point
- Big Fish – will get lots of attention & be the only large client that week
- Room cost less than \$200/night (\$199)
- Close to Congress & Govt Agencies
- Week JCICS wants: April 8-12
- Has space for all conference components
- Access to space for a “Conference Office”
- Free fitness center
- Free Internet for all attendees (rooms & lobby)
- Rooms neat & clean
- Intimate lobby with couches
- Nice, open bar/restaurant area
- Attendees familiar with area (across from Hyatt)

Cons List

- Meeting rooms are small
- Medical Day – must do a buffet; Friday – box lunch
- Not a big registration area
- Small area for breakfast
- Supplies & storage would be on a separate floor from the registration desk
- Step down from previous years
- No coffee bar
- Small check-in desk/concierge
- Small business lounge (1 fax/computer/printer)

2008 Hotels – Due Diligence

Capitol Hilton – Not available April 8-12; \$239 s/d

No response to date (after at least 2 attempts to contact)

Hilton Crystal City
Hilton Silver Spring
Hyatt Regency Bethesda
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Marriot Bethesda

Hotel is not available

Crowne Plaza National Airport
Holiday Inn National Airport
Marriott Gateway Crystal City

Hotel is too small

Crowne Plaza Silver Spring
Westin Arlington Gateway
Marriott Key Bridge

Hotel is selected not to bid due to sleeping room ratio to meeting space

Marriott Crystal City

MOTION: That JCICS has its 2008 conference on the Holiday Inn on the Hill.

L. Wetterberg MOVED/ R. Gibson SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Fall Conferences: BOD

NACAC

This conference will be held in July and Rick will attend.

COA

This conference will be held in August and Sam will attend.

Holt

This conference is in October and Linda will attend.

World Council

This conference is also in October in the Hague and Deb will attend.

Angels in Adoption Banquet

The banquet will be held Wednesday, September 20. Discussion was held not to give the seats to embassy representatives as many have been no shows. In anticipation of 6 seats, Jennifer will attend as staff, some seats will be given to board members and some seats will be possibly raffled out to JCICS member agencies.

In light of Angels, discussion took place regarding moving the board meeting from September 11-13 to September 18-20. CIS/DOS meetings would be held on Monday and the board meeting would end by 3pm on Wednesday.

Carry Over Discussion: BOD

Board Vacancy

The board reviewed the letter of intent/resume for one candidate and the biography of another candidate.

MOTION: To appoint the 2006 board candidate with the next highest number of votes. Should that individual decline, the fourth candidate will be offered the opportunity for board service. Should that individual also decline, the BOD will resume discussion.

D. Murphy-Scheumann MOVED/ K. Wallace SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Jarod Rolsky was contacted and accepted the board position.

Board Meeting Dates

Board calls will be the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3pm. However, for next month it is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th at 3pm.

The first 2007 in person board meeting will be held January 22-24. Again, CIS/DOS meetings will be held on Monday and the board meeting will end at 3pm on Wednesday.

The annual conference will be March 28-31, 2007. The Medical Day will be held on the 28th and a board meeting will be held that afternoon. The conference will end by 1pm on Saturday and a board lunch/meeting will be held. Please do not book flights that depart prior to 3pm.

ICARE

When JCICS first reviewed the bill, the Hague regulations had not been published. Now JCICS sees the pieces of the legislation may compromise some of the Hague effort.

Staff will draft a letter addressing the timing and duplication of effort to 5 Congressional offices.

Guatemala

During the meeting with DOS, it was suggested that it would be best for JCICS to assume that Guatemala will be considered Hague. Therefore it would also be best to assume that all attorneys and facilitators will be considered supervised providers. The caucus could address working on sample contracts with supervised providers.

Discussion was held regarding a trip to Guatemala as this will be the next priority in Joint Council's international relations initiative.

Additional discussion was held about offering training to agencies regarding the changing climate of international adoption post-Hague.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 2:00 PM EST.

L. Vollman MOVED/ K. Wallace SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

Action Items:

1. Staff – add to July agenda discussion regarding hiring someone to handle annual conference planning and/or a part-time public relations staff person.
2. R. Gibson & M. Hendy – formulate plan to negotiate COA sponsorship.
3. BOD – send suggestions regarding #2 above to Rick and Meghan.

4. Staff – add Jarod Rolsky to the board list and distribute pertinent board materials to him.
5. Staff – register Linda for the Holt conference by this Friday.
6. Staff – ask Joe Sutton to investigate the possible of group health insurance for JCICS members.
7. Staff – draft and distribute letter outlining Joint Council’s stance on ICARE in light of the Hague.
8. L. Wetterberg – email the Guatemala caucus regarding recent DOS suggestions.