

Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting
October 1, 2014

Attendees: Vesna Vila, Danita Huynh, Neeru Kanal, Megan Casey for J.D., Angelica Quintero

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review & Approve meeting notes of July 2, 2014, minor changes made
3. Discussion regarding Child Welfare decisions of removing children from the home –and how do we involve the community more?

A concern was expressed regarding whether or not family meetings are occurring, and for the meetings that do occur, it is not clear if families are being encouraged to invite members of their community to participate. Additionally, the service of Family Group Counseling may be under-utilized.

An idea given was that perhaps the CW worker could conduct a home visit to explain the goal of the family. There is definitely a benefit to the meetings in that it provides the family and CW an opportunity to build rapport and gain trust of one another. It is also important for the family to understand why CW is involved.

4. Other – ideas were provided of how we could get more representation of various communities/cultures on RCWAC.
 - One is for Angelica to contact Joel Broussard in D2 about the possibility of coming to some of the community meetings he is aware of.
 - Angelica attending the DHS providers meeting
 - Neeru will contact Djimet at Africa House to see if Angelica and Neeru can come to their community leaders meeting to talk about RCWAC membership
 - Making contact with Lutheran Community Services to see who else may be available to be on RCWAC.

5. By Laws – language may need to be changed regarding the length of time a member stays on.
6. A suggestion made was also to create a list of resources of folks who could help as needed when we staff cases and who represent the various communities/cultures.
7. RCWAC website

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/Pages/RCW-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

Adjourn

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled on January 7, 2015