

Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2014

Attendees: Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie, J.D. Devros, Vesna Vila, Sokho Eath, Danita Huynh, Angelica Quintero, and Neeru Kanal by phone

1. Welcome and Introductions – welcome to our newest RCWAC members Sokho Eath and Toc Soneoulay Gillespie
2. Reviewed and approved meeting notes of January 8, 2014.
3. Annual Report – discussion about the information being documented and if it aligns with the information that needs to be reported. Angelica Quintero has been documenting the information as it was being done when the task was transferred to her.

We briefly talked about the difficulty we would have in getting the information from the field. An idea suggested is that Angelica send an email to the program managers each year to solicit the information needed. The way the information has been reported has been the same for years, since Gloria Anderson was the liaison.

4. Policy – The policy was previously provided to members by email. While there are no recommendations to change policy or make revisions, it was suggested that a “mock” branch placement committee be done for members as a way to help members understand what their role is in that committee. The name given as a suggestion of who might be able to do this for RCWAC is Joel Broussard.

HB 2134 was brought up in that OHA and DHS need to be entering/identifying demographics regarding Ethnicity and Race

5. RCWAC website

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/pages/committees/rcwac/rcwac.aspx#reports>

6. Other – We briefly talked about foster care recruitment/development which is part of our By Laws. There has been work done in D2. Outreach has been occurring in the different communities such as by Angela Cause, Kellie Barber and Africa House. D2 has arranged to provide foster care training to refugee families who are interested in becoming foster parents.

There were other ideas given that would help recruit foster parents which were to take brochures that are already in different languages and place them in different agency lobby's such as at IRCO, SOAR, etc.

Another idea was to develop a paragraph and put it on the RCWAC website that gives persons information about how to become a foster parent, or a toll free number to call if they are interested.

Africa House had previously requested the number of Refugee children that are currently in foster care.

A member brought up the unaccompanied alien children situation and how their status can change and on a case by case basis. Some unaccompanied refugee minors have been in refugee camps overseas and go through normal process, and others have not signed up for the programs yet. We have children crossing the border every day.

Adjourn

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled on July 2, 2014