

Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2012

Attending: Debbie Deherrera, Tami Kane, Mechelle Bell, Vesna Vila, Kamar Mohamed, Danita Huynh, Sarah Walker, Yin Nwe Liu, Neeru Kanal, Cecilia Baricevic, Halima Mohamed and Oscar Herrera.

1. Welcome and Introductions

We said thank you to executive support staff Mechelle Bell and welcomed Debbie Deherrera both of DHS, to continue covering minutes and coordination of the quarterly meetings and staffings.

2. DHS Certification requirements presentation. Presented by Central Office Foster Care Policy Analyst Sarah Walker.

Sarah Walker of DHS provided as requested by members, an overview of the standards for foster care certification.

3. Updates and changes in the committee members roster.

An official welcome as a team was done to our new members Kamar Mohamed of IRCO representing the Somali refugee community and Yin New Liu of Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees representing the Burmese Refugee community.

4. Continue recruitment of new members.

There was a discussion of the need to continue the recruitment of new members representing communities at this committee. All members were provided with application templates and electronic versions are available as requested. The efforts will continue.

5. Acknowledgement of approval of the bylaws.

The bylaws were fully approved today and members were provided with the final copy. This was also previously sent electronically with community members responding of approval. Today community Members and DHS representatives except the liaison signed the approval.

6. Discussion on training to the refugee community and best avenues.

Current trends, open discussion.

There are new relocation of refugee communities throughout Oregon including the Somali citizens. More recently the DHS Self Sufficiency Program at the Woodburn office has encountered the influx of Somali families in the Marion county. SSP has met with the families and formulate a plan on how to assist the new community members. A very successful approach but also a challenge as DHS is learning about the different bans and also figuring out how to create resources with little to no extra fundings. It was offered to refugee community members to advise DHS if interested in providing orientation about the services of DHS at community forums.

7. Add ons None