

Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
July 10, 2013

Attendees: Angelica Quintero, Neeru Kanal, Kathy Prouty, Vesna Vila, Tami Kane-Suleiman, J.D. Devros, Yin New Lin, Ali Ibrahim, Halima Mohamed by phone and guest Anthony Scott

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review & Approve meeting notes of April 17, 2013
3. Policy – Kathy Prouty reviewed two DHS Child Welfare policy’s specifically I-E.3.6 Legal Permanency, Concurrent Planning and Use of Permanency Committee and I-G.1.5 Adoption Placement Selection. (Angelica sent these policies to members on April 18, 2013 along with other information).

Kathy clarified that policy refers to what DHS “must” do such as to invite RCWAC to committees when the case involves Refugee children and that RCWAC members are included as part of the child’s team. However RCWAC members do not fall into the same requirements as DHS and do not need to attend. The child’s team gets packet of information about the child to review. RCWAC member can attend and provide a recommendation, or submit a recommendation in writing. RCWAC member is not a legal party to the case.

4. Refugee website and postings: The website is up to date through January 2013 and will continue to be updated as necessary. Update: The April 2013 minutes have been posted.
5. Diversity Conference 2013 – Oscar continues to need a panel or two who can present at the conference. The time is from 10 to 11:45 both days. Vesna will check into a resource.
6. CW orientation for new families arriving in Oregon: There was a discussion about who might be able to provide this service, is this something CW can even do given resources. RCWAC can recommend that CW provide education to refugee families

within the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 months of their arrival and interpreter services would need to be provided. Kathy Prouty agreed to talk to Lois Day and Lydia Muniz about this. Currently, Differential Response has been taking a priority.

7. Tami Kane provided a brief explanation of “imminent,” which essentially is when it is considered if harm will occur today, tomorrow, in near future, something that could happen quickly if there is no intervention.
8. Neeru provided information about BRYCS, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services which is:

<http://www.brycs.org>

“There is an illustrated handbook, The Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS) website offers an illustrated handbook for new immigrant and refugee families. Developed by BRYCS and the Office of Head Start's National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness (NCCLR), the handbook is designed to provide newly arrived parents with basic information about early childhood development, age appropriate discipline strategies, and the availability of services, support, and family engagement opportunities.

Focused on children between the ages of 0 and 5, the handbook highlights the following six themes:

- Family well-being
- Safety and protection
- Guidance and discipline
- Healthy brain development
- Early learning and school readiness
- Connecting to early care and education

For each topical area, this guide provides useful tips and examples, as well as a list of references and referrals including BRYCS publications, related toolkits, and links to relevant materials by other organizations.

*Raising Young Children in a New Country: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Development* is available on the BRYCS website.”

Adjourn

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled on October 2, 2013.