

Board of Directors Meeting
Everett, WA
October 11, 2008

The **meeting was called to order** by President, Donna Horne at 9:00 AM. The meeting was hosted by South Snohomish County. Twenty-one people were in attendance, representing eleven chapters.

Donna called for **additions or changes to the agenda**. An update on liability insurance was added under new business.

Donna announced that the meeting was taped by the secretary for clarification purposes. If anyone else wants to tape the meeting, they must let us know, because it needs to be approved.

The **minutes** were read. A correction was made on the first page, under the financial report, to make the amount of money read \$2851.80 instead of \$2851. Sue Winn made a **motion** to accept the minutes as corrected, Pam Carino **seconded**, and the **motion carried**.

Donna introduced Carol Wilson from Thurston County, who she had appointed over the summer as our new Parliamentarian.

A roll call of chapters was made. Chapters in attendance were Benton-Franklin, Cowlitz, North King, Southwest King, Skagit, Sky Valley, Snohomish, South Snohomish, Southwest Washington, Thurston, and Whatcom.

Introductions were made.

Joan Aarts gave the **financial report**. She broke down the income, which hadn't been done in this way before. The conference money is separate from the other money. We have 179 members which is up; we had 170 at this time last year. There are 110 members taking the accidental/medical insurance which is up from 103 at this time last year. Charters from each chapter need to be turned in to Joan before each chapter will receive it's membership check.

Elaine Hetterly gave a report on **Group Health**. She brought 10 brochures for Group Health. There are only a handful of people on the group health insurance. We're grandfathered in so they can't get rid of us. The dental insurance has not gone up.

There is a new satellite chapter that was created by North King. They call it the Eastside and they have 33 members. They've created a calendar and listed the meetings for both Eastside and Westside.

Public Policy

Sue Winn gave a report on **DEL**. They have created a needs assessment, a guide to finding quality childcare. It is going out to pediatricians, hospitals, toy stores. The Department will send them to you.

DEL has made a strategic plan for 2009 to 2013. They have 4 goals: to build a comprehensive early learning system, to strengthen dialogue, to build public awareness, and to build organizational excellence.

There is a hiring freeze and DEL is cutting costs; they are not able to travel as much and are doing more things locally.

Donna reported that the department and OSPI have made an agreement with Oregon, Idaho, and Washington concerning **STARS credits**. Those states will now honor each others trainings for STARS credits.

Joan Aarts reported on DEL's first **town hall meeting** which was in her area. She said that they want to hear from us to find out what we want in the handbook. If providers can get to one of these, they should go. There's one coming up Saturday, December 6th in Seattle, from 9:30 to 11:30. If you're representing the association, be professional.

Sue reported on the **Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)**. ELAC wants to provide professional development, turning STARS trainings into college credits. They have monthly phone conferences and quarterly meetings. Their next meeting will be in Olympia December 30th; it is open to the public and lasts usually from 9:00 am to 2:30pm.

Sue reported on **QRIS**. For this target year it is happening in 5 places – East Yakima, White Center (these two are sponsored by Thrive by Five), Clark, Kitsap, and Spokane. If you're in any of these areas, this month you'll be hearing about informational meetings. In White Center and East Yakima, there will be 13 family child care providers and 2 centers. In the other counties, it will be 13 centers and 3 family child care providers. Thrive by Five has more money than the state has, so they will be doing bigger and better things. Most of the counties will have 1.5 coaches; White Center and East Yakima will have up to 8. Coaches will be trained and will have access to specialists.

Linda Ramuta gave an update on the bargaining for **SEIU**. We're done negotiating. There was a vote to accept or reject, and it did pass. The infant differential was changed from 12 to 18 months; this is the subsidy rates, not the WAC. We got a slight raise and the criteria for the health insurance changed. The changes will go into effect on July 1st, 2009.

The next **negotiated rulemaking** meeting will be in Renton on Saturday, October 25th at 9:00 am at the Puget Sound ESD at the Black River Conference Center. The address is 800 Oakdale Ave SW, Renton. It's an open meeting, everyone is invited to attend. The writers, Judy Jaramillo (DEL) and Sandra Van Doren (Spokane provider), have completed the sections on staff qualifications and food, and are part way through the section on the licensing process. When they're done they'll pass them on to the review team which consists of Sue Winn, Angela Taylor,

Donna Horne, and Andy Fernando. The WACs should be done in mid June and then will be open to public comment.

You have to take a provider **subsidy training** by July, 2009. You should have gotten a flyer in the mail. If you don't take this training by July, 2009, you will not be able to take subsidized children and you will not get your subsidy payments until you take the class.

Call WAEYC and tell them you want to sponsor a class; they'll sign you up and Donna will be your trainer. You need 20 people at least. Only 500 providers have taken the training so far. You only have to take it once. You will not receive STARS credit and there is no cost.

Our association belongs to the **Collaborative**, which is a group of early learning advocates. Their focus is on the early learning workforce. They support legislation and do lobbying, and work together on things going on in the state. Donna and Sue both attend the meetings. When legislation comes up on things that they need support on, they will send out emails asking providers to call or email their legislators.

Donna reported that we need to be at the table for meetings because if we're not, people will be making decisions for us. Your dues support our association to have representation at these meetings. Donna and Sue have been invited to 2 new tables.

One of the new groups that we've been invited to is the **professional development consortium**. Donna has asked for information from chapters on what kind of trainings they're doing, how many people attend the trainings, and who is providing the trainings. She will be presenting this information at the meeting on the 22nd. One of the things that Donna has read is that they want trainers to have BA's. We need to be able to fight that so that we can continue to do our own STARS training. We want to show that we are doing top-notch trainings and we need to make sure that we're giving the STARS hours credit for the hours actually used in the trainings.

The other table that Donna and Sue have been asked to is the **Early Learning Action Alliance**. This is a group of advocates representing the people that we are working with- the kids. They're presenting something called Kids First Politics on Wednesday, October 22nd from 6:30 to 8:30. It's open to the public at the Seattle University at the Schaeffer Auditorium. To register call Hannah at 206-529-6306.

If anyone is attending the **WAEYC conference** on the 22nd, Donna and Sue will be there attending the professional development committee meeting; it is a public meeting if anyone would like to attend.

We had a **break** from 10:37 to 10:50.

Old Business

The **conference committee** report was given by Sue Winn. The WSFCCA conference will be April 24, 25, and 26, 2009 at the Seatac Marriott. Brochures will be going out in January, but you can call and make your room reservations now. The cost of the conference is \$170; however, if you register before February 28th it is \$125. Remember that you would have a \$100

STARS scholarship available per year. We will be providing some scholarships for first time attendees. We will be giving you 8 hours of STARS credit. All meals will be provided except dinner Friday and lunch on Saturday.

Don't forget that each chapter can recognize a member at the conference.

Maria called Staples and if we send a letter they will give us \$25 a year in office supplies (for non-profit). It takes about 3 weeks to get a response. She also talked to Home Office and Home Depot and they said that we would have to belong to something called Gifts in Kind which costs \$150 a year (their donations must be given directly to the children). Costco will give donations to non-profit especially for the education of children.

Kathy Miller will be the new **newsletter editor**. If you have anything to add to the newsletter, call her.

Donna brought the plan that the department made for **illegal care** that she found on the DEL website. There was discussion about illegal care and what can be done about it. There have been fines levied against illegal child care but there is nothing that can be done if it isn't paid. A tracking system, based on complaints, was discussed. The DEL website is not clear on who needs to be licensed. IRS child care tax credits are not allowed if the provider is not licensed, so calling the IRS would be one option. There is confusion around the licensed exempt and family, friends, and neighbors care.

Linda Ramuta and Sue Winn will work on writing up a policy on illegal child care.

Sandi Clemans reported on **liability insurance**. She is not quite finished with her research on the best insurance to recommend. She'll send it out to everyone when she's done. A couple of providers insured by Thomco were refused representation from Thomco when they filed claims. The Tom Taylor insurance seems very appropriate.

New Business

Donna read a **letter from Pierce County**, that she got August 11,2008, absolving their affiliation with WSFCCA . Sue Winn made a motion to have Donna send a letter to Pierce to address them removing the WSFCCA as an affiliation on their website and sign it with every chapter member attending this meeting. Pam Carino seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Benton Franklin	yes
Snohomish	yes
South Snohomish	yes
Cowlitz	yes
Sky Valley	yes
Thurston	yes
Skagit	yes
Whatcom	yes
North King	yes

Southwest King	yes
Southwest Washington	yes

The motion passed unanimously with 11 yes votes.

There was a question about the **South King dues** and where the money went. Joan Aarts said that when South King chapter dissolved the money was put back into the association main account. The association later voted that the money (\$2851.80) would be transferred into the conference account.

We cut our **affiliation with Clark County** this summer. There is a timeline in your chapter folders and there are questions and accusations that we will respond to after lunch.

There was a **break for lunch** from 11:52 to 12:34.

At the end of June, Donna was at a QRIS meeting when it was brought to her attention that since we promote quality in licensed child care, it might not be in our best interest to have a president of a chapter who had been summarily suspended and revoked with two allegations. Donna knew that there was an issue, but when she was first contacted by this president, she thought it was just an allegation. Then in November, the president contacted her again and said that she was still going through problems, the department had not taken her license, and she was just going to be taking care of her grandkids for awhile, until she got through this problem. Donna found out that it was not just an allegation but two founded findings. She was summarily suspended and revoked on November 4th. Donna just let it go but then, at the QRIS meeting in June, she felt our credibility was being questioned. Donna discussed this with the executive board and then the executive board sent her a letter on July 7th asking her to step down. She sent back a letter of refusal. Later that day, Donna got a letter from the state rep of that chapter, which was also posted on the chat group.

There were accusations which we need to address. There was concern that Donna was paid \$1500 for processing membership. This money is listed under contracted labor and has been listed under contracted labor since April 26, 2003, when the decision was made to pay the treasurer \$1500 a month for 3 months, October, November, and December, with a cap of \$4500. This is to help her pay for her assistant to come in and care for the children while the treasurer processed all the memberships that came in. This is all reflected in the April 26, 2003 minutes. We also voted and gave the treasurer at that time \$12,000 as retroactive pay for all of the work she had done from the time that we did not have a staff person doing that job. When the treasurer was not going to run again, Donna talked her into staying on as treasurer, saying that she, Donna, would take on doing the membership. The membership needed to stay within the executive board because of the director's liability insurance. That is also reflected in the April 26, 2003 minutes.

The state rep for that chapter also pointed out that WSFCCA executive board positions are volunteer positions and the board should not have anything paid for except actual expenses, such as gas, lodging, meals, and supplies for attending to association business. Donna replied that providers should not have to pay for subs out of their own money while working on association work.

We had changed our bylaws so that retired providers could hold office, so we weren't sure if we could really ask that president to step down, without again changing our bylaws. Carol Wilson did a lot of research with Robert's Rules of Order and we had an executive board meeting to discuss it. We then wrote a letter to that president demanding her to step down. She again refused.

Donna received calls from providers in the Clark County area about a vote to be held at their next meeting. She sent emails and a letter to Clark County members telling them if Clark County had planned on separating from the state and holding this vote, we would expel their board on section 7 of our bylaws. The president was told that the executive board would be attending their next meeting.

The executive board went to their chapter meeting and asked to be put on the agenda. The board was not welcomed nor introduced. The board was given 3 minutes to speak and was instructed that no questions could be asked. Donna stood and told the chapter board that the state would no longer recognize them as a chapter.

The next day, Donna sent a letter to all Clark County providers, letting them know that they could join non-chapter or Southwest Washington chapter and be members of WSFCCA or they could join Clark County and no longer be affiliated with the state association.

Joan Aarts wanted to clarify that it was her first term as treasurer and she felt that Clark County had questioned her integrity. Joan felt that they were accusing the board of keeping money that didn't belong to them.

A standard needs to be set. The state rep needs to be able to tell members what the State association does to benefit them.

There was a discussion about how to define a member in good standing. A member in good standing is one that supports the goals and purposes of the state and has paid dues.

The executive board should have the right to intervene.

If you're representing WSFCCA as an officer, be professional. If you're writing about personal issues, don't sign it as the secretary or president, just sign your name. When you use your WSFCCA title, you are representing the entire association.

In the chat groups there was an accusation about the executive board staying in luxury rooms at the conference at the members' expense. The board shares rooms to save money. At one conference, the board was given the executive level at the same cost as the other rooms. The board tries to save money. We carpool and often don't turn in all expenses to be reimbursed.

The **brochure** is done.

We talked about doing a **mass mailing** to every licensed provider in the state, using just a one page flyer. Maria Consuelo-Lopez will fix the flyer adding name, address, and email addresses. She will make 3 columns of chapters to make it fit on one page.

The **WSFCCA website** is under construction. It'll be a few weeks before it's up and going.

In the next newsletter, we need to tell which areas the chapters encompass so people will know which chapter to join.

Donna called for **chapter reports** to be turned in.

Sue Winn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pam Carino seconded, and the motion carried. **The meeting was adjourned** at 1:50PM.

LaVonne Counley, Secretary
Washington State Family Child Care Association
Attached – Written chapter reports