

WSFCCA Meeting January 16th, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President, Carol Wilson at 9:10 a.m. The State meeting was hosted by the South Snohomish Chapter. There were seven Chapters present (Columbia River, Cowlitz, Snohomish, South Snohomish, SW King, SW Washington, and Thurston. There were 16 people in attendance. (East King came in late)

Carol called for additions or changes to the agenda. The minutes were read by those present and approved.

Roll call will be taken at every meeting and it will be noted in the minutes for voting purposes. Carol asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves.

Carol Wilson welcomed the new Chapter, Columbia River. They are in the Vancouver area.

Liz Cline is taking over for Cathy McCluskey for the Insurance information. Liz is an Insurance agent from Lifewise of Washington, which is owned by Blue Cross. Liz specializes in Individual Health Insurance; Cameron Strong is another agent who will be working with WSFCCA in the future. Cameron will tell us about different types of Insurance available. This insurance is needs based, people will be able to look over different plans and decide which plans work best for them. www.lifewise.wa.com is their web address for further information. Rates in our packets are good through December 31st, 2010. Liz talked about several different options available for us; Kathy Miller will put up a link to their website on the State website, www.wsfcca.com. Chris Price asked if Cameron would be open to coming to talk to individual Chapters further about this. Sandi Clemans asked if anyone could purchase this Insurance or if it had to be done through the Association. Sandi also asked if it were available all across the State, even in Eastern Washington, Liz tells us it's available everywhere in the State. Liz said anyone can purchase this Insurance. Linda Ramuta asked if there was small group discount available to WSFCCA members. Liz said it's available but, many people are choosing to purchase Individual Insurance now and moving away from Group plans. Liz deals more with Individual options, rather than group plans.

Joan gave Elaine's report: New rates were given. Rates have gone up, subscriber is 734.95 and medicare is 203.87. Dental for two is 33.75 per month.

Carol explained a little more about AFLAC. Carol said Lynn from AFLAC is going to be putting a packet together for the Newsletter and the Website. Her number is 1-360-848-1750. We were having problems getting through to Shelly who we're working with; Shelly is on a "leave" now.

Committee Reports:

Joan Aarts and Chris Price will go through the storage unit in the Spring or this Summer.

Joan gave the financial report. As of today, we have a total of 241 members. Joan sent around Chapter information and asked for any changes there may be. Taxes are done from last year; we ended up with

\$1,006 at the end of the year that's now in the Savings acct. Joan took the tax information to the tax guy. We are supposed to file by Feb 16th, 2010. The tax man said he would be done in about a week.

We're very low on money, we need to be careful. We need more members, we need more income. Carol Gibbs asked about a dues refund that was issued. Joan explained this was a reimbursement from someone who was in one of the Chapters that pulled out of WSFCCA.

Accidental / Medical went down from \$38 to \$32 that we pay the company.

Joan thinks the storage unit went up \$40.00. The company is Meridian Express.

We have \$5,000.00 in our Account. Mileage has gone up to .55 again. We've cut our mileage down. Sue and Joan get paid the most for mileage. The board made the decision to pay actual gas instead of mileage. It costs Sue \$50.00 to fill her vehicle up. It's cheaper for us than paying mileage until our membership goes up. Sue spends a huge amount of time on the highway; there is a lot of wear and tear on her car. Our biggest expense is mileage. We have to have her go to these meetings so we can be heard. Pam Carino asked about if we need to make a motion to vote on that. Donna explained she didn't think so, as this is actually less money than what WSFCCA was paying. We're not asking for more money to pay for mileage, we are actually saving money by paying Sue this way and until our membership comes up, we just can't afford to do it any other way.

No bill from the Newsletter yet. They are pretty slow about getting the bill out to us. Donna was asking how much the bill from last time was.

Chris Price suggested having the newsletter emailed out to the Chapters and having the Chapters be responsible for getting the Newsletter out to the members. Pam Carino mentioned this might not work for some of the chapters are non functioning and then people wouldn't be getting the newsletter. Joan said we may have to do this if our finances don't increase. Joan thinks postage is over \$200.00 to send that out each time. Chris said we could just still mail it out to the people who don't have email addresses. Donna said we could try this.

Carol Gibbs thinks its information we want to get out to people. It's not a private group; we want this information out to providers. Joan agrees. Linda Ramuta said it's also a good idea. We were in agreement to start doing the newsletter this way. Kathy was wondering how we were going to let members know about this new change that will start with the next newsletter. Kathy suggested to Carol that we write up something explaining to our members that in an attempt to try to save money in this economy and save on paper WSFCCA is going green with their Newsletters in the future.

Joan said she still needed to have some Bylaws turned in from some Chapters. There was also a question about if we have to have Standing Rules or not.

American Express card will send us back \$300.00 because of the conference.

Carol Gibbs asked about the Conference report on here as well. There is \$5000.00 in the Conference Account. Joan will include that at our next meeting. Chris suggested also putting the balances for each acct on.

Sue Report: Donna covered for Sue who was at NRM. Comment on the DEL website about the new WAC's. The new WAC's are researched based. Hopefully today, they will finish them.

Professional Development Council continues to work on the plan in Washington. Pushing for community based trainings as well as College credits. Read about it at the DEL website.

Donna reminded providers that the STARS will be put back in the WAC for next year. Donna will talk more about this later today.

ELAC continues to push politically. Get on their List serve. Takes 12 people to make a change!

If you use your R&R a lot, they are also facing serious cuts to mentoring, consultations, staff; you can also call your Legislators and let them know that they need continuing funding. They want stories about what R&R does for you.

WA Kids is a 20 person panel taking a look at preschool options in a variety of settings. The first meeting in Jan 21st. Sue will let us know more about it later.

ELP (Early Learning Plan) is also available on the DEL website. Read about it and let DEL what you feel about that.

Subsidy Training is suppose to be starting in March sometime between 2009-2011. You'll be able to take the trainings. The subsidy handbook was just re written again. They will also be available online to take the training that way as well.

If you have questions, comments, need more information, etc, please let Sue Winn know.

Committee Reports: Linda Ramuta

Newsletter: Donna

Parliamentarian: Chris

Bylaws: Chris

Conference: Linda Ramuta. We're just getting started; new committee members are Shari Mason and Roxanne Pera as well as the Board of WSFCCA. Conference meeting to follow the meeting today.

Historian: Still open

Grant Writing: Still open

Chapter Responsibility: Chris and Donna worked on a new Guidebook. They made some changes from the old book. Took some things out, and added some other new things. They won't be putting it on a CD, but it will be PDF'd so everyone should have access to it. The Board will be getting a CD to hang onto. The rest of the Chapters will be getting it via Email in PDF form. Its 85 pages if you just print it out. It doesn't need to go on the website. The only thing not in the Guidebook is your own Individual Bylaws and Standing Rules. Carol Gibbs pointed out that the date still says 2006 on them and wondered if it needed to have a "revision" date on the front page.

Ethnic: Still open

Public Policy: Sue Winn, Kathy Miller, Cathy McPeek

Linda Ramuta asked to have different people submit stuff for the Newsletter; deadline is March 7th for the next Newsletter. If you have any complaints, or would like to add anything else...please let Donna know.

Website: Total hits to date were 3,000. Kathy also just re did the website a bit to make it more user friendly, and to clean it up a bit. I've also added a page for Public Policy page with loads of different information from Sue.

Joan also mentioned that if you want things to be added to the website to please put it in a Word document and send it to Kathy that way.

Costco and Sam's Club turned us down to sponsor us.

Linda's wondering if we can have an Insurance advisor so to speak. Sandi Clemans is willing to be our Insurance Advisor.

Carol Gibbs has a new member who has some Grant writing experience. Rocio Gannaway may be willing to join us.

Old Business:

North King: The board met with NKCFCCA (Linda Brehmer, Maria Consuelo-Lopez and Cathy Bussman) they met for 2.5 hrs and left really emotionally drained. Maria felt misunderstood, never felt respected when she was on the Board, and so on. They wanted Accidental /Medical Insurance without having to be a member of WSFCCA.

April Meeting Location: SW King will host, April 17th (more info to come)

Total Members: 242 to date. Donna thinks we'll see an increase in membership when the stars requirement is added back to the WAC. Also, membership goes up and down depending on if it's a conference year or not. People tend to join more when it's a conference year. Joan is also going to look into taking Credit cards again in the future. Joan will have the research so we can vote on it in April. Kathy Miller will get Joan PayPal information for the next meeting....

Outreach to other Groups: The board has decided to start traveling to different chapters to meet their members and try to connect with chapters on a better level. Joan and Carol will be driving South and Lavonne and Linda will be visiting Chapters in the Seattle areas.

The board has been reaching out to other Chapter (Clark, Eastern WA, Provedorus, Benton Franklin, etc) to connect with them and see what's happening in their areas.

Lavonne and Linda have been to East King, Skagit, and have 5 others to visit. Carol and Joan are scheduled to do meetings that are South of Seattle.

Break for lunch: 12:00

New Business:

June meeting was scheduled for June 26th in Benton. She's like to move this meeting to Thurston County and change the date to June 12th. Linda made a motion to change the date to June 12th. All Chapters voted to change the date.

Online Classes:

Linda Ramuta and LaVonne Counley shared that they are considering giving a benefit for Non Chapter members to offer them STARS Classes on line. They already do classes for exempt providers on line. These have been done by mailing the info to the people, and then they go back and forth online emailing different questions they may have, etc. They've already created classes through the Union that are done this way. Some classes they've done are Language, Literacy, Music, Cooking, Puppets, Movement, Multiple Intelligences, Outdoor Learning, etc.

There was much discussion surrounding this. They will report back on this at our next meeting.

WAEYC and STARS: Donna tells us that WAEYC is tightening up their regulations regarding STARS. You need to make sure you create a file with your trainers, education, qualifications, and so on and keep a file for every trainer you have, as well as all classes that you've had. Train the Trainer or Teaching Adults should probably be done through a college, or someplace. If WAEYC does not agree with your trainers, or trainings they will start asking to look at your records and not allowing some to count. If you are using a trainer who is certified through WAEYC then you are fine. If your organization is using their own trainers, you need to make sure they have all the credentials they should have as well as objectives, outcomes, evaluations, etc.

Make sure your trainers are professional and doing what is expected of them. Another great resource is www.childcareexchange.com and click on "Out of the Box Training Kits".

Sandi Clemans, CARE: Sandi did a workshop in Spokane about Adverse Licensing Actions that now WAEYC is having an issue with EWFCCA about. WAEYC is not being really clear on exactly what the problem is. We think that a provider talked to a Licensor about the training and the Licensor perhaps made a complaint to WAEYC about it. One of Sandi's handouts is a "Top Ten Licensors" that hand out adverse licensing actions about. DEL was not thrilled about it. Now WAEYC is questioning Sandi's experience, education, and so on. The handouts Sandi uses at her workshops are all documentations that are based on public records. It's as if DEL is not happy about what Sandi is teaching providers in respect of rights and education.

Sandi is really considering what the future of CARE will look like. She thinks the time has come for all of us to take a stand. We are under the impression that SEIU cannot ever get involved in adverse licensing actions, they do some what involve themselves in overpayment issues. Sandi would like to have a group of providers get together and see what providers want. Do we want to leave CARE doing what it does now, and that's it? Do we stop there? Sandi is totally supportive of SEIU and what they've done for us, but we need something better now. Something stronger. Sandi submitted a proposal to WSFCCA to work with the Association.

Each provider would donate \$10.00 per monthx7200 providers=\$864,000 annually. Here's what we could do with that money:

1. Provide Adverse Licensing Actions contractual services (Same as CARE has been doing)
2. Provide Overpayment Services (Same as CARE has been doing)
3. Provide General fund for providers to borrow from that Providers pay interest on with set repayment schedule & collection agency to go to if they don't pay back on time. Providers pay own legal fees or up to max amt is provided as part of dues (example \$2,500-max & rest is on loan to be paid back.)
4. Providers pay own fees to CARE, this fund helps them fight back
5. Board approves who borrows money? Need legal advice on setting up criteria on this
6. Min charge of \$100.00 to front fees (expedited stay)
7. CARE has right to refuse either because Provider needs an Atty or CARE won't represent the Provider because of proven committing abuse / neglect (which I won't represent)-depends on paperwork, documents, individual circumstances & board criteria if a founded abuse/neglect issue.
8. Insurance to cover staff
9. Bookkeeping firm to do books
10. Contract full time / part time staff to include: Sandi, Kathleen, 3 other providers to start training as lay rep and support staff
11. Retain and / or contract with 4-5 Attys (\$25,000 annual minimum) for consultation or to send Providers to for full representation / joint with CARE , if we have 7200 plus FCC
12. Healthy Insurance

13. Dental Plan
14. Full time and /or public policy person
15. Legislative specialists
16. Non profit mailing
17. Board would include all associations, chapters, & meetings to be held on phone-maybe one annual meeting per year.
18. Newsletter & email group

Joan thinks we need to set up a committee with a few people on it and bring it back up at the April meeting. Linda Ramuta thinks we need to find out a little more before we do that, Carol Gibbs didn't realize the problem was this big out there. Carol suggested we take some time to think about this, discuss it as a board, and then get back to Sandi about what the next steps should be on this. Sandi thinks we should take the information back to the Chapters to see what their response about this is. Sandi thinks we need to ask our membership if this is a priority. Sandi suggested taking this email to our individual Chapters and see what they think...the Board will take all of this into consideration, but would like more information from Sandi on the subject. Sandi will keep a log of her calls for about a week or so...

Joan suggested putting together a Cook Book together, is looking for more information on putting one together.

Chapter Reports were read and handed in.

Carol thanked South Snohomish for hosting the meeting.

The next meeting is April 17th. Info will be posted on the website asp.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Miller

Filling in for LaVonne Counley due to shoulder surgery.

