

**Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
605 SE 39th Avenue
Portland OR 97214**

**September 13, 2007
1:30 — 4:00**

Present: Robert Heiney, Jan Slick-Chair, Gloria Anderson, Neeru Kanal, Slavica Kojadinovic, Cecilia Baricevic, Salah Ansary, Halima Mohamed (attended staffing) and Michelle Weber

Absent: Lily Caceres, Susan Cox (out of country), Kirsten Brown and Crystal Riley

Minutes

The minutes from March 8, 2007 were approved by the Committee with no revisions.

The group expressed an interest in having more discussion about the last paragraph in the Minutes related to a conference for educators. This was discussed later during this meeting.

Bylaws

DHS/CAF Administration has approved the Bylaws.

Membership

Today is Slovica's last day as a member of this Committee. After serving for eight and a half years with Lutheran Community Services, she has decided to go back to school to obtain a dual Masters Degree in Social Work and Conflict Resolution. The Committee presented a certificate of appreciation to Slovica.

The group discussed possible candidates for membership. Gloria asked that names be submitted to her.

Future Meetings

Members discussed and agreed that future meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on January 22, 2008.

Conference for Refugee Children

The March 8, 2007 Minutes noted that Crystal Riley suggested having a conference for educators in the Portland area who work with refugee children. Crystal thought there might be funding available to develop and support the conference. Members discussed possible training content and the audience we would be training to. Ideally, the audience would also include juvenile attorneys and other legal parties from Multnomah and Washington counties. Salah offered to present a “Refugee 101 Overview” as part of the training. It was also suggested that this topic be included as a possible option/session at next year’s DHS Diversity Conference. Members are committed to offering this training conference before another year passes, though.

Possible Content: *Refugee Overview
 *Child Welfare Laws – How does DHS become involved in a case?
 *Specific Cultural Detail

Lutheran Community Services Northwest could offer a conference room if the group was between 30 and 40 participants. A tentative target date would be April or May of 2008, with the agenda running from about 9:00 to 2:00.

Action: Jan Slick will contact Jerry Burns and Carolyn Graf to identify participants, and Karen Schimmels for possible funding. Jan will also discuss with Nancy Keeling and Carolyn Graf the possibility of developing training for Multnomah and Washington County judges.

Previous Case Staffing

The group recapped discussion related to the last staffing. There is consensus that the group would like to obtain a status on that case and an opportunity to offer additional help, if appropriate. Folks believe it is important to not wait until the January meeting.

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. – “Somali Bantu” family staffing with Diane Dukeshire who is the current permanency worker.

Adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

January 22, 2008

1:30 – 4:00

Location: Lutheran Community Services NW
605 SE 39th Avenue
Portland OR 97214