

Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes June 9, 2005

Present: Bob Heiney, Slovic Koyadinovic, Neeru Kanal, Liz Rogers, Kirsten Brown, Salah Ansary and Gloria M. Anderson

Absent: Jan Slick, Cecilia Baricevic, Chris Riley, Halima Mohamed, Lily Caceres and Susan Soon-Keum Cox

- Reviewed and approved the March 10th minutes
- In followup to a recommendation made at the last meeting, Jan and I are scheduled to attend the Metro Exec RCWAC meeting in Portland on July 28th at 2:30 to provide training on identification of refugee children and the role of the RCWAC.
- Gloria provided a presentation regarding confidentiality as it pertains to DHS Child Welfare, and the requirement that all committee members would comply under the same guidelines and laws that govern agency employees in ensuring that confidential information assets are not used, disclosed, maintained or transmitted in a manner that would violate DHS Rules and other laws. The members were provided copies of ORS 419B.037 and OAR 413-101-0035 and asked to sign a “Certification Affirming Confidentiality” form. All members present willingly signed the form and were given a copy of their statement. Other committee members need to complete the same form at a later date.
- A discussion took place as to whether this group should be provided any/all CW documents when presented with an actual case to staff. Specifically, whether the reporting party information should be redacted/omitted if/when a Worker presents a family’s initial information to the group. We will follow up to this question and make a best practice recommendation at our next meeting in September (this will be an agenda item for the next meeting).
- Kirsten provided an update regarding a mandatory child abuse training that she and Neeru will be providing to State Contractors and IRCO staff on June 30th from 10-12 at the IRCO office in Portland. Several individuals at the table felt it would be wise to have a similar training provided to this group. In addition, Salah requests that his staff at the LIPS also be provided a mandatory reporter’s training. He was advised to contact Nick Sandstorm at the HOTLINE # (503) 731-3100 to arrange such a meeting for his local area as it is recommended that the local CW/PS employees be involved in providing these trainings. Liz agreed to check with her organization to see if they would like a similar training. If so, will follow the same process to arrange the training.

- Liz provided an update on the Human Trafficking Project. She explained that she is now the Program Coordinator to this project replacing Katie. Liz provided the group a draft copy of a protocol that she, and others, as part of an advisory group to this project have developed thus far. She explained that the Advisory Board is meeting on a monthly basis and a larger Coalition group meets every three months regarding this project. There is a large meeting scheduled on July 8th in Portland with Federal representatives from the FBI, ICE, Customs, DoS, etc. to continue to formalize a process and continue discussion regarding identification of trafficking victims. Liz can be contacted directly for more information on these meetings and schedules.
- The group offered suggestions to Gloria regarding a request she received for culturally specific services to a Hindi family. The group suggested a website (www.ICA.org) Indian Culture Assoc. There are local Fijian concerts and events that the family might be interested in attending to assist the child in understanding his culture better. The name of a Hindi Mental Health Counselor in Salem was also provided. A suggestion was made that the child be referred to Chris at OHSU to see if he qualified under the child trauma program. Discussed the option of a Hindi mentor for the child over the summer, if an appropriate volunteer can be located. Slovica will follow up with a possible contact. A suggestion was made that the family could participate in religious activities within Temples in Portland.
- Salah brought up a situation regarding a Haitian family/client whose parental rights were terminated long ago. The children were placed for adoption, yet the father continues to come to LIPS begging that his children be returned. Salah asked if this is a forum for such situations. We do not want to give this “father” misguided hope; however, he may need some explanation of the circumstances. Bob offered to review the case as he knew of it, and will follow-up with Salah (this can be followed up at the next meeting).

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 15th at 1:30 at the LIPS office.