

**Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
Executive Board Meeting, January 12, 2008
Lawrence, Kansas**

Present: Dennis Finch (President), Bruce Bynum (Vice President), Sandra Hiller (Secretary), Tracie Wyatt (Treasurer), Eltanis Volen (Region 3 VP), Sheila Peterman (Region 4 VP)

Agency Representatives: Jeanette Owens (DCCCA), Joyce DeBolt & Debi Hatfield (KDHE), Sylvia Hernandez (St. Francis Academy), Susan Haremza (The Shelter), Denise Gibson (Childrens Alliance),

Members Present: Bill & Nancy Weigant

Others Present: Scott & Heather Oakes, Randall Whitley, Linda Seashon, Matt Core, Dean & Deb Dunlap, Mary Tye

Our thanks go to DCCCA who hosted the meeting, providing the meeting place and snacks.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Dennis Finch. Introductions were made by all present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November 17, 2007 meeting were summarized, and are available upon request from the secretary at POB 273, Canton KS 67428 or via e-mail request at kfapasec@netks.net. Sheila Peterman moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Tracie Wyatt. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tracie Wyatt reported the following:

Beginning balance	\$1,539.53
Expenses:	\$10.00 meeting room for 11/17/07 meeting
	\$145.92 office supplies
	\$20.00 Articles of Incorporation revisions
Membership fees received	\$200.00
Ending balance	\$1,563.66

Charitable donations: One voting membership at the 10/27/07 meeting to Greg Jaquis = \$10.00
One professional membership at the 11/09/07 Governor's Conference to Vicky Carinder = \$25.00

Total Charitable Donations \$35.00

We have not yet received receipts from Vice President Bruce Bynum for the Walk-Me-Home training he attended in Atlanta in November, 2007. Eltanis Volen moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Sheila Peterman. Motion carried.

Eltanis Volen, Vice President of Region 3: The presentation scheduled at Pawnee Mental Health was rescheduled (due to the ice storm in December) to January 29. Eltanis will speak on 2/7 with the Foster Care Group in Clay Center.

Dennis Finch reported that the Orphan Train Museum in Concordia is interested in hosting KFAPA this summer. They may be a resource for the Walk Me Home event as well and may consider an KFAPA exhibit at the museum. Dennis explained to those present briefly about the Walk Me Home campaign.

Sheila Peterman, Vice President of Region 4: She attended the BEST meeting with KDHE, and reported that it was very interesting. There was a major discussion about land line phones. Eltanis Volen plans to participate in those meetings as well. Debi Hatfield of KDHE explained that foster parents were invited to participate in those meetings, and Sheila and Eltanis are representing KFAPA.

Saundra Hiller, Secretary: The following activities were reported:

- * Attended PIP case planning meetings in Topeka, representing KFAPA
- * Arranged today's meeting with DCCCA and Sheila Peterman
- * Arranged for SRS to send bulk mailing of meeting notice & previous minutes
- * Received requests for membership brochures from TARC, KCSL, The Mentor Network
- * Forwarded website information for website development to the PR person who designed our membership brochures
- * Completed the bylaws
- * Completed the 501c3 except for financial page which we will complete today
- * Responded to individual families who requested information
- * Representing KFAPA on the Kingman County Recruitment Team
- * Forwarded several membership applications to treasurer Tracie Wyatt
- * Developed a membership acknowledgement postcard

Dennis Finch: President's Report:

* KFAPA is applying for a grant from Compassion Kansas. He attended a workshop in December and this grant, through WSU, will help us with organizational issues, may get us a (badly needed) laptop computer. Dennis would like to have a professionally made table top display for each region. The Compassion Kansas network will help us with development of policies and procedures etc.

* Dennis's PIP committee has not yet met.

Bruce Bynum, Vice President: The Walk Me Home campaign is a national campaign (38 states). We will activate our state campaign as soon as we obtain our non-profit status. Bruce attended the training and will be our state-wide coordinator. There is a walk in each state capitol planned for May 3, 2008. A website will be available so anyone anywhere can donate to whatever state they want. Bruce will check to see how much we can get in place without the non-profit status. Bruce wrote a poem that will be used for the campaign. We can approach businesses to sponsor and/or advertise. NFPA is working to line up a printer for t-shirts who could print the shirts for every state. There is a minimum of \$30 to sponsor someone for the walk. The May 3, 2008 state capitol walks are a kick off for this campaign, the entire campaign is May through August. KFAPA will benefit from this campaign, as we will get to keep 75% of the funds earmarked for Kansas. Dennis suggested that we consider tying this into statewide events such as county fairs, etc. Bruce reported that the Wichita schools may become involved and raise money competitively between schools.

Bruce's PIP committee is on adoption/placement and they have had their second meeting.

Bruce reported that the Kansas Fatherhood Coalition will have their annual conference in Kansas City and Bruce will be speaking on Being The Second Parent.

Sheila Peterman asked if there was some way to get a state-wide competition between schools, perhaps between similar size schools and asked what organization we could contact to implement that. The State Board of Education was suggested.

Bruce spoke about the Blue Ribbon Trees that NFPA would like communities to set up, with one light blue ribbon in community tree representing one foster child in care in that community.

Dennis Finch reported that KFAPA would like to be financially sound enough to host an annual conference in 2009. It is expensive to put such a conference together..

Old Business:

Dennis talked about the signs we are considering. The idea was presented to the Children's Alliance. Bruce Linhos had responded that there was some concern about confidentiality if we asked foster parents to put signs in their yards asking for people to become foster parents. The intent is to have businesses and supportive families put the signs in their yards, and if foster families would like to put a sign in their yard as well, they could. We could have specific signs made for the various placement agencies with their logos and phone numbers if they would like. We could make the signs as fundraisers. It would be great if we could get someone to print them for free.

New Business:

Tracie Wyatt was on the Channel 27 News last week regarding her perspective on the MRDD waiver and HCBS changes. Many people are concerned about the changes and families are feeling that they are not receiving information about how the changes will affect them. Some changes go into effect on February 1, 2008. Tracie stated that as she understands it, families will have to complete a needs assessment regarding the services provided to each child above and beyond what is considered the norm for a typical child. The attendant care services will be determined by the state based on that needs assessment. Families will work with a payroll agency to pay up to \$9.15/hr for the attendant care worker. The agency will complete the background checks etc on the identified attendant care workers. If a family has a guardianship of the child, funding will not be changed at this time. Families present at today's meeting expressed their frustration because the system is changing, yet they stated they do not feel that they know what is going on and they do not feel that they are getting the support and information they need from their agencies. Families feel that the agency workers should be knowledgeable about the changes and should be able to explain the changes to the families. Agency representatives present stated that the agencies are also trying to work out what these changes involve and how that impacts them. Families expressed concern because they feel it is hurtful to the children, as families who don't continue to receive the services they feel they need may give notice.

Dennis spoke about the KFAPA website. The former KFAPA president has not relinquished control of the website KFAPA.org. Dennis has purchased the domain rights to kfapa.net, kfapa.info, and kfapa.com. After discussion, Sandra Hiller moved that a check be sent to former president Shelby Ross for the cost of the kfapa.org domain site, Eltanis Volen seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Bruce Bynum and Bill Weigant will contact Shelby and make an appointment to get the control information for the website, at which time they will give Shelby the check. Sheila Peterman moved that Dennis Finch be reimbursed for the cost to get the other domains, Eltanis Volen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Sheila Peterman asked if, in light of the discussion about the Medicaid changes, perhaps KFAPA could ask a Medicaid representative to give a presentation at a future KFAPA meeting. Sheila was asked to pursue that via calling the Medicaid office in Topeka and report back at the next meeting. We can get CEUs for speakers according to Denise Gibson from Children's Alliance, if we follow the protocol (including have an agenda, and have CEU certificates to hand out).

Dennis explained that the next general membership meeting in June will be the election meeting. We need to have nominations for the next meeting, which was set for February 16. Eltanis Volen of Region 3 will be responsible for setting up that meeting in her region.

Nancy Weigant announced that there is a new grant from the mental health association in her region (5) to cover the costs of social outings for patients (not for family members).

After a short break, the meeting resumed with Debi Hatfield summarizing the KDHE public hearings regarding the regulation changes. The feedback receiving thus far has been primarily with wording, to help make things more clear. The exotic animal clause has been changed to clarify that horses and pot bellied pigs are not exotic animals, and this will be discussed with the BEST team at the next meeting. Wording about phone lines was also clarified to state that a working operable phone is available at all times. There has been some discussion about age-mates for room sharing. The majority, after discussion, felt that best practice would occur if the age span for room sharing would be three years, versus a five year span which was an option. There was discussion about developmental age versus chronological age. Debi Hatfield reported that there was minimal feedback at the public hearing, a reflection possibly of all the work during the past several years on these revisions. Training may start up in the spring across the state on the revisions, with the guidance material available to further explain the revisions. Bruce Bynum asked if relative placements want to license in order to receive full benefits and financial assistance, are the requirements going to be the same. Debi Hatfield responded that those issues need to be addressed to SRS and the legislature. The current licensing is centered around non-relative placement, not relative or non-related kin placements. Debi elaborated that each agency handles relative approval individually. The standards have to be the same, but with relative placements, every consideration is given to get those placements approved. Debi suggested that KFAPA consider an agency panel discussion on this topic once our programs are organized.

Sandra Hiller mentioned that KFAPA has a goal of getting our policies and procedures for our programs, and one very important one is a format for dealing with complaints from foster parents who are disgruntled with agency staff or needing support during a crisis or allegation situation. KFAPA needs to develop a clear outline to follow in order to offer that support.

Sheila Peterman and Sandra Hiller both volunteered to assist with the KDHE training throughout the state regarding the licensing revisions.

Sylvia Hernandez announced a conference in Wichita on March 28 where St. Francis will have a table. KFAPA was invited to provide membership brochures and information on the St. Francis table.

Drawing was held for door prize of one free membership, and Mary Tye was the winner of that membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. by President Dennis Finch.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hiller, Secretary