

KFAPA Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, October 17, 2009
St. Francis Community Services, 501 N Monroe, Hutchinson, Ks.

Present: Sandra Hiller, Diane Briscoe, Nancy Duling
Attending via teleconference call: Richard Basham, Denise Gibson, Joyce DeBolt, Julie Schoemehl, Stacey Ulrich

Meeting was called to order by President Sandra Hiller at 1:00 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Sandra Hiller informed the group that secretary Janice Snyder is ill with the flu. She emailed a report, listing our account balance as \$8130.34. She has been trying to set up our accounts on the computer and has run into some difficulties with the computers. Janice is going to meet with Sandra next week to set up the accounts on computer, separate out the conference expenses, etc. so that we can write an annual report.

Region 1 Vice President Report: Richard has talked to some people about having a mini-conference in his region. He is waiting for a decision about next year's conference.

Region 2 Vice President Report: Julie Schoemehl is also considering a mini-conference. She received a phone call from Nebraska Division of Family Services asking about KVC. Nebraska is moving to a privatized system, and they asked her how things work here in Kansas. Denise Gibson verified that Nebraska has moved to a privatized system and KVC has established an office in Nebraska and has been awarded a contract in one region. Sandra Hiller asked about progress on the Foster Parent Bill of Rights, and Julie said she had a draft, which she had earlier emailed to Sandra. Sandra is to send out the draft to the board for comments so that can move forward, as that is something that families would like to see in Kansas.

Region 3 Vice President Report: No report.

Region 4 Vice President Report: Dianne Briscoe is learning her region, and she is attending support group meetings. She has a very large region.

Region 5 Vice President Report: No report.

Old Business:

- **Computer Purchase:** Janice Snyder is requesting that we consider purchasing a new computer with the needed software. After discussion, Richard Basham moved, and Dianne Briscoe seconded, that we research the cost of purchasing one new computer for now with the needed software. The motion passed unanimously. Sandra Hiller will research the cost, email the board and vote can be made via email about this purchase.

- Conference Wrap-Up: Saundra Hiller reported that all the conference bills have been paid and we did not end up in the red. She asked that everyone be aware that Richard Basham did a considerable amount of work in getting the conference started by spearheading the conference committee, and Janice Snyder did a tremendous amount of work doing all the registration, finances, etc. We were fortunate that we were able to have such a conference, as the financial obligations towards the conference were made before the current economic challenges hit the country. The feedback was very positive, the workshops were all very well received.
- Pre-Paid Legal: There is a new person on board to represent Kansas and work with us. We will have a link on our website. Saundra Hiller reported that at least two families did sign up for this service at the conference, and one of those families has already had a legal issue, they needed some help, and they received the help from Pre-Paid Legal quickly and were very satisfied with the service. Someone inquired about the cost, and it is about \$300 a year. Richard Basham voiced that he has had this service for some time. Saundra explained that Pre-Paid Legal offers many plans, and they have given the information about the Governor's Conference on Child Abuse, as they would like an opportunity to meet with the CPAs to discuss legal coverage as well. We will continue to partner with them. Our association benefits financially from every family that we refer that signs up for the service.

New Business:

- Governor's Conference on Child Abuse: Saundra Hiller reported that we have paid our registration and will be having a booth. She will need some help to manage the booth for the two days of the conference, which is in Topeka this year. Stacey Ulrich stated that she will be there, and she will be available to help. Stacey and Saundra are both on the conference planning committee and have moderator responsibilities at some of the sessions. Saundra is also on a panel at one of the workshops. There was discussion about how to market the professional memberships, as this conference is attended by child welfare workers. We would like our display to reflect what we have to offer to the workers as well as to the families. Anyone with any ideas was asked to email Saundra as soon as possible.
- Membership Fees: Since we will be marketing to professionals, Saundra Hiller brought up a discussion about reducing the professional membership fee. Since we are facing very tough economic times, there was discussion about changing that fee. Nancy Duling moved, seconded by Dianne Briscoe, that we reduce the professional fee to \$10/year. The motion carried unanimously without any further discussion. Julie Schoemehl asked if perhaps we should meet with the heads of the CPAs to discuss with them whether KFAPA fills a gap with the workers.

- PR Materials/Signs: Sandra Hiller reported that we have about 30 Band-Aid holders left, and we hope we have enough KFAPA notepads to get us through the Governor's Conference. There was discussion about what kind of PR materials we should have, and Stacey Ulrich asked about mini-hand sanitizer spray bottles that are easily carried in a purse or in a car. Given the country's concerns about H1N1 virus and flu, everyone thought that was a good idea. Nancy Duling agreed to research that quickly to see if we can have some in time for the conference.
- Signs: Sandra Hiller has been in communication with a woman who will be opening a sign/banner business in the Wichita area. She is willing to use KFAPA as her first customer once her equipment arrives and is set up. This would be a good opportunity to have some signs/banners made at a very reasonable cost, as we would be able to advertise for her by our displays. Everyone agreed that this should be pursued.
- Walk Me Home: Nancy Duling reported that we had a conference call with Carl Jones of the NFPA on September 30. It was disappointing that only Nancy and Sandra participated in that call, despite Nancy's email and follow-up letter to everyone on the board about the call. Carl would be willing to do one more call to educate us all about how the Walk is done. The information he provided to Nancy and Sandra was very helpful and interesting. We want to like corporate sponsors, such as Bank of America. Sandra Hiller reported that she has visited with the National Orphan Train Museum in Concordia, Kansas, asking if they would be willing to be the statewide coordinator and partner with us. We would share a percentage of our proceeds with them. Dennis Finch had educated KFAPA about the Museum a year or so ago. Sandra was very moved by the Museum, and stated she feels that it would be a natural partnership, as that Museum grounds has a sign that states that the Orphan Train movement was the beginning of foster care in the state of Kansas. Nancy explained that Carl Jones' knowledge and expertise is vast, as he was the "creator" so to speak of the Relay for Life that the American Cancer Society has been doing successfully for many years. Dianne Briscoe suggested that the board meet, look at the website, discuss it further and come up with questions before we meet with Carl. Nancy Duling will send out dates for us to meet, via phone, to accomplish that. We need to decide how we want to do the walks. Each region can explore resources for potential regional community partners/sponsors. Richard Basham moved that Sandra Hiller continue to explore the statewide coordinator potential with the National Orphan Train Museum, Dianne Briscoe seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Policies and Procedures: Sandra Hiller requested and received from Carl Jones of NFPA a copy of their policies and procedures. After some discussion, it was agreed that Sandra will email these to the board to review and make suggested changes. KFAPA will be able to use these as a guideline for developing our own policies and procedures, which we need to have as a state association.

Other Business:

- Richard Basham asked if we can set up membership fee payment through our website utilizing Pay Pal. Sandra Hiller will ask our webmaster if that is a possibility. Sandra asked if anyone felt we should restrict our website access to members only for the newsletter, etc. It had been suggested because we do not offer our members any exclusive information. It was felt that this should not be done at this time.
- Membership: There was discussion about how to encourage people to join. Sandra Hiller reported that she sent out a letter to new foster families from a CPA newsletter, by looking up addresses on whitepages.com. It was recommended that a letter be sent out to everyone who attended the conference, which Sandra agreed to do.
- Stacey Ulrich is in charge of the newsletter, which should be distributed in early November.

No other business was brought forward, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hiller, substituting for Janice Snyder