

**Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
Executive Board Meeting, March 15, 2008
McPherson, Kansas**

Present: Dennis Finch (President), Bruce Bynum (Vice President), Sandra Hiller (Secretary), Eltanis Volen (Region 3 VP), Nancy Weigant (Vice President, Region 5), Nancy Duling (Chairman of Resource Development)

Agency Representatives: Joyce DeBolt (KDHE), Sylvia Hernandez (St. Francis Community Services),

Members Present: Bill Weigant, Cheryl Riemann

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Dennis Finch. Tracie Wyatt was not available to attend today due to recovery from recent surgery. Sheila Peterman was not available due to a foster child involved in a wrestling tournament. Kirbie Shearborn notified the secretary that she has had family illness and will not be able to attend meetings.

President's Report: Dennis Finch

a) Dennis reported that he and Carol attended a reactive attachment disorder training in Overland Park, sponsored by the Marriage & Family Therapists. The presenter indicated that while 5-7% of the population is thought to be RAD, there was some concern about how to study that population, and it was determined that the foster care system would be the appropriate place. Dennis plans to write a thank you letter from KFAPA for that training and the importance of studying the RAD population.

b) The NFPA is sending us products for National Foster Care Month (pins and posters).

c) The Compassion Kansas Grant that we applied for was denied, and we had asked for much needed computer equipment and software in addition to other operating expenses. We need to get creative on fund-raising. We need to ask SRS again for funding, ask about funding from the Children's Alliance.

Region V Report: Vice President Nancy Weigant

a) The information about the .org website has been obtained and was given to the secretary. They will need a check reimbursing them for the cost of that, which was approved at a previous meeting.

b) The address for the April 19 meeting is 316 E. Clay in Valley Center, and directions were provided. Weigants asked for volunteers to watch children on the playground during the board meeting, then we plan to have a cookout and evening of games and socialization.

c) There is a camp in Manhattan, Ks. That will train us on how to run a camp, and Weigants would like the board to consider setting up our own foster children camp. They will continue to pursue information about this, as there are some agencies in Kansas that sponsor camps, such as DCCCA and Youth Horizon.

d) Resources for foster families include Simple Smiles in Wichita which does braces for children under the medical card, phone number 888-900-3554, and the Psychology Department at Wichita State University will do psychological evaluations through their clinic, contact number is 316-978-3212.

e) There is a Child Abuse Grant that Shelby Ross heard about and wanted to pass along that we might consider applying for.

f) Nebraska did a fund raiser by collecting old cell phones and turning them in, they will pursue information about that.

g) Bill Weigant will work on a newsletter, and everyone was asked to please contact him if they have information, articles, resources, etc. to be included in newsletters.

Resource Development Committee: Chairman Nancy Duling

a) Nancy has a contact in Wichita where we have an opportunity to advertise the association and the need for foster families, at no cost. The Children's Alliance phone number would be used, and the Board agreed that Nancy should pursue this.

b) We should develop a "Dream List" of things that we need and approach agencies for donations. We will be relying on donations until we obtain funding. Saundra Hiller reported that the 501c3 application has been received by the IRS, and it could be several months before we know if it has been approved. Cheryl Riemann said that the Hutchinson Correctional Facility will do printing for very little cost, the contact person is Jim Flood at 620-662-2321.

KDHE Agency Representative: Joyce DeBolt

a) The schedule was distributed for the regulations trainings throughout the state. They anticipate that the regulations will be adopted on March 28, 2008. KFAPA will be present at as many of those trainings as possible to show support for the updated regulations and as an opportunity to spread the word about our association. CEUs will be given to foster families who attend, we will post the information on our website.

b) The Guidance Handbook is almost drafted. Dennis Finch and Saundra Hiller will review that material. The goal is to have the review draft ready by the end of next week, it will have to be read and comments returned ASAP, as KDHE plans to have it ready by their first training, which is scheduled for April 1.

Vice President: Bruce Bynum

a) The Fatherhood Conference is coming in April, will be in Kansas City. Bruce is presenting at that conference and will represent KFAPA there as well. The Conference next year will be held in Wichita or Hutchinson.

b) Bruce has a telephone conference in April for his SRS PIP committee.

c) Bruce attended two meetings recently, one by a judge in Wichita on the judicial side of the foster care system, the other by the Sunflower Group with a top SRS official.

d) Walk Me Home: There was a general discussion about how to handle the Walk Me Home campaign this year. While we certainly need the income that the walks will generate, there was concern expressed that we have not had the time to properly prepare for the event at the level that we would like. Because of that, it was the consensus that we should schedule a small informal walk for May 3 at Lake Shawnee in Topeka for this year, encourage individuals and groups who would like to donate to do so via the website, and spend this next year preparing for a major event for next year. One obstacle has been the concern over how to approach businesses about this campaign when we do not have our 501c3 approval as yet. Saundra Hiller reported that she spoke with an accountant, who explained that as long as we are up front that our application is pending, we are ok, because the tax deductions are not taken until people file their income taxes for 2008, which occurs after January 1, 2009. Bruce had consulted with Christin Kundert at NFPA, and she will be checking with their board to see if states in our situation can use the NFPA's tax exempt status, the NFPA would hold all donated funds until the state receives its tax exemption, and then release the funds. Nancy Duling and Sylvia Hernandez agreed to get copies of the Walk Me Home Handbook made for the board members, as Bruce explained that there are very explicit instructions for how to set up the Walk Me Home activities, and this way everyone can read the instructions and know what all is involved. KFAPA will plan to have a picnic on May 3 at Lake Shawnee, ask individuals to go to the website and click as a sponsor for an individual walk. We will have hot dogs etc. at the lake.

Treasurer's Report: Eltanis Volen (for Tracie Wyatt)

- a) There have been no checks written, no funds received, so the balance remains the same. Dennis Finch turned in receipts today, and Weigants need reimbursed for their check to Shelby Ross for the website cost.

Region 3 Vice President: Eltanis Volen

- a) Eltanis expressed her frustration about the inability to move forward with the Walk Me Home campaign she has been approaching businesses etc trying to get something set up without having any information in hand. Having the handbook distributed to the board will be a help and she agreed that in order to pull off such a major event, it needs to be done right, so having this year to prepare for next year's event is the correct thing to do.
- b) Eltanis and Tracie will represent KFAPA at the April 1 KDHE training in Topeka.

Secretary's Report: Sandra Hiller

- a) Three new individual memberships were turned over to the treasurer today. Weigants handed in another membership application today.
- b) Project Belong, a new undertaking in Hutchinson, is having a potluck luncheon kickoff tomorrow which Sandra will attend. This is a Christian-based program to offer support for recruitment, training and on-going support of foster families.
- c) Fostering in Faith is a new program almost finalized by St Francis Community Services. The program was designed by St. Francis from a vision of Sandra's and it will offer support to children who are awaiting adoption. It is a program where churches can provide support and encouragement to those children and show them that the world does care about them.
- d) The 501c3 status, as mentioned earlier, is pending. The IRS sent a receipt confirmation and a way to track the application. When Sandra went to the website to track it, she found that the IRS is now considering applications received in October of 2007. If we did everything correctly once they read the application, we will get a response quickly. If there are minor details that need attention, that will get a fair quick response. If the application needs a lot more work in the eyes of the SRS, it will be assigned to a committee who will then work with us to improve the application.
- e) If anyone is interested in trying to set up walks at county fairs, Sandra has obtained the list of the contact persons for the county fairs throughout the state. Regional vice presidents should try to arrange for a free booth at the county fairs as a way to increase awareness and boost membership.
- f) The website and brochure are being updated to include a statement "501c3 application pending" upon the advice of an accountant, to be sure we are not misleading anyone about our tax exempt status. The website is updated regularly by our web-master, who makes the changes as they are sent to her.
- g) Something the regional vice presidents could consider is hosting "consumer resources fairs" in their regions. This could be as simple as a ½ day or 2 hour time period where various agencies such as health departments, mental health providers, dentists, etc. set up a small table with their information. It could be done in combination with training events.
- h) Sandra will attend the Children's Alliance Training Committee next week and speak with Denise about CEUs. She will also ask Denise about being at the State Capitol when Governor Sebelius signs the proclamation for foster parent awareness month in May.

- i) A copy of the Children's Justice Act grant application was passed around for review. This is possibly the one Weigants reported about from Shelby Ross. It was decided that our association is not at a point where it would be appropriate to apply for funding from this source. Other sources of funding should be investigated and we will all try to come up with funding opportunities.
- j) The Salvation Army in Wichita has asked that we do a presentation at their foster family support group to help raise awareness of our association and possible get their families to join. We are awaiting the information on the date/time of that meeting and Sandra and Nancy plan to handle that presentation.
- k) Sandra will be attending a judicial system training in mid-May. Dennis reported that he plans to attend the NFPA conference in Atlanta.
- l) We need to get our timetable set for the elections so that we are sure that we have the brochures, etc. to SRS in time for printing and remain within our bylaw timetable.

The group discussed the election process. The offices being elected are president, treasurer, Regions 1,3 and 5 Vice Presidents. We will make up a flyer asking for nominations, also include a Walk Me Home brochure, and next meeting notice. That will be one mailing for SRS, then another mailing for the actual ballots and biographical information. Biographical information needs to be very brief so it will all fit on one page.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hiller, Secretary