

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

**January 22, 2008  
1:30 to 3:30**

**Present:** Robert Heiney, Janvier Slick-Chair, Gloria Anderson, Neeru Kanal (by telephone), Cecilia Baricevic, Lily Caceres, and Kirsten Brown

**Absent:** Susan Soonkeum Cox (out of country), Crystal Riley, Salah Ansary, and Halima Mohamed

**Minutes of September 13, 2007**

Minutes of the September 13, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**Case Staffings**

Cecilia asked what follow-up was being done about 2 cases previously staffed with the Committee. Gloria will follow-up with this.

**Committee Membership**

There was discussion about who could replace the position held by Slavica Kojadinovic and also the need for new members who could represent other agencies serving refugees (IRCO, SOAR, Africa House) and types of refugees moving to Oregon (Burundi, Burma, Somali, Russia, Romania, SE Asia). Lilly will follow up with a Somali representative. Neeru will follow-up with representatives from IRCO and Africa House. Cecelia will follow-up with someone from SOAR/IMO. There was a mention of Faridah Haron; who Salah offered to contact.

We are also interested in recruiting individuals who could be ‘points of contact’ – separate and in addition to our Committee members – when there are cases being staffed or when there are other questions regarding a specific refugee group.

## **Child Protective Services Training for Committee Members**

We continued to discuss how best to provide training for child welfare staff and other community partners who are most likely to come into contact with refugee families. Jan, Gloria, Bob and Kirsten agreed to form a sub-committee to continue working on this. They will meet within the next month. The proposed training would include an overview by Salah about the refugee experience, use of documentary films on refugee experiences, a panel of representatives from the refugee communities currently in Oregon, and a discussion time between professional staff and refugee community representatives.

We want to keep the training small (30 to 40) to maximize attendee participation and interaction.

There was also discussion of training for Committee members about child abuse issues, including mandatory reporting. This will be deferred until new members join the group so they can be included in it.