



VULNERABLE CHILDREN SOCIETY

Director Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title	:	Directors Meeting
Date	:	June 19, 2013
Time	:	9am Pacific time, noon Toronto time, 1pm Atlantic, and 7pm in Ethiopia (2:00 Ethiopian time!)
Place	:	Via phone
Chair Person	:	Arnica Rowan
Invitee List	:	<p>Internal: Arnica Rowan, Chris Ardern, Dacia Douhaibi, Menbere Shiferaw, Nicole Bellefleur, Pam Carlson, Tawnya Pattie,</p> <p>External:</p>
In Attendance	:	<p>Internal: Arnica Rowan, Dacia Douhaibi, Nicole Bellefleur, Tawnya Pattie</p> <p>External:</p>
Absent	:	<p>Internal:</p> <p>External:</p>
Agenda	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Discussion of our plan moving forward • Suggestions on the future construction of the board
Minutes Submitted By	:	Dacia Douhaibi
Minutes Submitted On	:	September 14, 2013
Next Meeting	:	<p>Date: August 2013</p> <p>Time:</p> <p>Place: Email</p> <p>Chair: Arnica Rowan</p>

#	Discussion Items
1.	<p>Moving forward with assuming responsibility of sponsorship of the children at Faya.</p> <p>Despite the best intentions of VCS to work with Faya Orphanage to facilitate a smooth transfer of responsibility for the children, and contrary to agreements made with Faya Orphanage after at least six in person meetings in Ethiopia, Faya Orphanage did not officially relinquish their responsibility for the children. When Arnica and Nicole left Ethiopia, there was an agreement in place between FO, Canadian Humanitarian (CH) and VCS regarding the assumption of the children by VCS and CH. This agreement was not upheld, nor did VCS receive receipts for the subsidies that FO had delivered to families.</p> <p>Bisrat went to Ambo Office, where he was told FO had not relinquished responsibility for the kids (to our knowledge, FO is in good standing with the Ambo Office, so we think they are still subsidizing the kids).</p>

	<p>As a result of the current situation, for the time being we are forced to conclude that we are not able to take over sponsorship of the children in Ambo and Guder. This is a huge disappointment after all of the time and effort spent trying to make this work.</p> <p>There might still be an opportunity for us to take over sponsorship of the kids in Wonji, as there is no agreement in place in this community.</p> <p>We are collecting money from sponsors with the intent of sending those funds in the same direction. Now that we know Ambo and Guder are not going to work out we intend to explore a replacement program.</p> <p>The suggestion was made that we could submit a proposal to the Wonji office for an education center. If this suggestion is met with favour, we could offer to supplement the subsidies currently being provided to the same kids in the interim. There are several options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kersallala (Sheshemene): There are 19 kids waiting for an education center there. CH inherited a program through a merger with an American program. The program is basic - they want to elevate it to their level of care. - Hope for Children: This is a rehab program for street kids, indentured kids, etc. The kids go through the program in cohorts (approximately 40 girls and 40 boys / cohort). <p>The board had consensus that we would take time to evaluate possible future directions, considering our mandate, the wishes of our donors and potential partners in Ethiopia.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Board of Directors</p> <p>The board discussed recruitment of an additional board member, in case an existing board member retires. We need to consider what skills we need, put these in writing and seek a suitable candidate. Each board member should consider whether they know of any individuals that fit what we are looking for.</p> <p>We also formalized board member responsibilities moving forward. These roles are as follows:</p> <p><u>Board Member Responsibilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary: Dacia will assume this role, which includes taking meeting minutes, managing records/files. • Strategy, Development and Partnerships: Arnica • Child Updates: Rita • Administration & Finance: Tawnya <p><u>Other Roles:</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Coordinator: Nicole is interested • Online Store Coordinator: Dacia is interested • Fundraising Coordinator: TBA (possible our new board member) • Micro-Financing Coordinator: TBA (Nicole possibly interested)
3.	<p>Perception that VCS has merged with Canadian Humanitarian</p> <p>There has been some question as to whether VSC has formally merged with CH. This should be addressed publically to answer those questions.</p>

#	Decisions
1.	Increase administrative allocation from \$2-\$3 dollars from each \$35 sponsorship and decrease project fund allocation from \$3 to \$2.
2.	That the micro-financing project is separate from Faya Orphanage. We will find another local partner to work with that can meet our administrative and accountability needs.
3.	<p>The board agrees that they will not send the balance for uniforms and registration to Faya Orphanage until receipts are given to Birhan as previously agreed with Faya Orphanage.</p> <p>We will give Faya one more month for the monthly budgetary financial reports to be received by VCS. Then we will discontinue our monthly transfers as well until reports are up to date and a system is in place to receive these reports regularly. No reporting – no funds.</p>

Action Items					
#	Action Item	Owner	Status	Due Date	Comments
1.	Board members to send profile/contact information for candidate(s) who should be considered for membership on the VCS Board of Directors.	All		September/ ongoing	
2.	Arnica to write an FAQ blog post, to address the perception that VCS has merged with CH.	Arnica		End of June	

#	Carry-Over Items for Next Meeting
1.	Follow up on whether there is still potential to take over responsibility for the children in Wonji.
2.	Identify and discuss other options for programming and sponsorship that stay true to the goals and mandate of VCS