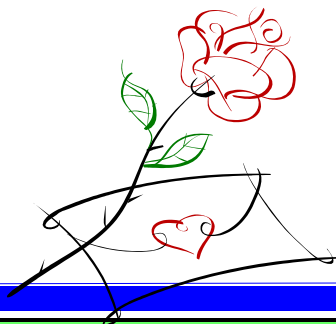




February 18, 2010 Board Meeting



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Board Briefings

BOARD HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Jill Homme—Board Chairperson

Jill was raised in Minnesota as the youngest of nine children, until the age of seven when her parents moved with the four youngest children to Albuquerque, New Mexico where she lived until graduation from high school. The older children remained in Minnesota.

Knowing that she wanted to go to college on the West Coast, Jill earned a National Merit Scholarship and enrolled at Pepperdine University. She had a desire to become a lawyer so she majored in Political Science. After two years at Pepperdine University, Jill transferred to UCLA and changed her focus of study to sociology, criminology, and prelaw type classes. This included an internship with the LA District Attorney’s office in her senior year. As she was finishing her internship, Jill discovered this wasn’t the field of work she really wanted.

Returning to Minnesota and living with her parents, Jill worked at waitressing and bar tending for a while to figure out life. She was promoted to manager of a local restaurant, being

attracted to the business side of the industry, as she was good with money, people, and management. She came to realize the business was failing just a year after being promoted, and she helped to close the business down. Jill was quickly hired at another restaurant and within four years was promoted to Director of Operations. She was the youngest director they had ever had. This gave her the opportunity to open restaurants in other territories and provide training programs. It was exciting, she made good money and she helped take the company public, traveling and opening up restaurants in the Pacific Northwest and Florida.

After much traveling around the U.S. Jill realized that she had a great business education with hands-on experiences, but was missing the community connections, building her own family and putting down roots. And, she wanted to get her Masters degree. Having enough money to take some time off, Jill purchased property locally and built a home. She also wanted to work with nonprofits and get

more involved with the local community and help children in some way.

Jill enrolled at WSU and completed her Masters in Public Affairs – focusing on Early Childhood Education and Public Policy for her research. She also did some mediation work for the city of Vancouver becoming certified in other areas. WSU offered her a salaried position and she is now the Academic Coordinator of the WSU Department of Education.

Jill felt it was the time for options related to children. Due to health reasons, she chose not to have a child, but was seeking to adopt. After thinking of the options, her partner (who has one child) and she decided on foster care with adoption to follow.

Now they have five delightful children in their home and she experiences parenting as both a challenge and a joy. Her focus is on her kids having a great life and she would like to make sure other kids in the community have a good chance for a great life, which she hopes to accomplish through her affiliation with EOCF.

Self-Assessment Report Process

The Self-Assessment is mandated by ECEAP and HS performance standards. Eight EOCF teams are working on different areas of the Self-Assessment. The Board of Directors was queried by two staff members at the February board meeting posing questions related to fiscal management, and program design and management as part of the monitoring tools used in the outcomes for the report. The board conducted a strategic planning session at their February 23 retreat, in addition to their regular board meeting.

Board Action Items

Board members approved the following:

- * December 17, 2009 Minutes
- * January 21, 2010 Minutes
- * New Hires and Terminations December and January
- * Appointment of New Board Member: Rollin Perrigo