

Central Adoption Resource Authority
Ministry of Women & Child Development
Government of India
R.K. Puram, New Delhi

Minutes for the 12th Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 29th December, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. in the Conference Hall of CARA at West Block – 8, Wing – 4, 1st Floor, R K Puram, New Delhi.

1. The 12th Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority, chaired by Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, MWCD (Chairperson of Steering Committee of CARA), was held on 29th December, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. in the Conference Hall of CARA at West Block - VIII, Wing – IV, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
2. The Chairperson and Members as under were present in the meeting (copy of the Attendance Sheet is placed at **Annexure I**).

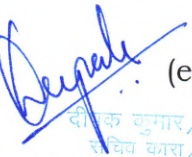
Chairperson

- (a) Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India – Chairperson (Ex-officio).

Members

- (b) Ms. Aastha Saxena Khatwani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – Member (Ex-officio).
- (c) Ms. Meera Ranjan Tshering, Joint Secretary and Finance Advisor, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – Member (Ex-officio).
- (d) Smt. KRS Laxmi Devi, Joint Director, Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad, Telangana (Representing Sishu Griha, a Specialized Adoption Agency run by WCD Deptt, Govt. of Telangana) –Member.

- (e) Ms. Gitashree Adhikari, Karuna WB Women and Children Welfare Society, Howrah, West Bengal (Representing Specialised Adoption Agency recognized by Government of West Bengal) – Member.


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- (f) Ms. Samiha Grewal, J-231, 1st Floor, Saket, New Delhi (Adoptee) - Member.
- (g) Smt. Kiran Singh, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (Advocate) – Member.
- (h) Shri Deepak Kumar, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary, CARA– Member Secretary (Ex-officio).

3. At the outset, Chairperson, Steering Committee welcomed all the Members of the Committee and asked Member Secretary & CEO, CARA to present the Action Taken Report of the last Meeting held on 10th November, 2017 and the Agenda Items of the current Meeting.

4. Member Secretary & CEO, CARA welcomed the Chairperson and all the Members attending the 12th Meeting of Steering Committee of CARA. He circulated the Adoption Statistics as on date to the members, copy of which is annexed at **Annexure II**. He also informed that this is the last meeting of the Steering Committee which has been constituted for a period of 02 years. He congratulated all the Members on completion of the two years tenure and thanked them for their valuable suggestions and participation in the Adoption Programme during their tenure.

Discussion on Action Taken Report of the Meeting held on 10-11-2017

5. ATR on the Decisions of the Steering Committee of CARA taken on 10th November, 2017 were explained to the members and the same is tabulated underneath: -

Decisions of Steering Committee Meeting held on 10/11/2017	Action Taken Report
<p>Item No. 1: Reviewing the Role & Charter of CARA and the Requirements of Strengthening by Restructuring & Revamping of the CARINGS Module.</p>	<p>It was informed that a meeting was held on 30.11.2017 in the Ministry of Finance with the representatives of MWCD and CARA. MOF wanted clarifications on few issues and also gave some suggestions. Accordingly, revised proposal for restructuring of CARA along with Recruitment Rules is under process and would be submitted to MOF through MWCD.</p>

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	M/s TCS was given the task of revamping of CARINGS. Three meetings have been held with TSC. A System Requirement Study is in progress with the technical team of TCS. The Same would be given to NIC after discussion/presentation in the Ministry.
Item No. 2: Approval of Additional Miscellaneous Expenditure during the Two days Orientation-cum-Sensitization Programme on Adoption under the Juvenile Act for the Directors of State Judicial Academies & other Judges at National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal, on 8th & 9th April, 2017.	CEO CARA informed that the matter is under process and the same would be moved soon on file to the Ministry.
Item No. 3: Information of Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Committee of CARA was held on 21/09/2017.	CEO CARA informed that an Office Memorandum dated 19.12.2017 has been issued and circulated to the Chairman & Members of Advisory Committee giving their TA/DA entitlements.
Item No. 4: Information related to TA-DA for Social Workers working with Govt. run SAAs.	CEO CARA informed that a Circular dated 28.12.2017 has been issued in this regard to all SARAs & SAAs.
Item No. 5: Issuance of the Instructions to all SAAs regarding utilisation of Adoption Fees.	CEO CARA informed that the matter is under process and the same would be moved to Ministry on file for examination.
Item No. 6: Approval of the Steering Committee for draft Annual Report of CARA for the year 2016-2017 and their printing.	CEO CARA informed that the Annual Report for 2016-2017 has been forwarded to the Ministry and the same is being laid in both Houses of the Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) during the current Winter Session.

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<p>Item No. 7: Information of digital printing of Annual Report of CARA for the year 2015-2016 (Agenda Item No. 1 of 10th Meeting of the Steering Committee related).</p>	<p>CEO CARA informed that the file for approval of the existing Service Bye Laws, which has been adopted by the Authority, has been moved to MWCD on 11/12/2017.</p>
<p>Item No. 8: Engagement of Consultant (in different categories) on contract basis in CARA for Information of Steering Committee.</p>	<p>CEO CARA informed that this was just for information of the Committee and no further action is required.</p>
<p>Item No. 9: Approval of RE for 2017-2018 and BE for 2018-2019.</p>	<p>Approved. However, CEO CARA informed that the directions of the Steering Committee in this regard have been noted for compliance.</p>
<p>Item No. 10: Approval of the Steering Committee for appointment of Internal Auditor for the year 2017-2018.</p>	<p>Approved. CEO CARA informed that after approval of the Steering Committee, appointment letter to M/s Gopal Chopra & Associates, Chartered Accountants, 34, Babar Lane, Bengali Market, New Delhi as Internal Auditor of CARA for the financial year 2017-18, has been issued on 12/12/2017.</p>
<p>Item No. 11: Other pending issues</p> <p>(i) Implementation of 7th Pay Commission for employees of CARA;</p> <p>(ii) Revision of Rules and Regulations of CARA and Recruitment Rules of CARA, as it has become a Statutory Body;</p>	<p>(i) CEO CARA informed that the file is under process at MWCD. The Committee directed that a meeting with Ministry of Finance may be arranged.</p> <p>(ii) CEO CARA informed that the file of Rules & Regulations is under process in the Ministry. The Recruitment</p>



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<p>(iii) Restructuring Proposal;</p> <p>(iv) Requirement of Additional Fund of Rs.79 lakhs for the purpose of investment against leave salary and gratuity provisions;</p> <p>(v) Central Pool Accommodation for CARA employees.</p>	<p>Rules being worked afresh in light of requirement of making it as per the proposed Strengthening of CARA, is under process of MoF.</p> <p>(iii) CEO CARA informed that the proposed Strengthening of CARA is under process in MoF.</p> <p>(iv) CEO CARA informed that CARA has sent proposal to the Ministry to provide additional fund under salary head from the General Grant in Aid at Revised Estimate Stage. The Committee was informed that the same is under process at the Ministry. It was advised the Accounts Officer of CARA to meet on next Monday.</p> <p>(v) CEO CARA informed that the issue was discussed with DDA. They are of the view that the flats given by the DDA is based on market rate and on lottery basis. Hence, the matter is under process with NBCC.</p>
<p>Item No. 12: Any other item with the approval of Chairperson.</p> <p>The matter regarding the missing & death case of the Indian child Saraswati adopted by USA parents through HOLT International (AFAA) came up for discussion.</p>	<p>CEO CARA informed that the file has been moved to the Ministry. He also informed that a preliminary meeting was held by US Embassy with CEO, CARA on 29th Nov 2017 in the matter of child Saraswati Kumari (F) DOB: 14.07.2014 renamed as Sherin Susan Mathews for organizing a meeting with the Senior Embassy Officials (The Ambassador) at the</p>

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	<p>Secretary, WCD level. The Embassy informed that the DCM, MaryKay Carlson is available to meet with Secretary Shri Rakesh Srivastava after January 15, 2018.</p> <p>In view of above, the Committee advised to coordinate for a meeting after 15th January. CEO CARA informed that a convenient date & venue for the meeting is being discussed and will be informed soon.</p>
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Agenda Items and Decisions (Administration, Accounts & Financial Matters)

Item No. 1: As a policy amendment, a window of ten days may be accommodated after the Adoption Committee meeting is held, for the SAA/PAP to raise a complaint/ grievance if the PAP is rejected by the Adoption Committee while still being matched to the reserved child.

6. As per Regulation 10(3) of the Adoption Regulation, 2017, “After viewing the profile of the child or children, the prospective adoptive parents may reserve one child within a period of forty-eight hours for possible adoption and the rest of the children would be released by Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System for other prospective adoptive parents in the waiting list”.

7. As per Regulation 10(4) of the Adoption Regulation, 2017, “The Specialised Adoption Agency shall get the details of the prospective adoptive parents through the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System for fixing an appointment with the prospective adoptive parents for matching, to assess the suitability of the prospective adoptive parents by an Adoption Committee as defined in sub-regulation (2) of regulation 2 and the Adoption Committee shall prepare the minutes of the meeting as per format provided in Schedule XXVII”.

8. As per Regulation 10(7) of the Adoption Regulation, 2017, “The entire process of matching shall be completed within a maximum period of twenty days from the date of reserving the child”.

9. As per Regulation 10(10) of the Adoption Regulation, 2017, “In case the prospective adoptive parents are not selected for the child by the Adoption Committee, the reason for non-selection of the prospective adoptive parents shall be recorded in the Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System”.

10. As per Regulation 10(11) of the Adoption Regulation, 2017, “If grounds of rejection are found to be due to systemic error or on non-justifiable reasons, seniority of the prospective adoptive parents shall be retained”.

11. As per Regulation 10(12) of the Adoption Regulation, 2017, “In case the prospective adoptive parents do not accept the reserved child or the Adoption Committee does not find the prospective adoptive parents suitable, then the prospective adoptive parents shall be relegated to the bottom of the seniority list, as on that date, who may avail a fresh chance when the seniority becomes due and the same procedure shall be followed in the subsequent chances”.

12. As per Regulation 59 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017, the aggrieved PAPs may appeal against the decision of an Agency to the Authority within seven days wherein the child may be blocked from further referrals pending decision.

13. In the current scenario, it is a transparent system, as adoption agencies are no longer the decision-makers who match parents with children and agencies must provide strong reasons for refusing to give a child to a parent who has reserved a child online. In spite of this, there are continuous grievances by aggrieved PAPs regarding their non-selection by the Adoption Committee. There are many instances where PAPs find themselves inappropriately rejected by the Adoption Committee even when they are approved as suitable in the Home Study Report (HSR).

14. When a PAP is referred a child, the PAP gets in touch with the agency, after seeing the MER & CSR. When the PAP reserves the child they are given a date to visit the agency with the relevant originals of the documents they have uploaded. In case of outstation PAP they book tickets and reach the SAA before the twenty days period lapses. In case they are unable to go, they take a time extension & during this period the child remains reserved with the parent.

15. Once the PAP reach for the adoption committee meeting they can accept the child and take it in pre adoption foster care after being matched

by the Adoption Committee. However, in case the Adoption Committee refused to match the PAPs, they are supposed to give the decision in writing within 24 hours and the PAPs have the option to appeal against the decision within seven days to the Authority as provisioned under Regulation 59 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017.

16. In the event where the PAP gets rejected they either inform CARA over telephone or they put a written complaint/grievance. If the complaint is received within the twenty days matching period, then the child is blocked with the Parent, after which a review meeting can be setup, with a representative of SARA or CARA also being present along with the Adoption Committee, and the case can be resolved in a manner agreeable to all concerned. If the complaint is received later than twenty days of matching, then child is unmatched and released for further referrals. At this point, the only option with CARA is to restore the PAPs seniority if they have been rejected on the basis of an unjustified reason. The Adoption Committee's unjustified decision can't be reversed by the Appellate Committee of the Authority.

17. To ensure the Adoption Committee follows the regulations (Ref: Para 1) and does not reject on unjustified grounds and also the PAPs do not use this as an excuse to gain restoration of their seniority and justice is done to both the PAPs and the SAA, it is recommended that the children may be prevented from going on referral for another ten days after the 20 days matching period is over, so as to enable the Appellate Committee to take a suitable decision on the appeals received within this time frame.

18. CEO, CARA informed that presently PAPs are given 48 hours to reserve the child. They get 20 days to go to the agency and do matching and accept the child. If the PAPs are not selected by the Adoption Committee, minutes of the meeting is shared with them within 24 hours. PAPs have 7 days to appeal against the decision. By that time, the child is already released to some other parent for reservation. And appeal goes infructuous, only seniority is changed at that time. Previously, it was decided that let the child remain for 10 days so that if there is an appeal, it may be redressed and it is proposed now for approval.

 **Decision:**

19. *Approved. This be implemented in the CARINGS by NIC.*

Item No. 2: Review and take a decision on giving priority to the Single Woman over 40 years since it has been implemented three months ago.

20. Steering Committee may review and take a decision on giving priority to the Single Woman over 40 years as was decided during the 8th Steering Committee Meeting held on 29 Jun 2017. In this connection, a data report generated through Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS) is placed at **Annexure-A**.

21. The data of woman was shown to members of the Steering Committee. CEO, CARA informed that 249 domestic and 64 inter-country PAPs were given ante-data seniority and 92 and 14 PAPs have already got the child and rest are under process. CEO, CARA informed that no written complaints have been received against this decision except in media. He informed that overall adoptions remain the same.

Decision:

22. *It was decided to continue this for another 3 months and then be reviewed.*

Item No. 3: Review of the Home Study Report format and the Recommendations of experts in the field.

23. During the Review Meeting with Hon'ble Minister at Central Adoption Resource Authority on 28/09/2017, it was decided that the format of the HSR be improved for a better objective assessment of the PAPs by the social Worker.

24. As per the discussion held during the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister directed the Consultant of CARA to draft an amended format of Home Study Report in order to improve the quality of Home Study Reports prepared by social workers. The draft format was made after systematic contemplation of Home Study Reports prepared by Authorized Foreign Adoption Agencies (AFAAs) and domestic agencies of requisite standards.

25. The draft of Home Study Report with proposed changes is placed at **Annexure-B**. During the course of proposing changes in the Home Study Report, the focal point that emerged during the process is that of training of social workers. The social workers conducting the Home Study should be trained and capable to perform more comprehensive analysis of the PAPs during the Home Visit. Regular Training should be imparted to social workers through workshops conducted by SARAs.

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26. The draft HSR format was also forwarded to Dr. Nilima Mehta, Professor and Consultant, Child Protection & Adoption (Member of Advisory Committee) for comments and suggestions.

27. The comments received from Dr. Nilima Mehta are as under:-

- (i) Home Study Report is a qualitative assessment process and not document like a questionnaire to be filled up. Home Study Report is a detailed descriptive qualitative document/report of the profile of PAPs and their capacity for adoptive parenthood.
- (ii) The preparation of a HSR is an educative and assessment process. It is much more than an information “giving and taking”, one time interaction. It is an opportunity for sharing information, reflection on situations and counselling about the emotional readiness of prospective adoptive parents to parent a child who is not born to them. The challenge before the social worker who prepares the HSR is to go beyond just a “Home Visit” and factual data, and be able to assess the capacity for parenting an adopted child, the stability of the marital relationship. These interactions have to be conducted in a very sensitive manner and with an approachable, non-judgemental and educative approach. The success of an Adoption is dependent on the quality of the pre adoption counselling during the HSR process.
- (iii) The study recommendations are centred towards – Training of trainers counselling workshop (for the purpose of Home Study Reports) & Pre-adoption Group Workshops (for improving the overall quality of Adoption Process).

28. In light of the above, the Steering Committee may take a decision on reviewing the format of the HSR and also regarding the recommendations for training of the Social Workers.

29. It was informed that during Review Meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Minister, she directed for making revised HSR format and suggestions given by Dr. Nilima Mehta were discussed. Dr. Nilima Mehta had said that assessment has to be subjective. JS(ASK) directed that proper module be prepared and social workers be trained with the help of State Governments. CEO, CARA informed that it has been prepared by NCPCR centrally.

Decision:

30. It was decided that training module be developed for the social workers who conduct the home study and they be trained with the help of institutions like NIMHANS/School of Social Studies. Further accreditation programme for the social workers be developed for its conduct at the State level. The amended HSR format may be circulated to all the agencies.

Item No. 4: Issue of Show Cause Notices to the SAAs for default and taking action as per Regulation 25 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017 and Section 70 of the JJ Act, 2015.

31. A large number of SAAs have been found to be erring in discharging their functions and responsibilities as defined in the Act and the Regulations. The major points observed are as under:-

- (i) Non updation of the details on CARINGS.
- (ii) Not entering the details of all children on CARINGS.
- (iii) Undue demand of money/donation from the PAPs.
- (iv) Delay in filing of the Adoption Applications in the Court.
- (v) Delay in obtaining of the Court Order due to inaction/inefficiency of the SAAs and their lawyers.
- (vi) Delay in obtaining the Birth Certificates and the Passports.
- (vii) Improper medical assessment of the child leading to incomplete/improper MER.
- (viii) Extremely poor and unhygienic condition coupled with negligence leading to number of death cases in the SAA.

32. The list of SAAs along with number of reasons, to whom Show Cause Notices have been issued, is attached as **Annexure-C**.

33. Response from few of the SAAs has been received which is not in order and hence the under-mentioned SAAs may be fined Rs.50,000/- under the provisions of Section 65(4) of the JJ Act, 2015, with a warning that the licences would be revoked in case of subsequent default:-

- (i) Prayas Bharti Trust, Patna (Bihar)
- (ii) Shishugrah, Nalgonda (Telangana)
- (iii) Udayan C/o SOS Childrens Village of India, Delhi

34. The SAA run by Shree Radha Krishna Bal Greh at Varanasi has been found to be violating the provisions of the Acts & Regulations, as detailed at

Annexure-C and it is recommended that the SAA be suspended and children be transferred to other SAAs.

35. Action against the rest of the SAAs to whom the Show Cause Notices have been issued, may be decided in due course of time once the response has been received.

36. It was informed that lot of agencies not conforming to Regulations have been issued Show Cause Notices on certain reasons like hiding children deliberately from parents, delay in filing applications in the courts etc. Response from some of them is not satisfactory and warning being issued to them.

Decision:

37. Recommendations at paras 33 & 34 above were approved by the Committee. Further, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of CARA directed that State Governments be advised for taking remedial action immediately.

Item No. 5: Inspections carried out in the months of Nov-Dec 2017.

38. Inspections were carried out in the following SAAs based on complaints received through the Office of the Hon`ble Minister:-

- (i) Swami Ganga Nand Bhuriwale International, Ludhiana (Punjab).
- (ii) Bal Anand, Chembur, Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- (iii) Vatsalya Trust, Kanjur Marg, Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- (iv) Bal Asha Trust, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- (v) Shishugrah, Nalgonda (Telangana).
- (vi) Rajkiya Bal Greh, Allahabad (U.P.).
- (vii) Visit to Shishu Grah, Hyderabad (Telangana).

39. The detailed Inspection Reports would be moved on file for perusal of the Ministry and subsequent action by the Authority.

40. CEO, CARA informed that every week team of one Regular Officer and two Consultants from CARA is undertaking inspection of the SAAs based on complaints received through the Office of the Hon`ble Minister. He informed that detailed Inspection Reports and further action taken by CARA would be moved on file for perusal of the Ministry.

Decision:

41. *The Inspection Reports be shared with the Ministry and further action taken by CARA be intimated.*

Item No. 6: Completion of the term of Steering Committee of CARA.

42. The Steering Committee was constituted for the first time under the provisions of Section 69 of the JJ Act, 2015 when CARA became the Statutory Body w.e.f. 15 Jan 2016. The tenure of the members of the Steering Committee, other than the ex-officio members, has been defined as two years from the date of appointment, as per Rule 50(11) of the Model JJ Rules, 2016. Hence, fresh Steering Committee shall be appointed on culmination of the tenure, process for which is under-way. The present Steering Committee shall be discharging its responsibilities till the constitution of new Steering Committee.

43. We would like to thank all the non-official Members of the Steering Committee for all the good work and support provided to the Authority during its tenure for the two years.

44. CEO, CARA informed that proposal for selecting the new members of the Steering Committee is under process. He said that the outgoing members would be felicitated in the next function being organised by CARA shortly. He also said that an Award Ceremony for the SAAs with outstanding performance is being planned. The spots made with Ms. Sakshi Tanwar can also be released during this function in her presence. Chairperson, CARA appreciated the useful contribution made by the members with their deliberations.

Decision:

45. *The proposals at paras 42 & 44 were approved by the committee.*

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Item No. 7: Extending tenure of Tele-counsellors from 20/11/2017 to 19/11/2018.

46. Ministry had principally approved the sanction of 03 Tele-counsellors on contract basis from 21/11/2014 with detailed terms & conditions for the

Adoption Helpline toll free number 1800 111311. As per the TsOR, engagement was on contract basis, initially for a period of 6 months, which could be curtailed or extended on requirement and performance basis.

47. Further, consequent upon completion of initial term, necessary approval was accorded by the then Secretary, CARA for one year upto 20/05/2016 on 23/06/2015. The same was also ratified by M.C. of CARA on 25/06/2015.

48. Further extension was approved by Secretary, WCD for 6 months from 20/05/2016 to 19/11/2016. Ex-post-facto approval from Steering Committee in the meeting held on 01/09/2017 was taken for continuance of the three Tele-counsellors for one year from 20/11/2016 to 19/11/2017 for manning the Toll Free Numbers.

49. It may be noted that there has been no change of service conditions or pay hike during the period as per the TsOR. While there is a proposal pending in the Ministry for treating such staff in the category of Young Professionals, approval from Steering Committee is required for continuance of the three Tele-counsellors for one year from 20/11/2017 to 19/11/2018 for manning the Toll Free Numbers.

50. Payment for the services has been budgeted and shall be made from Help line (Toll free) head and the same has been approved by the Steering Committee in its meeting dated 31st March, 2017 and 13th April, 2017 for the current financial year.

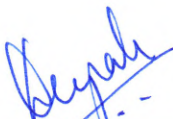
51. Steering Committee may approve the same.

52. Chairperson of CARA, JS(FA) and JS(ASK) were concerned with the fact that a large number of complaints of the Tele counsellors being unresponsive and ambiguous in answering were received.

Decision:

53. *It was decided that help of Childline helpline personnel be taken for training the CARA's personnel manning the helpline. Since their calls are being recorded, they be monitored for review and training.*

54. *For the proposal for extending the requirement of the manpower for manning the Tollfree helpline numbers, JS(FA) suggested that the proposal be put on file for consideration of the Ministry.*


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Item No. 8: Other Pending Issues.

55. Other pending issues concerning CARA which need to be proactively perused for enabling CARA in discharging its statutory objectives are as under:

- (i) Strengthening of CARA.
- (ii) Implementation of 7th Pay Commission for employees of CARA.

56. CEO, CARA informed that issues of `Strengthening of CARA` and `Implementation of 7th Pay Commission for employees of CARA` has been discussed earlier and put up in the Ministry for approval.

Item No. 9: Separating the Siblings for Adoption.

57. At present the siblings are being placed together for adoption based on the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Adoption Regulation, 2017. Various provisions stipulated under the Act and regulations have been enumerated underneath for ready reference:-

(a) **Section 39 (1) of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.** "All efforts shall be made to keep siblings placed in institutional or non-institutional care, together, unless it is in their best interest not to be kept together."

(b) **Section 44 (3) of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.** "All efforts shall be made to keep siblings together in foster families, unless it is in their best interest not to be kept together."

(c) **Regulation 6 (19) of Adoption Regulations, 2017.** "In case of siblings or twins, the Child Welfare Committee shall specify the status of the children as siblings or twins and declare the children as legally free in a single order."

(d) **Regulation 12 (4) of Adoption Regulations, 2017.** "In case of siblings or twins, the Specialised Adoption Agency shall file single application in the court."

(e) **Regulation 29 (1) (m) of Adoption Regulations, 2017.** "Ensure that siblings and twins are placed in the same family, as far as possible."

58. There is a provision for the PAPs to choose siblings for adoption. However, they are prepared to take only two children and that too if they happen to be in their preferred age group which seldom is possible. It has



been observed that it is difficult to place siblings for adoption, especially if they are three or more in number, as the parents are not prepared to take the responsibilities of more than two children.

59. In light of the above, siblings who are three or more in number have been placed in the 'Immediate Placement' category, being hard to place. Despite this it is difficult to find families for them.

60. In earlier few occasions, where one of the siblings was willing to go in adoption while the other was unwilling, siblings have been placed in adoption after taking approval of the Relaxation Committee of CARA, in the best interest of the child. However, this was only after receipt of request from the PAPs and the SAA.

61. The above is not possible in many of the cases and the siblings continue to remain in the child care institutions/adoption agencies. Based on an email received from one of the PAPs who is keen on adopting the youngest of the three siblings from the immediate placement module, the Honourable Minister has directed that this may be reviewed and a mechanism be put in place in adoption process by separating them, if it is in the best interest of the children.

62. Certain considerations which may merit the separation of the siblings are as under:-

- (a) If age difference of the siblings are far apart.
- (b) If one of the siblings is a special needs child.
- (c) If one of the siblings is unwilling to go in adoption.

63. To ensure facilitation of siblings being placed in adoption, keeping in mind the best interest of the children, the Steering Committee may decide on the process and the conditions under which the siblings may be separated for finding families for these children. However, the prime consideration of keeping the best interests of children shall be kept in mind as per General Principles stipulated in Section 3 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

64. The issue of siblings was discussed. It was informed that as far as possible, siblings should not be separated and should be placed together but there are cases where it is in the best interests of the children that the siblings be separated for being placed with a family.

 **Decision:**

65. *It was decided that the decision to separate the siblings be taken on a case to case basis keeping the best interest of the children in mind. Consent of the older children as well as inputs from the agency/CWC be taken before separating them for placing in adoption.*

Item No. 10: Suggestions received from Mr Avinash Kumar, Member Steering Committee of CARA.

66. Mr Avinash Kumar, Member, Steering Committee of CARA has given suggestion for retaining the seniority of PAPs until a decision on the appeal is taken, where the Medical Examination Report (MER) of the child is disputed or where the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) have been unfairly rejected by the Adoption Committee.

67. Further, he had sought the progress on the undermentioned earlier agenda items to be discussed:-

- (a) Health Insurance for children in Institutions.
- (b) Post Adoption Research.
- (c) One-child Referral Analysis.

Decision:

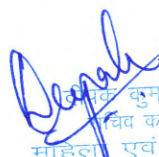
68. *The suggestions emailed by Mr. Avinash Kumar were discussed. With the extension in the 10 days period before the child is released for referral, as approved in Agenda No 1, the issue at para 66 above will get resolved.*

69. *As for health insurance of the children, the same being a policy decision may be placed on file. However, this may be provisioned through the funds available with the SAA from the Adoption Fees being received. Chairperson of CARA directed that for research suggested, help may be sought from some institution/agency through the Ministry for undertaking the proposed research.*

Item No. 11: Any other Issue with the Approval of the Chairperson.


70. Recent pendency of the NOC was discussed and it was intimated to the members that the reason was the recent circular issued which mandated the requirement of Psychological analysis of the PAPs, which were awaited in most of the cases.

71. The issue of AFFA not paying adoption fee in some cases was also discussed. This was primarily because of FCRA registration issue. However, it should not be of concern now as fees doesn't attract FCRA requirement and clarification to this effect has already been issued.


डिपक कुमार / Deepak Kumar
सचिव कारा / Secretary CARA
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय
Ministry of Women & Child Development
भारत सरकार / Government of India
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West Block-8, Wing-4, 1st Floor, R. K. Pur
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi-110068

72. In the end, the Chairperson of CARA thanked all the Members (other than ex-officio members) for their participation and valuable support given to the Authority during their tenure as Members of the Steering Committee of CARA.

73. The meeting was concluded with thanks to the Chair.







दीपक कुमार / Deepak Kumar
सचिव कारा / Secretary CARA

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Central Adoption Resource Authority
Ministry of Women & Child Development,
Government of India,
West Block - 8, Wing - 2, 2nd Floor,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066

Twelfth (12th) Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 29th December, 2017 at 03:00 p.m. in the Conference Hall of CARA at West Block - 8, Wing - 4, 1st Floor, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.



ATTENDANCE SHEET

S.No.	Name & Designation	Position	Signature
1.	Shri Rakesh Srivastava Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Chairperson (Ex-officio)	 29/12/17
2.	Ms. Aastha Saxena Khatwani Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member (Ex-officio)	 29.12.17
3.	Ms. M.R. Tshering Joint Secretary & Finance Advisor Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	Member (Ex-officio)	 29.12.17
4.	Shri Lahuraj Mali Commissioner, Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, Pune, Maharashtra (Representing SARA, Maharashtra)	Member	
5.	Smt. Viziendira Boyi KRS LAXMI DEVI Director, Joint Director Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad, Telangana (Representing Sishu Griha, a SAA run by WCD Deptt., Government of Telangana)	Member	 29/12/17

6.	Ms. Gitashree Adhikari Karuna W.B. Women and Children Welfare Society, Howrah, West Bengal (Representing SAA recognized by Government of West Bengal)	Member	<i>Gitashree Adhikari 29/12/17</i>
7.	Shri Avinash Kumar O-51, Nivedita Kunj, Sector - 10, R.K. Puram, New Delhi (Adoptive Parent)	Member	
8.	Ms. Samiha Grewal J-231, 1st Floor, Saket, New Delhi (Adoptee)	Member	<i>S 29/12/17</i>
9.	Smt. Kiran Singh 201-A, Dell Block, 1/2, Vaibhav Khand, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (Advocate)	Member	<i>K 29/12/17</i>
10.	Shri Deepak Kumar Chief Executive Officer / Secretary, Central Adoption Resource Authority West Block – 8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi	Member Secretary	<i>Deepak 29/12/17</i>

SPECIAL INVITEE :



S.No.	Name & Designation	Position	Signature
1.	Shri Ajay Tirkey Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	---	

**Meeting of Steering Committee of CARA on
29th Dec 2017**

Adoption Statistics

Central Adoption Resource Authority
Ministry of Women & Child Development
Government of India

Summary of SAAs as on 29th Dec 2017

Children in Home	5411
Foster Care	1844
Available for Adoption	1925
Special Needs Children(SNC)	1025
Children Referred	115
Waiting For NOC	111

Parents waiting list (In-country)	18807
Parents waiting list (Inter-country)	1002

Adoption during financial year 2017-2018 as on Friday, December 29, 2017					
	Adoption by RIs & NRIs			Adoption by OCI & Foreigners	Grand Total
	No. of Children	No. of Children	Total	No. of Children	[E=C+D]
	in Foster Care	whose NOC has been issued (NRI)	[C=A+B]	whose NOC has been issued	Grand Total E = C +D
		[A]			
Previous Quarter					
April 2017 Jun 2017	827	13	840	115	955
July 2017 Sept 2017	684	18	702	142	844
Oct 2017 Dec 2017	624	27	651	223	874
Current Quarter					
Oct-17	189	11	200	83	283
Nov-17	229	9	238	100	338
Dec-17	206	7	213	40	253
Current Month					
01-07 December 2017	49	2	51	12	63
08-14 December 2017	59	1	60	9	69
15-21 December 2017	63	3	66	11	77

Court Order Pendency as on 31st October 2017						
S.No	State/UTs	2-4 (Months)	4-6 (Months)	6-12 (Months)	Beyond 1 Year	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar UT	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5	2	1	5	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	6	1	1	0	8
5	Bihar	11	23	19	6	59
6	Chandigarh UT	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgrah	6	2	5	11	24
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli UT	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu UT	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	9	0	0	3	12
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	7	2	1	0	10
13	Haryana	3	0	0	0	3
14	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	1	0	4
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0

S.No	State/UTs	2-4 (Months)	4-6 (Months)	6-12 (Months)	Beyond 1 Year	Total
16	Jharkhand	14	0	0	2	16
17	Karnataka	10	11	0	0	21
18	Kerala	10	3	2	0	15
19	Lakshadweep UT	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	9	8	3	9	29
21	Maharashtra	49	15	13	0	77
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	3	5	1	0	9
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	33	31	23	4	91
27	Puducherry UT	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	0	1	6	0	7
29	Rajasthan	18	7	6	7	38
30	Sikkim	1	1	3	0	5
31	Tamil Nadu	23	27	32	57	139
32	Telangana	12	12	10	94	128
33	Tripura	1	2	2	0	5
34	Uttar Pradesh	24	12	7	13	56
35	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0
36	West Bengal	22	20	40	33	115
	Total	277	187	176	244	884

SAA - CCI Linkage (as on 29th December 2017)					
S.No	State/UTs (with no. of Districts & SAAs)	No. of CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children in CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children below 6 Years	No. of Children above 6 Years
1	Andhra Pradesh (13 Districts & 14 SAAs)	18	49	3	46
2	Arunachal Pradesh (20 Districts & 2 SAAs)	0	0	0	0
3	Assam (33 Districts & 22 SAAs)	29	275	23	252
4	Bihar (38 Districts & 23 SAAs)	5	15	1	14
5	Chandigarh (1 District & 1 SAA)	0	0	0	0
6	Chhattisgrah (27 Districts & 11 SAAs)	16	104	3	101
7	Delhi (11 Districts & 12 SAAs)	39	449	8	441
8	Goa (2 Districts & 2 SAAs)	0	0	0	0
9	Gujarat (33 Districts & 18 SAAs)	2	2	0	1

S.No	State/UTs (with no. of Districts & SAAs)	No. of CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children in CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children below 6 Years	No. of Children above 6 Years
10	Harayana (22 Districts & 3 SAAs)	4	14	2	12
11	Himachal Pradesh (12 Districts & 01 SAA)	4	6	0	6
12	Jammu & Kashmir (22 Districts & 0 SAAs)	0	0	0	0
13	Jharkhand (24 Districts & 8 SAAs)	0	0	0	0
14	Karnataka (30 Districts & 29 SAAs)	33	107	12	95
15	Kerala (14 Districts & 18 SAAs)	4	22	21	1
16	Madhya Pradesh (51 Districts & 38 SAAs)	18	197	5	192
17	Maharashtra (36 Districts & 63 SAAs)	14	74	2	72
18	Manipur (09 Districts & 09 SAAs)	1	2	0	2
19	Meghalaya (11 Districts & 06 SAAs)	1	2	0	2

S.No	State/UTs (with no. of Districts & SAAs)	No. of CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children in CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children below 6 Years	No. of Children above 6 Years
20	Mizoram (08 Districts & 07 SAAs)	5	14	4	10
21	Nagaland (11 Districts & 04 SAAs)	2	2	1	1
22	Odisha (30 Districts & 24 SAAs)	54	395	41	354
23	Pondicherry UT (04 Districts & 04 SAAs)	3	12	0	12
24	Punjab (22 Districts & 09 SAAs)	8	19	8	11
25	Rajasthan (33 Districts & 36 SAAs)	1	2	0	2
26	Sikkim (4 Districts & 4 SAAs)	0	0	0	0
27	Tamil Nadu (32 Districts & 16 SAAs)	1	3	0	8
28	Telengana (31 Districts & 11 SAAs)	3	3	1	7

S.No	State/UTs (with no. of Districts & SAAs)	No. of CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children in CCIs linked with SAA	No. of Children below 6 Years	No. of Children above 6 Years
29	Tripura (08 Districts & 09 SAAs)	4	14	0	14
30	Uttar Pradesh (75 Districts & 29 SAAs)	2	11	0	11
31	Uttarakhand (13 Districts & 08 SAAs)	1	5	0	5
32	West Bengal (23 Districts & 23 SAAs)	17	66	0	66
Total		289	1874	136	1738

Source : CARINGS