

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

**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 04:00 P.M. through VC.**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), chaired by Shri Ram Mohan Mishra, Secretary, MWCD (Chairperson of the Steering Committee of CARA), was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 04.00 P.M. through video conference.

02. The Chairperson and Members of the Steering Committee participated in the meeting as per the list enclosed.

03. At the outset, Chairperson, Steering Committee welcomed all the Members of the Committee. He asked Member Secretary & CEO, CARA to start the proceedings of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of CARA.

04. The Member Secretary & CEO CARA introduced all the Members/officials present in the meeting to the Chairperson and followed up with the Agenda items. Chairperson informed that the Members who have joined through VC may give their views otherwise the Agenda Items will be treated as accepted by them.

**Agenda No. 27.01: Appointment of Internal Auditor of CARA for the financial year 2020-21.**

**Decision:**

05. C&AG of India recommended four agencies from its panel out of which M/s. Sanjay Gulab & Co, Chartered Accountants, 2944/3, Paharganj, New Delhi has been finally selected as an Internal Auditor for the financial year 2020-21 with an annual audit fee of Rs.29,000/- (Rs. Twenty-nine thousand only) plus taxes as applicable from time to time.

**Agenda No. 27.02: Approval of RE for FY 2020-2021 and BE for FY 2021-2022.**

**Discussions:**

06. Joint Secretary (ASK) explained the reasons for having less expenditure during the year 2020-21 as CARA could not depute its staff for inspections/visits to different States/UTs due to COVID-19 and all trainings were conducted online during the period. Further, CARA could not utilize the funds allotted for hiring of office space on rent.

07. Chairperson advised to remain in the existing Government building.

**Decision:**

08. RE for FY 2020-21 and BE for FY 2021-22 were approved.

**Agenda No.27.03: Procurement of Office Equipment for virtual training programmes, advocacy events of CARA and office automation - approval thereof.**

**Decision:**

09. One proposal for purchase of hardware and software for Rs.16.00 lakh through GeM, was approved, for conducting virtual trainings etc.

**Agenda No 27.04: Fresh empanelment of the NOC Expert Committee Members for a period of two years from 01st April 2021 as per Terms of Reference (ToR).**

**Discussion:**

10. The Chairperson enquired about the functions of the NOC Committee. JS (ASK) explained that the NOC Committee headed by medical experts from AIIMS looks into the medical condition of the child and the PAPs while the social work member looks into the suitability of the parents & the child and the legal member examines all the documents pertaining to the PAPs and the child as per provisions of the JJ Act, 2015 and the Adoption Regulations, 2017 including Article 5/17 issued by the Receiving country.

11. The Chairperson enquired to know if the Medical Expert from the AIIMS examines multiple disabilities as per the Disability Act, 2016. He also asked to provide information in detail about the functioning of the NOC Committee on file.

**Decision:**

12. CARA to provide information in detail about the functioning of the NOC Committee on file.

**Agenda No.27.05: Issue of Article 05 of the Hague Convention, where India is a receiving country as per Regulation 22 of the Adoption Regulations, 2017.**

**Decision:**

13. CARA has prepared a format of Article 5 of the Hague Convention based on the feedback received from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) which was placed before the Steering Committee for information.

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**Agenda No.27.06: Sub-Committee of Experts of Training of Mental Health Professionals/Counsellors**

**Decision:**

14. *It was decided to discontinue the present sub-committee of experts of Training of Mental Health Professionals/Counsellors and instead a policy for training be put in place. Further, CEO CARA may exercise the delegated powers as per this policy.*

**Agenda No.27.07: Adoption Fee and Standard utilization pattern-regarding.**

**Discussion & Decision:**

15. *CARA presented one draft based on the feedback received from States. It was decided by Chairperson to defer the issue for the time being.*

16. Dr. Kulkarni raised the issue that SAAs should continue conducting HSR of the PAPs and it should not be entirely given to DCPU as Social Worker of the SAA has expertise & enriched experience to deal with the PAPs as well as the children residing in adoption agencies/child care institutions. Further, the quality of HSR prepared by Social Worker of the SAA is superior than that prepared by the DCPO. The Chairperson advised Dr. Kulkarni to discuss the issue with CEO CARA in detail.

**Agenda No. 27.08: Stipulating financial eligibility criteria for Prospective Adoptive Parents' suitability to adopt a child - reg.**

**Decision:**

17. *The financial criteria should not be the only deciding factor and the suitability of the PAPs is determined by their Home Study Report which assesses multiple issues including their overall readiness-cum-maturity to adopt. Hence, it was decided that the children should be placed in adoption with loving and caring families and the financial criteria should not be the only deciding factor.*

**Agenda No.27.09: Strengthening the adoption system (with the permission of Chair)**

**Decision:**

18. *The Chairperson suggested for more pro-active role of CARA; it should work as an enabler and less of an authority; build partnership with service providers and stakeholders for creating a better & improved adoption regime.*

19. *The Chairperson also reminded about information sought by the Hon'ble Minister regarding adoption court cases pending in different Courts in*

*Manoj*  
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the country and the issues should be compiled for necessary policy interventions.

20. The Chairperson sought suggestions/comments from the members of the Steering Committee to improve the adoption system. He suggested that CARA should function as a facilitator, strengthen counselling services for PAPs & older children, reinforce its helpline, and update the FAQs, start an online system who need care & protection who are surrendered, abandoned or orphan.

21. JS (ASK) suggested that apart from mapping the counsellors there should be a Helpdesk wherein the counsellor/doctor should also be available (as per the timings given) to respond the queries. This may be advertised for information of prospective adoptive parents/general public. She suggested that one proposal may be prepared by CARA for approval by the Ministry.

22. Dr. Kulkarni informed that presently, agency of one district cannot prepare HSR of the neighbouring district and as a result, there is long pendency of HSR of PAPs in metros. She suggested that the anomaly should be addressed.

23. JS (ASK) thanked all the participants and requested them to send their suggestions to CEO CARA within 2-3 days regarding system improvement that can facilitate more adoptions.

24. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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*Manoj Kumar Singh*

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**Attendance Sheet**

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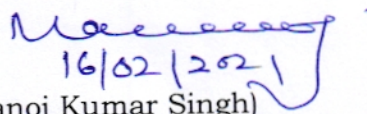
**Meeting attended by the following in the Conference Room of MWCD at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi:-**

1. Shri Ram Mohan Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India – Chairperson (Ex-officio).
2. Smt. Aastha Saxena Khatwani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – Member (Ex-officio)].
3. Shri Sukh Lal Meena, Dy. Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi [*Representing Shri Ali Raza Rizvi, Special Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi* – Member (Ex-officio)].
4. Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer, CARA – Member Secretary (Ex-officio).

**Meeting attended by the following through Video Conference:-**

5. Smt. Shahla Nigar, Secretary, Deptt of WCD, Chhattisgarh [Chairperson SARA, Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, {*Representing State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Chhattisgarh*}] – Member.
6. Shri B.S. Niranjana, Dy. Director, SARA, UP [*Representing Rajkiya Bal Greh, Rampur, UP – Government-run Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)*] – Member.
7. Dr. (Ms.) Prajakta Kulkarni, Founder/Director, Snehanur Adoption Centre, Naval Estate, Plot No.12, Sr. No.416/6, Nearby Sandeep Hotel, Ahmednagar-Pune Road, Kedgaon, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 414005 [*Representing NGO-run Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA)*] – Member.
8. Ms. Priya Srinivasan, 7039, B-10, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 [*Adoptee*] – Member.

It is certified that the above information is true.

  
16/02/2021  
(Manoj Kumar Singh)  
Member Secretary & CEO CARA

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