



Board of Directors' Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Owen Sound Board Room & 'Go to Meeting Platform'

Present: Christine John (Chair), Christena Dawson, Julie Lawrence, George Mackowski, Andrew Marttinen, Linda Van Sligtenhorst, George Sanz, Donald Porterfield, Marie Tudor and Renee Schlonies

Staff: Phyllis Lovell, Deb Pope, Kelly Ferris, Anne Bester, Julie Lipsett, Jeff Nickel, Karah Wall (CUPE), Nancy Craig (FPA)

Regrets: Tim Nicol

Recorder: Kim Fleming

1. **Welcome / Opening Remarks**

Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Approval of the Agenda / Conflict of Interest Declaration**

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the agenda as presented.

MOVED by Julie Lawrence; SECONDED by George Mackowski

CARRIED

No conflict of interest declared.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from April 8, 2020 & Business Arising**

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the minutes from April 8, 2020 meeting as revised.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Christena Dawson

CARRIED

4. **Reports**

• **Board Chair**

Christine John created two short videos on behalf of the Board that were directed to Foster Parents and to BGCFS staff acknowledging the Board's gratitude and appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication during this Pandemic.

• **OACAS (Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies)**

There has been high engagement from the association with respect to the pandemic with weekly check in meetings for organizations to hear about the best practices that have happened

in other regions. Also weekly updates from the Association have been very informative. Ms. Lovell shared with the Board that all of the information provided by OACAS is saved and archived on their Members' website for easy access including new updated information they receive from public health, government, Ministry, etc. around Covid-19.

The annual Spring Provincial Leadership meeting has been cancelled in light of the Pandemic.

- **Foster Parent Association**

Nancy Craig provided updates from the FPA.

Foster Parents are doing well in spite of having more responsibilities put on them due to COVID 19 such as being access supervisors (via go-to-meeting virtual platform) and also teachers as school continues to be out. Nancy shared her worry with the Board that the longer this pandemic goes on for; the harder it will be for foster parents especially over the summer months with no summer camp or scheduled activities for the kids.

The weekly foster parent check-in meetings are still being scheduled and are very well received by foster parents. Julie Lipsett, Director of Family Based Care and her FBC staff attend these meetings to offer support and answer any questions or concerns that may arise.

Nancy talked about the foster parents who have children in their homes with special needs. To date, these families are doing okay but Nancy shared her worry that if the pandemic continues, they may struggle with not having any breaks.

Ms. Lovell indicated that there is an individual plan for every individual child. Work will continue with individual foster parents to identify the support they require and a plan will be put in place based on what the need is. A plan may include increasing contact to include respite support and/or academic support realizing that we need to be honest with people around risk. Planning is also underway around how we will support families over the summer.

Ms. Lovell indicated that we are very grateful for all of our care giving families and also BGCFS staff who work in partnership with the families. Everyone has stepped up to the plate during this health crisis. We will report back to the board by the summer with a plan that offers meaningful support for care givers and a plan that offers some fun activities over the summer for children and youth.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Lovell provided an update to the Board about the #HeretoHelpGB campaign that was launched on April 27th, 2020 where BGCFS partnered with Owen Sound Police Service, Canadian Mental Health Association, Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addictions Services, 2-1-1 Central East Ontario, Women's House Servicing Bruce and Grey and the Women's Centre Grey Bruce. The campaign was created to reach kids, youth and women who are in abusive situations or

feeling scared during this time of isolation. The campaign reaches out for the public's support to help spread the word that we are here to help. Social media messages, media releases, white board videos and also displaying posters at all places in Grey and Bruce that are still accessible to the public has been well received. The messaging is clear and indicates that if someone is in an abusive or vulnerable situation, help is there and all they need to do is call 2-1-1 to find services in the community, 9-1-1 is for all emergency situations, 226-974-0755 is a text support line for women in crisis and 1-800-668-6868 is the Kids Help Phone.

Phil Dodd, Executive Director of Keystone Child Youth and Family Services joined in on one of BGCFS' weekly leadership check in meetings and shared with the leaders that their referral service demand is down and that they are open for business and continue to work on plans for families.

BGCFS staff continues to conduct business in a new way with one office site open to the public. We have closed our Walkerton office to the public but continue to have some of our staff working out of the Walkerton office.

- **FRMA**

George presented on his report from May 13th meeting.

Jeff Nickel updated the Board on the 2019-2020 Year End Report. This is the time of year that the audit is underway and due to COVID-19, the audit will be completed remotely. Baker Tilly are the auditors and have provided the organization with a secure link to upload files directly to them. Mr. Nickel indicated that the impact of this change is not known yet as it will require more time to scan and compile information for the auditors and less hands-on time.

BGCFS is in a better financial position this year end than originally projected. Originally, BGCFS was looking at a \$56,000 deficit that would be offset by the balanced budget fund. We are now projecting a draft surplus of \$92,000. This projected surplus is mainly due to less spending in 3 areas including: salaries and benefits with \$42,000 savings due to less overtime and several vacancies for the last two months; board rates with \$46,000 savings due to one high cost youth missing from an Other Paid Resource placement; and, travel with a \$50,000 savings due mostly to the reduction of volunteer drives and foster parent travel due to COVID-19.

Covid-19 resulted in some additional expenditures in March; however these were offset by minor savings in other spending areas. A summary of all COVID-19 related expenditures will also be completed.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the FRMA Committee report as presented.

MOVED by George Sanz; SECONDED by Julie Lawrence

CARRIED

- **CGSR**

Christena Dawson presented on her report from May 13th meeting.

Ms. Dawson updated the Board on the annual provincial Good Governance Evaluation that is normally sent out to the Board around this time of year. This will be the second year in a row that the evaluation will not be sent out. The reason for not sending it out this year is due to the current Pandemic. Ms. Lovell created a new evaluation for the Committee to review and the recommendation from the committee was to add two questions to the evaluation around First Nation's customs and traditions and a question related to an opportunity for the Board to share their respect and regard to the Nations. Ms. Lovell will work in consultation with Christine John around the wording and the evaluation will be sent out to the Board in early June.

Ms. Dawson also updated the Board with the recent interviewing process of a potential candidate for a seat on the board. The CGSR Committee recommends to the Board that Susanne Snowdon be nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting in June.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board move to have Susanne Snowdon nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting on June 24, 2020.

MOVED by Christena Dawson; SECONDED by George Mackowski *CARRIED*

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the CGSR Committee report as presented.

MOVED by Christena Dawson; SECONDED by George Mackowski *CARRIED*

5. **New Business**

No new business.

6. **In-Camera**

The Board moved in camera to hear about two risk issues.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves in-camera at 5:50 p.m. to hear about two risk issues.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by George Sanz *CARRIED*

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting comes out of camera at 6:10 p.m.

MOVED by Julie Lawrence; SECONDED by Christena Dawson *CARRIED*

7. **Adjournment**

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

MOVED by Renee Schlonies; SECONDED by Julie Lawrence

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 17, 2020