



Board of Directors' Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020
'Go To Meeting' Virtual Platform

Present: Christine John (Chair), Linda Van Sligtenhorst, Andrew Marttinen, Christena Dawson, Donald Porterfield, George Mackowski, Julie Lawrence, Marie Tudor, Renee Schlonies, Selwyn (Buck) Hicks, Susanne Snowdon, Tim Nicol and Dave Wyles

Staff: Phyllis Lovell, Kelly Ferris, Deb Pope, Jeff Nickel and Deane Brown Anderson (CUPE)

Guests: Sam Curtin, MCCSS, Nancy Craig, Foster Parent Association and Alison Fernandes (new board member)

Regrets:

Scribe: Kim Fleming

1. **Welcome / Opening Remarks**

Christine John welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory.

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

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the agenda as presented.

MOVED by Dave Wyles; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield

CARRIED

No conflict of interest declared.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from June 17, 2020 & Business Arising**

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the minutes from June 17, 2020 meeting as revised.

MOVED by Donald Porterfield; SECONDED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst

CARRIED

4. **Presentation** – Sam Curtin, Program Supervisor, MCCSS – **Update on Modernization**

Sam Curtin presented a slide deck on Child Welfare Redesign and the plan for the next three years.

The Child Welfare Redesign is so every child and youth will have the supports to succeed in life.

The Goal: To have a culture of shared accountability for child, youth and family wellbeing across ministries human services sectors, prevention and early intervention focused , increased opportunities for stability and permanency for children in and transitioning out of care, increased service collaboration enhanced sector sustainability and accountability.

The system shift will include a person-centered, evidence informed, human service system approach that will shift the focus of child welfare policies, programs and existing resources.

The path forward will include a collaborative and re-designing of the child welfare system across multiple ministries with sector partners; including societies and residential service providers, community-based service providers, youth, families and indigenous partners. This could also include ongoing formal and informal engagement mechanisms.

This work will be guided by the ongoing implementation of the co-developed Ontario indigenous children and youth strategy.

The long-term vision includes five (5) pillars to the strategy.

1. **Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing** – increasing the coordination including mental health supports to keep child youth and family being well.
2. **Quality of Care** – making sure the quality of care is high level and when focusing on Foster Care and Kin, to ensure it is cultural appropriate and stable.
3. **Strengthening Youth Supports** – include the voice of the youth. Ensure the youth have a say around education and employment. Provide them with supports into adulthood.
4. **Improving Stability and Permanency** – Mr. Curtin acknowledged how far ahead BGCFs is with improving stability and permanency. Family based care caregivers and Kin are not to rely on outside paid resources. Will focus on adoption planning for permanency.
5. **System Accountability and Sustainability** – will look at new options and new systems, including a new funding model. Societies will be funded for what the Ministry wants them to do and what they need to do.

Immediate Actions (within the next 12 months):

1. Targeting investments to targeted groups
2. Release of the quality standards framework
3. Engagement to revise existing policies and programs to increase the voice of child/youth and families
4. Promote family based placements and strengthen supports for caregivers
5. Launch voluntary amalgamation processes

Next 2-3 years:

1. Implement the cross- governed child, youth, family well-being framework
2. Introduce the regulations to improve quality of care
3. Empower children around resources such as education and employment
4. Implement centralized adoption intake and matching and enhance post adoption support
5. Enhanced collaboration framework and accountability framework and the new Child Welfare funding model

Mr. Curtin did not have information to share with the Board on how far we on with the new funding model.

5. **Reports**

- **Chair**

Christine John welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed a big thank you for their commitment to the meetings especially during this difficult time where meetings are conducted via virtual platforms.

Ms. John reminded the Board that on September 30th, it is 'Orange Shirt Day' in honour of the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and it is a day to learn more about the history of those schools.

- **OACAS**

Ms. Lovell shared with the Board that the Executive leaders continue to meet for weekly check point meetings to receive updates and news of sector issues related to the Pandemic. OACAS would also like to host meetings with Board Presidents in the near future.

- **FPA**

Nancy Craig provided her update.

The foster parents continued to meet throughout the summer. At last evening's meeting, 20 people showed up which is a high number. Currently, all meetings take place via ZOOM virtual platform.

Ms. Craig recognized Foster Parents who have shown tremendous strength over the last six months during COVID-19. The biggest concern has been the dismantling of the visit program during the pandemic. Foster Parents have felt frustrated as some have been asked to supervisor visits without any proper training and there has been no consistency around the expectations around visits (i.e. do we wear masks?, etc.).

Christine John thanked the foster parents for their commitment during this difficult time and also identified the struggles they have faced and are facing around access visits.

Ms. John will plan to attend the foster parent meetings to show the Board's support and appreciation for all that they do. Ms. Craig will forward an invitation to Ms. John for the next meeting.

Phyllis will look into the issues around visits and will report back at the next meeting.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Lovell introduced the new CUPE President, Deane Brown-Anderson and expressed how happy we are to partner with Deane and all of the CUPE leaders.

Ms. Lovell shared with the Board that we are currently in the middle of Foster Care Licensing. This is Week Two. The review this year is done virtually as the same as the recent Extended Care Review. Ms. Lovell indicated that the review is taking longer than other years as the review team identified having a number of activities that they are trying to manage at the same time as our review. Ms. Lovell gave a big shout out to the staff and foster parents who have participated in this review. The results for both reviews will be shared with the Service & Quality Committee next month.

Ms. Lovell shared with the Board that on Wednesday, September 30th, all BGCFS staff will be attending the parking lot at the Shallow Lake Community Church for their first 'all staff' meeting since COVID began. The Church has a sound system similar to a drive-in where the sound will come through their FM radios to allow for staff who have been working from home because of a comprised immune system, to attend the meeting and remain in their cars safely. Ms. Lovell also extended an invitation to the Board to attend this meeting. Kim Fleming will forward the invitation with more information.

Ms. Lovell gave a big shout out to the Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce build that has continued at Neyaashiinigiing. The Nawash community is working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity with bringing the necessary resources to the housing challenges in the Nation. In a couple of weeks, two more families will move into their new homes.

Ms. Lovell recognized that kids have returned to school and how important it is for us to recognize in the life of BGCFS, this is a very important entity. The last two weeks, we have seen the efforts of a group of staff who left at March break and have returned to work facing their new reality. We should remember where we were in March 2020 and the chaos and anxiety that was felt by all. Adjusting to the challenges during a pandemic has not been easy. We continue to work in close partnership with Public Health and encourage our staff, families to adhere to their advice and direction.

- **CG&SR**

George Mackowski presented his report from the September 9, 2020 meeting.

The Committee reviewed and approved their Terms of Reference as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend to the Board to approve their Terms of Reference as presented.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed and approved their Work Plan as revised.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend to the Board to approve their Work Plan as revised.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Dave Wyles *CARRIED*

The Committee reviewed and approved the By-Laws as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend to the Board to approve the By-Laws as presented.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Tim Nicol *CARRIED*

Mr. Mackowski shared with the Board that the By-Laws have a youth focus. The Committee discussed a plan to look at changing the name of the organization to include the word 'youth' in the title. This recommendation was added to the Work Plan for further review of costs and logistics of the process of changing the name. The Committee will continue to update the Board as more information is received. One of the suggestions from the Board is to consult with the youth to find out if changing the name to include the word youth, would make a difference to them.

George Mackowski updated the Board on the recent board interview with Alison Fernandes for a possible seat on our Board. Linda Van Sligtenhorst and Phyllis Lovell also participated in the interview and all were very impressed by Ms. Fernandes and her past experiences. Mr. Mackowski along with the Recruitment Committee would like to recommend Ms. Fernandes to the Board.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend that Alison Fernandes be elected to the board.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst *CARRIED*

The Committee reviewed three policies.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend to the Board to approve PRO-045 Service & Quality Committee as revised.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Alison Fernandes *CARRIED*

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend to the Board to approve GOV-020 Governance Roles as revised.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Renee Schlonies

CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the CGSR Committee recommend to the Board to approve GOV-030 Policy Governance as presented.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Julie Lawrence

CARRIED

The Committee shared questions with the Board in order to receive feedback around youth for Board consideration. Mr. Mackowski asked the Board to send him further questions to be considered.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the CG&SR report as presented.

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Renee Schlonies

CARRIED

- **FRMA**

Linda Van Sligtenhorst presented her report from September 9th, 2020 meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the FRMA report as presented.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Dave Wyles

CARRIED

6. **New Business**

Ms. John proposed a question to the Board around a plan to look at changing the start time of the Board meetings while we continue using a virtual platform during COVID. The Board supports a plan to begin the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The Board will review this plan in two months.

7. **In-Camera (required)**

The Board moves in-camera to approve the plan for unbudgeted expenditures and to receive an update on a fraud incident.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves in-camera at 6:36 p.m. to discuss a plan for unbudgeted expenditures and to receive an update on a fraud incident.

MOVED BY Dave Wyles; SECONDED by Selwyn Hicks

CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting comes out of camera at 7:00 p.m.

MOVED by Christina Dawson; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield

CARRIED

8. **Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

9. **Adjournment**

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MOVED by Selwyn Hicks