



Board of Directors' Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Go To Meeting

- Present:** Christine John (Chair), Linda Van Sligtenhorst, Andrew Marttinen, Christena Dawson, Donald Porterfield, George Mackowski, Marie Tudor, Renee Schlonies, Selwyn (Buck) Hicks, Susanne Snowdon, Tim Nicol and Alison Fernandes
- Staff:** Phyllis Lovell, Kelly Ferris, Anne Bester, Deb Pope, Julie Lipsett, Jeff Nickel and Emily McCracken (Union)
- Guests:** Nancy Craig, Foster Parent Association
- Regrets:** Julie Lawrence and Dave Wyles
- Scribe:** Kim Fleming
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1. Welcome / Opening Remarks

Christine John 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 Donald Porterfield; SECONDED by Alison Fernandes

CARRIED

No conflict of interest declared.

3. Approval of the Minutes from October 21, 2020 & Business Arising

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the minutes from October 21, 2020 meeting as presented.

MOVED by Christena Dawson; SECONDED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst

CARRIED

4. Presentation – Drug Strategy Committee

Presenters: Anne Bester and Emily McCracken

The Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy (formerly the Grey Bruce Task Force on Crystal Meth) was established in 2009 in response to concerns raised by families, educators, service providers and municipal leaders about the devastating impact of crystal meth use. One of the hot spots for Crystal Meth use was in Hanover.

The Task Force recognized the need to raise awareness and to develop a community response to children who reside in drug endangered environments. These children face significant risks and are referred to as 'Drug Endangered Children'.

The Drug Endangered Children are or are likely to be harmed by drug activity such as illegal drug manufacturing and trafficking resulting in abuse, neglect and/or medical problems including impact on their emotional, physical and neuropsychological development.

In June 2018, strategic planning sessions were held to explore local trends and to develop a common agenda for addressing substance-related harms in Bruce and Grey. The four (4) key challenges that were identified in Bruce and Grey were a culture of drinking; opioid addiction and overdose, impaired driving and cannabis legalization and youth mental health.

It is estimated that 25 – 30% of young people who misuse drugs have been diagnosed with mood disorders. 18 % of youth reported that they did not know who to ask for help with a mental health concern.

Bruce Grey Child and Family Services work with families using the Signs of Safety (SOS) framework. We continue to be proud of our staff for making this shift as SOS has had a positive impact on the families and children/youth that we serve.

Emily McCracken walked the Board through a real drug strategy case example and shared the safety plan, the family's support network and the safety goals that were all used using the SOS framework. Despite the many challenges this family went through and with the support of the worker, the mom is currently living independently with her child and her support network continues to surround them during the good days and the challenging days.

5. **Reports**

- **Chair**

Christine John presented and shared with the Board that she had attended the Foster Parent meeting last evening and finds it very rewarding to hear from the foster parents and their lived experiences. Ms. John thanked Nancy Craig for the invitation and hopes to continue attending these meetings.

Ms. John has connected with the counsellors at Saugeen First Nation to discuss our Board and the importance of having a representative from the Nation sit on the Board. Ms. John will continue to connect with counsel and discuss recruitment strategies moving forward.

- **OACAS.**

Ms. Lovell shared with the Board that the provincial meeting is scheduled in December.

- **FPA**

Nancy Craig presented.

There were 21 in attendance at the November 17th Foster Parent meeting. Some expressed their worry about a future lock down due to the rise of COVID cases in our area and what a lock down would mean for them as they try to manage keeping their own families safe and also continuing to be participate with visits.

The Mentorship program is full steam ahead with the first meeting held this week.

A Christmas draw is coming up soon for Foster Parents to encourage everyone to read the newsletter for prizes.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Phyllis Lovell presented.

Ms. Lovell acknowledged the hard work and dedication that continues between our Directors of Service and the service leaders around visits and the planning as we are now into Wave 2. Also a big shout out to Foster Parents who have been patient during this difficult time. The work will continue and will follow the Signs of Safety approach where the plan would include engaging the 'network' that surrounds and supports the parent/s and provides safety in terms of the contact. This continues to be a work in progress and transparency with foster parents. Ms. Lovell encourages foster parents to continue to report on how things are working or not working. Communication is critical. Ms. Lovell will continue to update the board on the progress moving forward.

Ms. Lovell shared with the board the Signs of Safety Internal Gathering that took place for all staff on Friday, November 13th. The gathering took place via Zoom virtual platform where a number of staff shared their SOS experiences working with families. The gathering was very impactful for staff to hear and to learn how the change using SOS resulted in a positive approach to the families' situation.

Ms. Lovell gave a big shout out to Bruce Power for their kind donation of 90 snowsuits that were collected and delivered to our Walkerton office this week for children in need of warm winter clothing.

Ms. Lovell also shared with the Board that BGCFS in partnership with the United Way Bruce Grey signed a COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund Agreement. This fund was received from Employment and Social Development Canada for the amount of \$15,000 to extend our Winter Warmth support and offer snowsuits to low-income families in the community. We will work closely with the women's shelters and the two Nations and ask for their numbers of community families who are in need of winter clothing.

Ms. Lovell updated the Board on a recent issue that appeared in the news regarding York Region Children's Aid Society. The York Region CAS Board of Directors has received the Operational Review Report prepared by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The Ministry's review was in response to concerns raised by staff related to racism, bullying and harassment. The full report will be shared on the Board Portal.

- **CG&SR**

George Mackowski presented on his report from November 11, 2020.

The Committee discussed holiday planning for youth and what that would look like this year due to COVID. Gift bags will be sent out to our youth including a letter from the Board. A holiday traditional dinner will be offered to each of the youth either by a gift card from their favorite restaurant or a plan for us to order dinner on the date and time of their choice through 'skip the dishes'. The letter from the Board will be shared with Board members via email from Kim Fleming.

Christine John reminded the board of the earlier practices where the Board would come together to cook a home-made festive dinner for youth. Over the years, this practice stopped as attendance dropped by the youth. The last couple of years, the practice changed where youth would be invited out to a local restaurant for a festive meal with the Board Chair, CEO, one or two Board members as well as a couple of workers. This year, due to COVID and the strict rules around social gathering, we will not plan to meet in a restaurant.

BE IT RESOLVED

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

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Susanne Snowdon

CARRIED

- **FRMA**

Linda Sligtenhorst presented on her report from November 11, 2020.

Jeff Nickel reviewed the estimated expenditures showing a \$370,000 projected surplus at March 31, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the FRMA report as presented.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield

CARRIED

6. **New Business**

No new business.

7. In-Camera

The Board went in camera to hear more information regarding the proposal for staff reimbursement.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves in-camera at 5:45 p.m.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield *CARRIED*

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting comes out of camera at 5:55 p.m.

MOVED by Donald Porterfield; SECONDED by Christena Dawson *CARRIED*

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 16, 2020