



Board of Directors' Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Via Go to Meeting

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- Present:** Christine John (Chair); Linda Van Slightenhorst, Tim Nicol, Christena Dawson, Alison Fernandes, George Mackowski, Andrew Marttinen, Donald Porterfield, Selwyn (Buck) Hicks, Susanne Snowdon, Julie Lawrence and Renee Schlonies
- Staff:** Phyllis Lovell, Kelly Ferris, Deb Pope and Julie Lipsett
- Guests:** Nancy Craig (Foster Parent Association), Ryan Thompson (Supervisor), Julie Walker & Alicia Rosenburg (Family Resource Workers)
- Regrets:** Maria Tudor
- Recorder:** 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 Alison Fernandes; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield

CARRIED

No conflict of interest declared.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from January 20, 2021 & Business Arising**

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the minutes from January 20, 2021 meeting as presented.

MOVED by Linda Van Slightenhorst; SECONDED by George Mackowski

CARRIED

4. **Presentation – Continued Care & Support for Youth (CCSY) Organized Youth Program**

Ryan Thompson, Julie Walker & Alicia Rosenburg presented

The CCSY program is intended to support youth who have been in the care of the society. The intent is to provide support and guidance as they transition to adulthood to youth between the ages of 18 and 21+. Mr. Thompson also spoke about the support from the Ministry during COVID with the directive to continue to support youth after they turn 21.

The support provided to youth is a collaborative approach to planning that focuses on physical and emotional wellbeing, life management skills and assisting to develop social network and life long connections to adults in the community.

CCSY agreements are signed with the youth. It is a formal agreement that sets out the goals and responsibilities and the financial supports that they would receive. Currently, the monthly amount received is \$850. We support 33 youth (18 females and 15 who identify as male).

We continue to support education and currently have 8 youth attending high school, 7 in post-secondary, 4 working on their GED and 1 youth who is attending trade school.

There are also some youth who are employed in either part-time or full time positions.

The program activities that are offered to youth include: Youth Advocacy Groups, Independents Prep Program; Financial Literacy Program; Educational Mentor Program which is a brand new program that is almost ready to be launched where we will link every child in care with a mentor. We are seeking more volunteers to help get this program off the ground.

Julie Walker identified the challenge for youth in finding affordable housing. Many struggle to find a place that is safe and a place they can afford.

Other challenges identified were accessing affordable internet and accessing reliable transportation as some youth live in remote communities where both poor internet service and assessing travel prove to be challenging for some.

Mr. Thompson shared with the Board that some of the youth have expressed an interest to engage with the organization or the board in some way.

During the pandemic, we have secured money from the kind donation of Bruce Power for food security. This gives youth an extra \$50-75 dollars more per month to purchase food.

Julie Walker recognized a former Crown Ward and youth who participated in the organizations Strategic Planning process, Frankie Von Dahlen-Klaus. Frankie currently attends Georgian College in the Practical Nursing Program and was the recipient of the Ministry's provision that was offered to young people in care to provide educational support.

Ms. Lovell gave a big shout out to Julie Walker and Alicia Rosenberg who have supported Frankie over the years and who have done advocacy work with the youth. The Board also wanted Frankie to know how proud they are of her and have asked that a letter be sent to Frankie from the Board to let her know how proud the Board is of her accomplishments and to also congratulate her.

The Board has also asked that we incorporate in our processes that once per year; the Board hears about the accomplishments and successes of our youth and then takes the opportunity to provide a letter to the youth who is recognized for their hard work and dedication to education. This request will go back to the Governance Committee to work out a process and then will come back to the Board at a later date.

5. Reports

- **Chair**

Christine John provided her report.

Ms. John attended the Foster Parent Association meeting last night and shared that it was a great meeting and there was great dialogue. The FPA really appreciates a board presence at their meetings and Ms. John echoed the importance of maintaining an ongoing relationship with the FPA moving forward.

Ms. John attended a meeting on February 12th with Ms. Lovell and Julie Lipsett where they met (virtually) with Chief Lester Anoquot and Sheena Kewageshig from Anishinabek Child & Youth Prevention Services (ACYPS) to discuss customary care capacity at Saugeen First Nation and the Memorandum of Understanding between BGCFS and Saugeen First Nation. It was a good meeting and Ms. John felt that they had come to an agreement around levels of engagement between BGCFS service staff and the staff at ACYPS and the newly formed steering committee that will oversee some of the ongoing issues around the MOU at the leadership table level with Chief Anoquot and Phyllis Lovell and the Board. It is a step in the right direction to move things forward and keep things going.

Ms. John shared with the Board that we now have band representation from both Saugeen First Nation (Theresa Root) and Chippewas of Nawash (Martha Pediquotte). A preliminary meeting will be scheduled with each of the representatives and Ms. John and Ms. Lovell prior to coming onto the Board.

Ms. John, along with Linda Van Sligtenhorst and Ms. Lovell attended the South West Zone Indigenous Gathering on January 29th. This meeting was to report back to the Nations we serve on our progress on the nine (9) Indigenous Commitments made by non-indigenous Children's Aid Societies in 2017. Ms. John encouraged board members to take a look at the 9 commitments that are on the board portal.

- **OACAS**

No report.

- **FPA**

Nancy Craig reported on FPA. There was good representation at last night's meeting with new foster parents in attendance. Ms. Craig indicated that people seemed happier at this meeting compared to last month and it is probably due to children returning back to school. One of the asks from foster parents was to reinstate the volunteer drive program as foster parents identified that they are feeling fatigued due to the number of drives they are having to do.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Phyllis Lovell gave a big thank you to board members who were generous with participating in the silent on-line auction for a staff person who is dealing with stage 4 cancer.

Ms. Lovell spoke about services to 16 and 17 year olds and the opportunity for us to serve this age group came 1.5 years ago by a legislation change. We were given authority to investigate

child maltreatment for 16 and 17 year olds. We provide services to those without family support. We currently have a process underway to have a community conversation with other youth service organizations as there has been frustration on who and how this age group are served. It has been challenging for this age range to live on their own and be successful at the same time. It is a difficult time to navigate the world without the guidance of parents. As an organization, we are endeavoring to find a path forward and we are receiving community feedback that vulnerable youth are not receiving the services that they need and deserve. We will have the conversation this week beginning with our leaders to look at our mandate and see what our common worries are for our youth and also how the legislation has impacted these young people and who is in the community voluntarily and not being supported. After a conversation with leaders, we will meet with service staff when we know what our work is internally and help our service staff to identify the gaps in the community so we can do the very best we can do for this population.

Ms. Lovell spoke about the volunteer drive program and shared with the Board that the plan moving ahead will be to continue to think how to support our fatigued foster parents and to continue to ensure that effective infection prevention strategies continue to be front and center. We had a very active drive program up until March 2020 when the pandemic hit. Our consideration at this time is to limit the number of people that a child would have contact with; therefore, we have made a decision not to re-introduce volunteer drives at this time. Ms. Lovell assured the Board that we do acknowledge the pressure this puts on foster parents.

- **FRMA**

Linda Sligtenhorst presented on her report. Financial reports for Q3 were reviewed and discussed by the Committee.

Total expenditures are a little bit higher but revenue is up so we are expecting a surplus at the end of March.

On January 21, 2021; the OACAS Board approved the Shared Services Program (SSP) model to be implemented effective April 1, 2021. Under this new model, there will be no SSP member fees payable from 2021-2022 onwards. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services will directly fund Children's Aid Societies free of charge.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors accepts the participation of the new Shared Services Program model effective April 1, 2021 from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies according to the terms indicated.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by George Mackowski

CARRIED

In the summer of 2020, the Office of the Provincial Controller Division completed a formal analysis of the status of the Societies concluding that they are controlled by the government and their financial information should be brought into the Public Accounts. The Office of the Auditor General also performed independent analysis and concurred with the Controller's conclusion. In order to be consolidated into the public accounts, BGCFS would have to switch to Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board endorses the plan to switch from Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations to Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Selwyn Hicks

CARRIED

Kelly Ferris reported on the Corporate COVID update and shared that during the first phase of the Pandemic, we had 13 Infectious Disease Leaves (IDEL) and this time, we had only 5 and they were intermittent leaves. Ms. Ferris recognized the low number was due to the counties opening up daycare spots for our staff and with the re-opening of schools.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the FRMA report as presented.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Julie Lawrence

CARRIED

- **S&Q**

Julie Lawrence presented on her report from February 3, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the Service & Quality Committee report as revised.

MOVED by Julie Lawrence; SECONDED by Christena Dawson

CARRIED

6. **New Business**

No business

7. **In-Camera**

The Board moved in camera to approve the minutes from January 20, 2021 and to discuss pandemic compensation for staff.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves in-camera at 5:58 p.m. to approve the minutes from January 20th, 2021 and to discuss pandemic compensation for staff.

MOVED by Donald Porterfield; SECONDED by George Mackowski

CARRIED

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting comes out of camera at 6:25p.m.

MOVED by Christena Dawson; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield

CARRIED

8. **Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

9. Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

MOVED by Alison Fernandes