



Board of Directors' Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Via Go to Meeting

Present: Christine John (Chair), Linda Van Sligtenhorst, Christina Dawson, Alison Fernandes, Marie Tudor, Susanne Snowdon, Andrew Marttinen, Selwyn (Buck) Hicks, and George Mackowski

Staff: Phyllis Lovell, Kelly Ferris, Deb Pope, Julie Lipsett and Anne Bester

Reps: Theresa Root, Saugeen First Nation

Guests: Charmaine Pette, Ellen Belanger, Julie Biesenthal and Sara Bilechi

Regrets: Tim Nicol, Julie Lawrence, Nancy Craig and Martha Pedoniquotte

Recorder: Kim Fleming

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 George Mackowski; SECONDED by Christena Dawson

CARRIED

No conflict of interest declared.

3. Approval of the Minutes from March 17, 2021 & Business Arising

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the minutes from March 17, 2021 meeting as revised

MOVED by George Mackowski; SECONDED by Alison Fernandes

CARRIED

4. Presentation – Report on Child Deaths

Presenters: Anne Bester, Charmaine Pette, Ellen Belanger, Sara Bilechi and Julie Biesenthal

The Joint Directive on Child Death Reporting and Review came into effect on March 31, 2006 and sets out procedures and templates for Children's Aid Societies, the Office of the Coroner and Ministry Regional Offices.

The Society will complete and submit a case summary for review that includes a determination as to the child's cause of death. The Chair of the Paediatric Death Review Committee will then determine whether an Internal Death Review is required.

BGCFS has reported 25 child deaths since amalgamation. Six of those deaths resulted in requests from the Paediatric Death Review Committee for an Internal Child Death Review. Four of which were due to the 'undetermined cause' for their death (safe sleep). 10 of the deaths reported were due to infants and 'safe sleep'.

It is every worker's worst fear to have a child death occur on their caseload.

Utilizing a Signs of Safety framework is an opportunity for not only reviewing what happened but also measuring the good work that has been done. Appreciative Inquiry is the framework that is used as it looks for what is wrong and 'fixes' it and also has a real potential to create a continuously learning process. It allows workers to reflect on what they were most proud of regarding the work that they did with the family.

5. **Reports**

- **Chair**

Christine John reported.

On Tuesday, April 20th, Ms. John attended the Child Welfare Leadership meeting through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS). Due to COVID, the meet took place virtually. The agenda was on Equity and supporting LGBT2SQ+ children, youth and families in Child Welfare. The presentation had excellent speakers and was very informative. Keishia Facey from OACAS presented on Phase 3 of One Vision One Voice. Keishia's personal experience taught her that she is not alone in the struggle to confront anti-Black racism.

Ms. John reported on last night's Foster Parent Association meeting. The group talked about Ms. Lovell's upcoming plans to retire and foster parents were asked for their input on what they would like to see in a new leader for the organization. Ms. John shared the process with the FPA and also let them know that their input was most welcomed. The group also discussed the COVID-19 vaccine process and it was good to hear everyone's willingness to be vaccinated.

- **FPA**

Nancy Craig was not present at the meeting.

- **Saugeen First Nation Representative**

Theresa Root presented on her report.

Saugeen Literacy Program is hosting a French Bay restoration project of the Historic Church and barn area across from the Library.

Lori Kewaquom who is the Advocacy Coordinator has organized an 'Our Living Culture' day where artists and craftspeople can present their work and sell it. Lori will be sharing and selling some of the items through her Facebook page. Christine John will look into this further and share the Facebook page with Board members.

Community Clean-up Earth Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd, 2021.

May 5th is National Red Dress Day to bring awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIWG). This year as part of a 'Living Culture Project' Saugeen First Nation is promoting the making of red ribbon skirts from April 19th – 30th in preparation for the May 5th Red Dress Ceremony.

There is also a Healing and Beading workshop coming up with dates to be determined.

Ms. Root shared with the Board that some people in the Community are feeling stressed and experiencing COVID fatigue. It has been stressful for some who have also experienced poor internet service.

- **Chippewas of Nawash Representative**

Martha Pediquotte was not present at the meeting.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Phyllis Lovell presented on her report.

Ms. Lovell expressed her condolences to Theresa Root and the Community of Saugeen First Nation on the passing of Ken Root. Mr. Root was the supervisor of ACYPS on the Nation for many years and then served on council. He also worked on the Memorandum of Understanding between BGCFS and SFN. Mr. Root was a strong advocate for families and a community builder. Ms. Lovell acknowledged the contribution Mr. Root made to BGCFS.

Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services is now a recognized Child Welfare service in the province of Ontario as of April 1, 2021. Their head office is in Dokis First Nation which is in the jurisdiction of Nipissing Parry Sound. Niijaansinaanik C & FS will service six First Nation communities including; Dokis, Henvey Inlet, Magnetawan, Shawanaga, Wasauksing and Wahnapiatae and they will provide service to any other Indigenous people within their jurisdiction.

On April 20th, the Child Welfare Political Action Committee announced a privacy Bill called 'The Fostering Privacy Fairness Act'. The Bill which was co-developed with Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey has passed the Second Reading.

This legislation seeks to correct a long-standing administrative issue that leaves those raised in foster care with less privacy rights than juvenile offenders. Deeply personal and intimate information about foster children is recorded in child welfare files. In Ontario, these files remain accessible to child protection sector employees for life.

Jane Kovarikova is the founder of the Child Welfare PAC and is a former Crown Ward and current doctoral candidate at Western. Ms. Kovarikova shared that some kids end up in foster care through no fault of their own and even in adult life, they remain haunted by often inaccurate versions of their childhoods. Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues announced that our government is committed to changing the child welfare system and ensuring better and brighter futures for all the children and youth who have been impacted. There are an estimated 100,000+ former Crown Wards in Ontario, not including other types of former youth in care, that will be impacted by this bill.

Ms. Lovell spoke about the current 'Stay at Home' order and shared her worries about staff capacity as many of our staff are parents of school-aged children. Day cares that operate in schools have been closed and staff who do not have local support from retired members of their family struggle to make plans for their children's supervision; therefore, we are likely to see more Infectious Disease Emergency Leaves (IDEL) as a result.

Julie Lipsett shared with the Board that she has reached out to the board of education to discuss a tutoring service or family helper that may help foster parents with the children in their home. The plan gives foster parents an extra person to welcome in their home that could provide one to one support and tutoring to a child who is struggling with on-line learning. Ms. Lipsett will continue to update the Board on this initiative.

In the meantime, Ms. Lovell and Christine John will connect with Nancy Craig to ask if foster parents are in need of extra support around on-line learning.

- **Finance, Risk Management and Audit Committee**

Linda Van Sligtenhorst presented on her report.

Jeff Nickel presented on the Insurance Renewal. The insurance rates have increased by 20 percent. The Committee asked Mr. Nickel to contact Cowan Insurance to ask if we should be increasing our cyber insurance from Option 1 to Option 2. Mr. Nickel shared with the Board that Frank Cowan Insurance recommends that we opt to Option 2 as cyber attacks are becoming more frequent due to more people working from home.

Mr. Nickel presented on the estimated budget for 2021-22. The original estimated expenditures shows a surplus of \$281,949 which is based on the planning amounts.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board approves the Budget Expenditure Plan for 2021 – 2022 as presented.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhost; SECONDED by Selwyn Hicks *CARRIED*

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board approves renewing BGCFS's Insurance with Frank Cowan Insurance for another year and include moving to Option 2 for an increase of Cyber Insurance.

MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhost; SECONDED by Alison Fernandes *CARRIED*

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board accepts the FRMA Committee Report as presented.

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

6. New Business

No new business

7. In-Camera (required)

The Board moved in camera at 5:55 p.m. to approve the minutes from March 17, 2021. Staff and guests were asked to leave the meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves in-camera at 5:55 p.m. to approve the minutes from March 17, 2021 meeting..

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

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board of Directors meeting moves out of camera at 6:11 p.m.

MOVED by Christena Dawson; SECONDED by Alison Fernandes *CARRIED*

8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 19, 2021

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.