

DCS/Foster Parent Association Meeting – September 6, 2018
Baddeck Fire Hall
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Present:

Aliesje MacInnis (chair), Gary Landry, Wendall Fraser, Norma MacDonald, Sheldon MacDonald, Sheila Proctor, Bill Proctor, Kathy Mullins, William Parson, Georgeina MacKinnon, Paul MacDonald, Donna Deveaux-MacLeod, Bernie MacKinnon, Anita MacKinnon, Blake Parsons

Regrets: Mairi MacLean O’Handley

I. Welcome and Introductions - done

II. Review of Agenda/Additional Agenda Items

III. Review of Minutes

IV. Previous Actions from Minutes

- a) October 26th Forum** – Successful Outcomes for Children in Care agenda discussed. Baddeck Fire Hall; 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
Action: Conference calls September 19, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM and October 6, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM – Planning Committee will include Cathy Mullins, Anita MacMillan, William Parsons, Aliesje MacInnis, Gary Landry, Debbie Thibault, Donna Deveaux-MacLeod or Shaun Butler. **(complete)**
- b) Foster Care Reimbursements**
When do Child in Care for someone it can be submitted on-line. Gary and Debbie said Department working on improvements so calculates for claimant.
The Foster Parents in attendance related their experiences submitting claims using the new on-line system. Processing time ranged from three to six days. Very impressed; very pleased. Better system. Gary will provide feedback.
Question - How can you save to I-Pad? **(complete)**
September 6, 2018 update: Program did hands on support to foster parents at AGM; can do from I-Pad.
- c) Dispute Resolution Process**
Sheila will provide to Wendell and they will provide to Aliesje for next meeting. Say still need it - maybe Bernie and Sandi if come back; maybe Liz and Chris. Cathy and Anita expressed interest.
July 6, 2017 update: Bernie and Sandi interested. Sheila and Wendell to provide names to Aliesje.
September 19, 2017 update: Liz and Chris – not right now and Sheila and Bill interested.
Action: Gary and Aliesje to regroup and bring process to next meeting.
September 6, 2018 update: Wendell felt still needed so we’ll proceed.
- d) Education – no longer in care as of 19 (grade 12 to Post Secondary)**
Shaun said care status ends at 19; Bill said only met once and Sheila providing information; Sheila e-mailed Social Worker with four possible meeting dates; provided acceptance letter, will need transcript; budget information sent; Social Worker doesn’t

seem sure, confident, Foster Parents feel dumped on them. NSCC application deadline coming soon; child stressed about.

Anita read letter she prepared (provided copy to Aliesje). Noted CB Post Editorial re youth and homeless. Felt not opened with Foster Parents. Mentioned Leonard going to their meeting two years ago and promising them being listened too.

Cathy spoke to trauma information informed care – most kids are delayed and not ready to be on their own.

Asked why all policies are not visible on website for youth and Foster Parents. Gary mentioned that hyperlinks not working.

Bernie said see them on welfare and didn't get education, short-sighted.

Shaun mentioned checking into exiting and coming back until age 24. **ACTION: Shaun will check.**

September 19, 2017 Update: If we get response before next meeting will share with Gary for distribution. Shaun clarified questions.

September 6, 2018 update: Donna Deveaux-MacLeod provided response.

V. Respite and Babysitting

Gary: Emergency placements or not, can you take overnight? Regular or \$56 → Georgeina only first four days; regular per diem after that

Babysitting rates-scales discussed.

12 years or older discussed.

With Social Worker – Wendell said that most 12-year olds can't be left alone and Georgeina said contact CIC Social Worker for approval. Came up at Provincial Care meeting. Is an October meeting agenda so will be noted again. **Action: Georgeina.**

Two children in care and Foster Parent must leave work – day care rate. Rates depend on number of children in care in the home – discuss with CIC Social Worker and rate.

Discussed

No SW at house yet (there two weeks) so haven't worked out plan.

Emergency homes – do have some, contracted, often full.

VI. Emergency Money

Child placed day after holiday with limited clothes, go buy and submit receipts – Foster parent might not have money – had to get school supplies.

- No PO and came with T-shirt and diaper: needed car seat-could be \$500.
- Discussed where foster parent can't get out to purchase items.

- Discussed when Social Worker making the purchases when foster parent can't get out to make the purchases.
- Asking questions necessary to understand need.
- Anita suggested keeping receipts.
- **Action: Communication needed so emergency funds issued quickly.**

Needed bucket seat, swing, → stuff like new – storage an issue. Gary mentioned Facebook group in other areas to share items.

Foster parent responsible to buy stroller or DCS? If needed for child, talk to CIC Social Worker. If need for general use talk to FC Social Worker.

VII. Post Care and Custody

Gary said still some problems; bills not paid in timely manner and calls must be made to get payments. Ongoing and monthly bills rent for example due at first of month. Expected for them to be responsible and can't be if don't get money, three months in a row late, foster parent called CWS and Social Worker filling in didn't make payment. Maybe ad-hoc payments made earlier. **Could periodic payments be set up – happens in Adoption. (Action needed). Set up when post care and custody agreement approved.**

Getting contract started/approved – have been delays. Need to make better effort.

Social Worker agreed to look into one and said they would call back but didn't.

VIII. Access and Transportation

Still room for improvement.

FP Social Workers hearing lots of concerns.

System failed – notification of changes, Anita suggested integrated calendar - cut down on man hours.

Youth gets drive to school each day and picked up – likes to get same driver (Kathy Mullins) GB High.

baby at Kathy – always different worker.

Conversation with case aides (Why had \$500 and what being used for) 17-year-old.

Anita had made complaint. Aliesje looking into.

William – 1.5 hour cancelled and the half hour later back on – constantly juggling for foster parent.

William had to make phone call (in the past year) – 16 case aides and Kathy said like 15. Stranger Danger. Car seats being used repeatedly – lice – sprayed.

Gary mentioned review being done and hopefully improvements provincial.

Invite Team Leads to these meetings.

Confirmed case aides should have government ID.

Bernie Proctor had three kids lately and visits were seamless (CA and FP communicating).

IX. Federation of Foster Parents 2018 AGM

Gary thanked those who attended, getting more popular; a lot of foster parents and Social Workers. Central, Chocolate Lak May 24, 25, 26, 2018

- Blanket program
- FASP
- Sex Trades

Register in advance very important, can't take at door.

X. Foster Parents' Appreciation Week and Launch

Launch in Oak Island – usually from that area, could have child from that area. Local events luncheon suggested. Georgeina said had some comments from last year. Thinking numbers down for this year. Going back to sit-down dinner this year.

- October 24 – St. Peter's – Louie's Cozy Corner
- October 25 – Sydney – HAC
- RSVP

Those who can't make it, mailing the gift card.

Wendell suggested e-mailing.

Luncheon – maybe better to have designated time.

XI. Updates from Dialogue Meetings

Went over thirteen recommendations. Discussed what worked and what's not.

XII. Backpacks – Nova Scotia Council for the Family

- Permanent Care in Glace Bay District Office and Port Hawkesbury District Office.
- Temporary Care in Sydney District Office and Port Hawkesbury District Office.

Backpacks given based on needs and they come for different ages. Social Workers all have them. Given X amount so they could run out.

- If in PC, PCSW can buy what they need.
- Not necessary that everyone get one.

Bags, quilts are beautiful.

Reminder to Social Workers about backpack availability.

Training on African Nova Scotia hair and skin (suggestive).

* Prescriptions → if get prescription and not covered by pharmacare, exception to policy process.

* Recreation – Wendell read
- policy on bikes
- plan of care?

Is a rate in policy – possibly some flexibility exceptions – can birth parents provide same when return home.

Must talk to Children in Care Social Worker.

→ Field trips – school or recreation – payment for school activities (summer and January) Wendell said.

→ Birthday parties - \$10 in policy to give gift.

XIII. Positive Stories

Working all summer

YES - amazing

YDI

XIV. Future Meetings

April 2, 2019 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

June 4, 2019 – decide time in April

September 18, 2019 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Installing Car Seat training – Georgeina working – two for support CW – offer

Case Aides need as well.