

Members of the Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia  
&  
Staff Members of the Mi'kmaw Family & Children's Services of Nova Scotia  
Eskasoni, NS  
June 6, 2019

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Gary Landry, <i>Executive Director</i> .....	Federation of Foster Families of NS
Debbie Thibault, <i>Coordinator of Training</i> .....	Federation of Foster Families of NS
Natalie Doucette, <i>Child Welfare Specialist</i> .....	Department of Community Services
Denyse MacKenzie, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> .....	Federation of Foster Families of NS
Rose Callaghan, <i>Comptroller</i> .....	Federation of Foster Families of NS
Helen Doyle, <i>Adoption Supervisor</i> .....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Cynthia Kabatay, <i>Kinship Assessor</i> .....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Sheraine Young, <i>Foster Care Supervisor</i> .....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Jodi Phillips, <i>Foster Care Supervisor</i> .....	MFCS – Indian Brook
Kristen Basque, <i>Recruitment</i> .....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Ella Knockwood, <i>Recruitment</i> .....	MFCS – Indian Brook
Nerissa Denny, <i>PRIDE Trainer</i> .....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Sheila Cabot, <i>Foster Parent</i> .....	Eskasoni
Rhonda Denny, <i>Admin. Assistant/Minute taker</i> ....	MFCS – Eskasoni

**Regrets:**

Jill Martin, <i>Allegation Support</i> .....	Federation of Foster Families of NS
Sue Giffin, <i>Coordinator of Foster Care</i> .....	Department of Community Services
Annette Saulnier, <i>FC Worker /PRIDE Trainer</i> .....	MFCS – Indian Brook
Sheila Ginnish, <i>SAFE Assessment</i> .....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Dorothy Francis, <i>Recruitment/Kinship Assessor</i> ....	MFCS – Eskasoni
Erica Bilodeau, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> .....	MFCS – Indian Brook

**1. Opening Prayer:**

Helen Doyle opens the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Agenda:**

Reviewed and approved.

Added to agenda: Nap Sacks for the Federation and FOTS Program.

**3. Minutes:**

Reviewed and approved.

**4. FFFNS Training and Peer Support Services Program:**

- Spring training is almost complete. It will start again in the fall.
- Pius Trainor will soon be starting training for staff.
- Crisis Intervention training is being discussed.

- There will be a meeting in June to talk about Sensitivity Training with Jodi Philips and Debbie Thibault.
- Sheraine Young was present at the Trainers' Meeting which was very helpful.
- Ella presented at the FAS Training. She opened her presentation with a question about how many people knew the history about the residential school. It was surprising that no one knew anything about it.
- The Federation started calling the volunteers once a month to see how things are going. Findings include people are not calling the on-call number available but instead calling the Peer Support Worker directly.
- Debbie will find out if Mi'kmaw foster parents are calling peer support.
- Something will be sent to the Agency with a number (fridge magnet) for Peer Support Services to give to foster parents.
- Maybe include Communications worker George Paul to add a Mi'kmaw perspective to the pamphlets

#### **5. FFFNS Allegation & Support Program:**

- Jill is not available for an update. Has still been very busy in Allegations and Supports since the changes to the Act.
- More pamphlets will be sent to both Agency offices for distribution.

#### **6. Update on DCS Foster Care Redesign:**

- Sue Giffin is not available for an update.
- Redesign is on hold for the month of June.

#### **7. Mi'kmaw Gathering on the mainland:**

- The Mi'kmaw Gathering was held on May 29, 2019 in Millbrook at the community hall.
- There was a very good turnout on staff. However, there was a small turnout from Foster Parents than expected.
- It has been suggested that a mailing package be sent to foster parents or have a package on hand during an annual review on what was discussed at the gathering.

#### **8. AGM in May 2020:**

- MFCS will be hosting the Federation of Foster Families AGM.
- The committee will be meeting in Antigonish on June 24, 2019 at the Library at 11am. Committee members include Gary, Sheraine, Jodi, Kristen, Debbie, Ella, Jessie, Darlene, Sheila, Nerissa and Natalie or Sue.

#### **9. Other:**

- Sheraine and Jodi are looking into the Foster Outreach Therapeutic Services (FOTS) Program and how it could benefit MFCS Foster Parents. FOTS are used to support foster parent retention by providing individualized therapeutic support services to foster families experiencing particularly challenging circumstances or crises.
- Nap sacks were dropped off at the agency for children coming into care. These were provided by the Federation of Foster Families.

**10. Dates and Times of the next meetings:**

- September 12, 2019 in the Western Region (location yet to be decided) @ 12pm (Lunch will be provided)

**11. Helen Doyle closed the meeting with a prayer.**