

Name of Committee: Northern Region Fostering Focus Team

Date of Meeting: May 31, 2018

Time of Meeting: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location of Meeting: Ceilidh Room – New Glasgow District Office – 161 Terra Cotta Drive, New Glasgow, NS

Membership List		
Attended	Regrets	
Gary Landry - Federation of Foster Families	Kelley Cumminger – Child Welfare Specialist	
Joanne Ross - Manager-Service Delivery	Margaret Anne MacFarlane-Leil - Manager-Service Delivery	
Pat Norman - Foster Parent		
Mary Anne Burke - Foster Parent		
Aliesje MacInnis – Director Northeastern Region		
Stacey Munroe- Foster Parent		
Debbie Lundie – Foster Parent		
RoseAnne Wright – Foster Parent		
Debbie Thibault – Federation		
Lisa George – Foster Parent		
Mary Costard – Foster Parent		
Shaunalee MacDougall – Child Welfare Supervisor		
Flora Burns – Foster Parent		
Alison Tait - Recorder		
Items Recorded	(I) Information (O) Ongoing (A) Action (D) Decision (C) Complete	Person or Group Responsible
1. Welcome & Introductions		
Aliesje opened the meeting. Review of Agenda. Brief explanation of the roles of the director; encouraged foster parents to speak to social worker’s when issues arise – we all work together as a team to resolve any issues.	C	
2. Business Arising from Minutes		
Staff List: Sent with minutes from April meeting – new staff list needs to be circulated – send to Cathy Clarke to distribute to foster parents. Federation website is down at this time but phone list will be posted when website is up and running. Please contact Debbie if there is something that needs to be posted on the web page. Self-Identify: Tabled until next meeting Foster parents working with children with autism: Joanne will follow up with Nancy and update Debbie Same situation was witnessed by a board member, it was noted that this is not straight forward and the supervisors are working on the situation. Policy doesn’t address the situation, felt this is a case by case scenario. Foster parents were advised that if a situation was not dealt with successfully after discussing with casework/supervisor, contact Manager/Aliesje/Gary for further support/direction. Supervisors were asked to bring to social worker’s attention need for better communication between foster parents and social worker’s/access workers. Update with regard to Debbie’s situation: A request to initiate was sent to the regional office to do a proposal which was approved and a contracted care agreement was developed, sent to specialist, Kelly	A I A A A	Alison Debbie Gary Joanne Joanne

<p>Cumminger and presently waiting for approval. Joanne will have Carla follow up with Debbie.</p> <p>Foster parent inquiring about retro for above. Joanne will follow up.</p> <p>AGM: Good attendance</p> <p>Thank you to Aliesje, Sean and Tracey for supporting social worker's attendance.</p> <p>Information clarified: the statement that there is a wait list for allegation support services is false, there is no wait list.</p> <p>Registration: There were some issues with registration, the numbers were high for attendance (last minute registration) which caused a brief redesign of groups. It was announced that the AGM next year to be held at Chocolate Lake in Halifax. There will be limited space available and all attendees will have to be registered prior to the date. It was suggested that the invite include a statement that advises that there will be limited seating of (number to be determined) and registration is necessary to attend, also that a confirmation be sent to the attendees that register. It was noted that the registration forms will be sent out early. Numbers will be tight and registration time lines will be adhered.</p> <p>FASD Presentation & the Blanket Exercise by Veronica Gore, will be on the agenda for the AGM. Foster parent suggested that the Blanket Exercise be mandatory for all foster parents and staff.</p> <p>Shelley Jones named Honorary Foster Parent by Federation. Speech introducing Shelley will be emailed, once permission is obtained from Shelley to share with staff and foster parents.</p> <p>Chocolate Lake location: it was noted that this motel uses scented products in the guest rooms. Follow up will be provided.</p> <p>IT Specialist at AGM: There was some interest from foster parents, re: new forms on line for special respite rate; update on mileage rate, now at 44.15 kms</p> <p>Foster parent voiced concerns regarding funding being cut for therapy. Follow up was provided after our meeting with Joanne, Gary, Aliesje & foster parent.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>A</p> <p>A</p> <p>I</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Joanne</p> <p>Debbie T</p> <p>Roseanne</p> <p>Roseanne/Aliesje</p> <p>Debbie T</p> <p>Debbie T</p> <p>Debbie L</p>
<p>3. Access & Transportation</p>		
<p>Discussion: presently down in staff, facing challenges with scheduling all access visits.</p> <p>Social workers consult with foster parents to set up access; this has not been happening, situations where foster parents are "on call" when child is attending access. Access worker and foster parents communicate through text messages, however on occasion messages are not received. Suggestion to always have a confirmation text between access worker and foster parent. Social worker/access worker should be following up with foster parent to confirm message has been delivered.</p> <p>Case Aides should be passing on brief general verbal report to foster parents re: visits, ie: behavior, sleep, meals.</p> <p>It is the children in care worker that updates the foster parent of how the visits are progressing. Foster parents can call the social worker for update, however, concern was noted that it is often hard to reach the social worker for an update. It is the discretion of the access worker what to report to the foster parent regarding the visit. It was noted that access worker's don't always recognize the significance of the</p>	<p>I</p> <p>A</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Shaunalee</p> <p>Shaunalee</p> <p>Shaunalee</p>

<p>information and sometimes pertinent information isn't relayed to the foster parents.</p> <p>Outcome: Social worker's/access worker's will be brought together to discuss scenario's that would affect the child. Foster parents were asked to list some "que's" that the access worker could look for that would be pertinent to report to the foster parents. Foster parents are asked to send these scenarios to Alison by email (Alison.Tait@novascotia.ca) It was noted that Kevin Pellerine is available to discuss any concerns that may arise.</p> <p>Foster parent interested in transporting foster children to access; conflict of interest? Follow up will be provided.</p> <p>Summer vacations will have an impact on access. Foster parents may be asked to help assist with transportation. It was confirmed that it is the departments policy that the child be transported to the parent for access.</p> <p>Brief discussion regarding access scheduling, the procedure is being re-evaluated. Recently our deputy minister had attended our office to review the access scheduler procedure. This is being done across the province.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A</p> <p>I</p> <p>I</p>	<p>Aliesje</p> <p>Aliesje</p> <p>Aliesje</p> <p>Aliesje</p>
<p>4. Dialogue</p>		
<p>Recent meeting May 15, 2018</p> <p>Agenda items: Access/Transportation; special needs form (outdated, may have a new form in the fall); transition from high school to university – any issues, please let social worker know, if not responsive contact supervisor/manager. Suggested to include transition planning in COMP.</p> <p>There are summer jobs available for children in care, posted on gov.ns.ca – work for government. Information on available jobs was to be sent directly to foster parents.</p> <p>NS Council for the family has back packs available for children in care, these bags are particular to ages, ethnic groups. Provincial email will be sent to gather contact names and forwarded to Gary to distribute information.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Gary</p> <p>Joanne</p> <p>Aliesje/Gary</p>
<p>5. Fall Forum Day</p>		
<p>Will be held September 25, 2018</p> <p>First time in the Northern Region – theme "Successful Outcomes for Children in Care"</p> <p>Proposed Agenda: Opening/Ice breaker; Spider Web Exercise; Life of a Child in Care; Youth Panel; Day in the Life of Social Worker/Child/Foster parent/Access Worker; Panel with DCS staff; Caregiver panel with foster parents</p> <p>Time is 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (30 minute lunch break, lunch will be provided)</p> <p>Suggestion to include "day in the life of an access worker"</p> <p>Email will be sent to "hold the date"</p> <p>Fall Forum Day Committee: Nancy Gillis & Tracey Crosby; Flora Burns; Stacey Munroe; Lisa George; Debbie Lundie; Mary Anne Burke</p>	<p>I</p> <p>I</p> <p>A</p>	<p>Debbie T</p> <p>Lisa</p> <p>Debbie T Aliesje/Joanne</p>
<p>6. Positive Stories</p>		
<p>Due to time a positive story was not shared, however it was noted that our meetings are working and progress is being made with issues that arise for our foster families and children in care.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Aliesje</p>

7. **Next Meeting: October 18, 2018**

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Ceilidh Room