

## Board meeting minutes – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Future Inn Bayers Lake

Call to Order: 6pm

### Attendance:

- Western: Rob Richardson (Board Chair), Lloyd Sweeney
- Central: Ann Jennex-Roberts
- Northern: Mary Ann Burke
- Mi'Kmaq: Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy, Cindy Poulette (arrived late)
- African NS: Iona Smith
- Eastern: Evelyn MacInnes, Sheila Hill
- Executive Director: Gary Landry

### Regrets:

- Carol Zegray (Northern)
- Patricia Cain (Central)

### Welcome/Review of Teamwork Agreement

- Read by Rob Richardson (Board Chair)

### Reading of Mission Statement

- Read by Sheila Hill

### Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

- Read by Gary Landry

### Approval of Agenda – with amendments and additions

Motioned by D.A. (Mi'Kmaq), 2<sup>nd</sup> by I.S (ANS)

### Amendments/Additions:

- Letter to foster caregivers in recognition of Foster Care Appreciation Week
- Survey for foster caregivers
- Board training room
- FFFNS website

### Approval of Minutes

- Motioned by A.J.R (Central), 2<sup>nd</sup> by E.M (Eastern)

### Approval of Financials

- Reviewed the expense breakdown that was provided by Rose. Deferred until next board meeting when the treasurer will be in attendance to elaborate further.

### Approval of Executive Director's Report

- Reviewed the report submitted by Gary
- Motioned by A.J.R (Central), 2<sup>nd</sup> by I.S. (ANS)

### Report from Chair of the Board

- Talked about questions for the Foster Care Reference Group that will be meeting on Sunday morning.

### Old Business

- Leadership Program Reimbursement(s)
  - Follow-up with Margaret for direction as Foster Care Appreciation week is quickly approaching.
- Respite Forms
  - Rob will email them to the board and on Sunday will ask Georgeina how to get these forms out to people.
- Foster Care Ambassador Program
  - No update from DCS
- New Revision of bylaws
  - After receiving input from Fergus, we will be looking to reword bylaw 6.02 to make it more concise. With the change to 6.02, bylaws 8.03 and 9.03 will be removed as they are covered by the changes to 6.02.
- Fostering School Success Report
  - Rob and Gary will schedule a meeting with DCS and Ellen Carter to discuss this project and to see how we can help move forward with this study.
  - Will provide an update next board meeting

## New Business

- Secretary vacancy
  - Our current treasurer (and past secretary) has offered to be the secretary after a recent vacancy in this position. Rob/Gary will follow up with bylaws and joint stocks to double check that this is ok.
- Confidentiality agreements
  - Board members who were present signed all 3 sets of documents. Those who were not present will sign at the next board meeting.
- New Minister of Community Services
  - New Minister is Trevor Boudreau
  - Rob will email him to make introductions and to request a meeting.
- Gallagher Insurance
  - Rob, Gary, and Rose will be meeting with a representative next Thursday and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Because we Care request
  - Gary made a formal request to transfer \$10000 from this account to our bursary account.
  - Will make an agenda item for our next board meeting on how to further use the interest accumulated from these funds that would benefit all foster caregivers across the province.
- Perpetual calendar
  - Scheduled meeting dates and locations for the next several months
  - Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – Virtual meeting
  - February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> – In Bridgewater
  - March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – Truro
  - April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – Yarmouth
  - May – AGM in Sydney
  - June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – Virtual meeting
- Draft Survey Questionnaire
  - Rob passed around a draft survey questionnaire for input and review
  - Would like to send out a questionnaire in the next couple of months to foster caregivers to gain useful information pertaining to fostering – especially since the province will be moving into Mockingbird constellations in Spring 2024.

- Service Agreement Update
  - Rob spoke about DCS's requirement of all non-profits that they fund to have two community members at large (non foster caregiver) to sit on the board. Rob will be following up with Tracy Embrett.
  - We haven't received any updates with regards to the draft service agreement that was written by Donna Kaulbeck and submitted to DCS.
  
- Foster Care Appreciation Week
  - Rob will be sending a letter to all foster caregivers across the province in recognition of their commitment to children in care during foster care appreciation week.
  
- Board Training Room (at FFFNS office)
  - Gary talked about the use of the board room and the challenges since the hotel that is attached to the office building has transitioned to a homeless shelter.
  - Talked about parking lot safety and building accessibility after hours.
  - Will follow-up and continue discussions on the feasibility of this space.
  
- Coordinator of Training follow-up
  - Gary brought forth recommendations from Carla Anglehart who was consulted to review the job posting for this position.
  
- Website
  - It was noted that the website is not up to date.
  - Gary to follow-up with staff regarding this

Motion for adjournment was made by L.S.(Western) at 9:25pm

Signed,



Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy (filling in for FFFNS secretary)