

Date: February 3, 2024
Location: Virtual Board Meeting

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia

Minutes

Call to Order 9:15 am

Attendance
Western - Rob Richardson, Lloyd Sweeny
Northern - MaryAnn Burke, Carolann Zegray
Central - Patricia Cain, Anne Jennex-Roberts
Eastern - Sheila Hill
African NS - Iona Smith
Mikmaq - Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy

Regrets - Cindy Poulette, Evelyn MacInnis

Land Acknowledgement, Mission Statement, Team Agreement Read

Approval of Agenda
Agenda Approved with Additions
-Coordinator of Training position.
-Path Program
-Secession Planning
-Central Region Foster Caregiver
-Media Request
-Bridgewater Meeting

Motioned SH(Eastern) 2nd AJR(Central)

Approval of Minutes
Motioned SH(Eastern) 2nd AJR(Central)

Approval of Financials
Motioned AJR(Central) 2nd IS(AfricanNS)

ED Report
Motioned PC(Central) 2nd AJR(Central)

Board Chair Report Read

Old Business

Service Agreement Update - Program Support worker has sent updated service agreement to DCS, currently waiting for them to return. DCS is requesting that two community members be added to the existing FFFNS Board of Directors. The Board feels as though this is a question that should be taken to the general membership as it is a major change to the Board that was created by them. Agreed that it would be brought forth at the AGM for the membership to vote on. The Board proposes that we sign a service agreement omitting the community members and after the AGM amend the service agreement to include community members if that is what the general membership agrees on. Chair will circulate the service agreement to the board when it is received from DCS and we will have a virtual meeting to discuss this. Chair will then draft a letter to be reviewed by the board to send to DCS from the entirety of the board.

New Business

“Did You Know” emails - Want to reach out for elections and for the vacant seats to be filled. Hope to encourage participation in the board. Breakdown of block funding to be in future “Did You Know” email.

Bylaw Revision - Legal wants to wording for last years revision changed. Chair will send document via email for comparison. Content remains the same but the new wording will have to be adopted at the AGM.

Strategic Plan - Will Review and vote on at next meeting, overall very pleased with the strategic plan, just a few concerns around if the mission statement should change.

Block Funding - Information from DCS will be distributed to all foster caregivers at a later date. This document will be similar to the document that was previously sent to poster caregivers a few months ago.

Coordinator of Training - The position has been filled by Shirley Howard. Board and Staff are very excited to have he starting February 12, 2024.

Path Program - Program designed by DCS for youth aging out of care to help with financial struggles and have support. Information sheet will be circulated to the board. Some concerns identified such as lack of parameters on the funding. ED and Chair are still getting more information. Board is very happy the DCS has identified aging out of care as an issue and is taking steps to support our youth.

Secession Planning - Chair will send an email to let the Coordinator of Foster Care know that we will be starting secession planning for when our current ED retires in December 2024. The Board would like approval from Coordinator of Foster Care to have the new incoming ED shadow our current ED for a period of months prior to retirement. Request will be brought forward for this to be funded.

Central Region Foster Home - Spoke with Board Chair and ED regarding the stigma attached to children in Group homes. ED reached out to the Coordinator of Foster Care who informed him that there was a Coordinator for Children in Facilities. The ED requested a meeting with Shelley Stevens, who is the Coordinator for this program, to speak about possibly forming a committee around group home procedure.

Media Requests - CBC has approached some board members asking questions redesign. Directive is to contact the office of Communication (Carla Grant) before speaking or giving information or contact Chair/ED and the will reach out to the Communication Department for direction.

Bridgewater Meeting - Hotel did not charge for rooms even with late notice given due to storm conditions with the guarantee that we re-book with them in the future. It was decided that the March board meeting will be booked in Bridgewater rather than Truro.

Adjournment

Carolanne Fitzgerald-Legray

