

## Virtual Board meeting minutes – June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Call to Order: 10 am

### Attendance:

- Western: Rob Richardson (Board Chair), Lloyd Sweeney
- Central: Patricia Cain, Ann Jennex-Roberts
- Northern: Mary Ann Burke, Carol Zegray
- Mi'Kmaq: Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy
- African NS: Iona Smith
- Eastern: Evelyn MacInnes
- Executive Director: Gary Landry

### Regrets:

- Cindy Poulette (Mi'Kmaq)
- Sheila Hill (Eastern)

### Welcome/Review of Teamwork Agreement/Reading of Mission Statement

- Read by Rob Richardson (Board Chair)

### Approval of Agenda

#### Amendments/Additions:

- Discuss further education for secretary.
- Approval of agenda with above addition – motioned by A.J (Central), 2<sup>nd</sup> by C.Z (Northern)

### Approval of Minutes

- Motioned by M.B. (Northern), 2<sup>nd</sup> by D.A. (Mi'Kmaq)

### Approval of Financials

- Carol sent out one financial report, however, will send out a 2<sup>nd</sup> report once her meeting with Rose.
- There were 2 board meetings held in March. One was in Dartmouth and one was in Baddeck. Questions were raised about the wide difference in expense. Possible answers were discussed, however deferred until next board meeting in September 2023. Rob will research and follow-up with questions at that time.
- Motion for Approval of Financials by MB (Northern), 2<sup>nd</sup> by LS (Western)

## Old Business

- AGM debrief
  - Overall, response was good, however, it is necessary to remind foster caregivers that this is intended to be an adult only weekend. Children are welcome to stay at the hotel with babysitting but asked not to accompany foster caregivers or sitters to the workshops or banquet itself because children can be very disruptive, and material presented may prove to be very sensitive causing them to edit important information if children are present. The whole purpose of our annual AGM is for foster caregivers to mingle with one another and to ask and answer questions that may be sensitive and difficult in nature.
  - People were missing the silent auction and some other socially acceptable games and prizes; therefore we will revisit continuing these fun activities next year
  - We are asking for the childcare cost for a board member to attend the AGM banquet not be the responsibility of the board member but paid by DCS/FFFNS. Rob will look into this further with DCS
  - Next years AGM will be in Sydney and we are asking if more foster caregivers can be involved in the planning stages (bringing new ideas, games etc.)

- Updates on recent job postings:

### Coordinator of Training

- No successful candidates found yet.
- Will need to be reposted.
- We need to discuss and decide whether this position has to be a social worker designated position or not. It also must be discussed with DCS as they have input in this hiring as per our Service Agreement.
- Discussion around having adult education background with a diploma or degree added to this description. Rob and Gary will discuss this further when they meet with Margaret.
- The Board voted unanimously that the coordinator of training position does not have to have a social work degree. However, it might be more suitable for them to have a background in adult education. A bachelor's degree in social work would be considered an asset, not a pre-requisite.

### Designated Social Work Position

- Need to re-evaluate the need for this position because of a decrease workload in allegations.
- We know that DCS would like this position to be filled, however, we need to determine roles and responsibilities before advertising again.

## **New Business**

- **Governance Training in the fall**
  - Agreement was made to have Carla Anglehart to return in September for more governance training. Waiting on confirmation from her.
- There was some discussion on who has the authority to approve/disprove expenses after board meetings are held. Rob will discuss with Gary and Rose.
- **Project Support Coordinator Position**
  - Gary brought forth a proposal to hire Donna Kaulbeck in a project coordinator position for 6 months.
  - We had a discussion regarding the new role of project coordinator.
  - We decided to omit role #4 of the draft because it went against our bylaw 11.03 and to accept roles and responsibilities 1, 2, 3 and 5
  - This was voted on and approved by the board. The job description can be found in the Personal File at the Federation office.
- **Discussion of Board meeting Venues**
  - September board meeting to be in Yarmouth September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, hopefully with Governance Training.
  - Meet and greet on Saturday evening from 6-8pm
  - Hopefully an update for the FCRG on Friday evening
  - Hoping to book a meeting in Antigonish for December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gary will follow-up with Denyse
- **GIC Interest (for information purposes)**
  - GIC came to term and earned over \$100K in interest. It was decided and approved that a \$500 bursary would be awarded to each successful candidate and the rest would be reinvested.
- **Peer Support Program**
  - Since Kim left in September 2022, the program has been on hold and cell phones have not been used plus PSS was not a great benefit to foster caregivers. Therefore, it was voted and agreed upon to return the cell phones and cancel the contract.
  - There was some discussion of a new Ambassador Program that DCS is trying to implement in order to recruit and retain foster caregivers. They are hoping to implement this along with the role out of the Mockingbird model, but little is known how this will operate. It may help us continue with peer support for foster caregivers. Rob and Evelyn will find out more information and will provide an update.

- Child Welfare League of Canada
  - We have had a membership with the league for 3-4 years. Received newsletters about training but not very beneficial, therefore it was unanimously agreed upon to cancel this membership.
  
- Accrued sick time hours for staff
  - HR committee will look in this
  - The committee will collect information and bring recommendations back to the board
  - May also look into short-term protection plans again for staff
  
- Childcare Expenses for Board Meetings and Trainers
  - After discussing many ideas of how and who should pay for childcare for board meetings and for trainers, it was decided that Rob would follow-up once he has a meeting with Gary, Donna and Margaret. Therefore, deferred until next meeting.
  - Discussion around respite time also – respite used for board meetings/training should not be a part of our regular 4 day per month respite allotment. Rob will follow up with Gary, Donna and Margaret
  
- Typing Course for Secretary
  - Patricia (secretary) will follow up with local libraries regarding typing courses

Motion for adjournment was made by MB (Northern)

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Cain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Cain

Secretary, FFFNS