

Northern Foster Care Focus Group
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Federation Staff:

Gary Landry, *Executive Director*
Jill Martin, *Foster Allegation & Support Social Worker*
Shirley Howard, *Coordinator of Training*
Denyse Hockley, *Executive Assistant*

Department of Community Services:

Margaret MacMillan, *Foster Care Coordinator*
Michelle Dean, *Secretary*
Brian Malloy, *Social Work Supervisor*
Callum Page, *Manager of Service Delivery*

Stacey Paupin, *Supervisor of Foster Care and Outreach*
Shannon MacMichael, *Director of Service Delivery*
Sandra Mason, *Casework Supervisor*
Leslie Langman, *Manager of Service Delivery*

Foster Caregivers:

Rob Richardson, *Western FFFNS Board Rep & Board Chair*
Mary Ann Burke
Brandi Oderkirk
Laura Westlake
Rose Anne Wright
Carolann Zegray
Susan Harrington

REGRETS:

Beverly Deal, *Acting Child and Family Wellbeing Specialist*

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Chairs – Gary Landry & Margaret MacMillan
Minute Taker – Denyse Hockley

2. FFFNS Updates

Gary:

- Gary thanked everyone who attended the Federation AGM in May
- 2025 AGM will be held in Western on May 30th, May 31st, & June 1st
- Federation Newsletter went out a few weeks ago
- Launch to Foster Family Appreciation Week will be on Oct 20th at Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre
- DCS and Federation are working on the new Ambassador Program
- Reminder to check the Federation website and Facebook group

Rob:

- Rob wanted to let everyone know that Mary Ann Burke (on the call) and Brenda Pettis (regrets) are the two board members for Northern Region
- Reminder to look out for the Did You Know email that is sent out almost monthly from the Federation office

Shirley:

- Fall training has been scheduled and brochures should be going out soon
- We will be offering NCI Basic, regular Refreshers, and a new blended Refresher model that will be offered partly virtual and partly in person
- New sensitivity training will be rolled out similar to the roll out of constellations
- Brandi had a question about the Federation office offering the “Eye of the Hurricane” workshop again. This was put on about 10 years ago at an AGM. Brandi will reach out to Shirley to discuss further.

- There was a question about when a blended Preservice model will be available. Margaret is trying to get this up and running and there have been some legalities to work through. Hopefully it will be ready for mid to late Fall.

Jill:

- Numbers for the Allegation and Support Program were up a bit this year compared to last year
- The CAIT program now has two social workers, Jody and Jessicas
- CAIT is handling all foster parent investigations
- Jill attended preservice in almost all of the regions
- Jessica attended the Friday night meet & greet at the FFFNS AGM in Sydney on behalf of CAIT

3. FOTS Update

- A review of FOTS is in progress
- Georgeina is working with service delivery to see what it looks like in each region
- In some regions FOTS workers have been assigned to constellations and that seems to be working well

- In Northern, two outreach workers were each assigned constellations since the beginning, and they have attended gatherings
- There has been lots of positive feedback to this approach

4. Child and Family Well Being Program Update

Callum:

- Access and Transportation -> push for provincial program to have consistency across regions, looking to hire a new person

Margaret

- Emergency receiving homes will hopefully be open in the Fall

5. Foster Caregiver Updates

-Question about what is happening with PART and HUB homes? Foster Caregiver (Hub Home) was told that she is responsible for anything that happens in constellations and calls from PART. Shannon: specific situation reach out to manager of PART (Janice Foot) Margaret will bring back to Georgeina, first time hearing this

-Hub homes arrange respite not emergency placements

- PIC tool: it's hard to accept emergency placement without Pic tool, hub home should have PIC tool,

6. Positive Stories

Stacey -> constellation working well, placement breakdown two young children, other people came together and made a plan, regular sibling access, support home when struggling

Mary Ann -> mockingbird has been a great success and children enjoy gatherings

Rose Anne -> loves gatherings, teens never miss a gathering, a bouncy castle was purchased for the gatherings

7. Additional Agenda Items

- Question about change in social worker classification coming up, no one had any updates

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Next one will be in the Fall, maybe November

Gary and Margaret will decide on date

Minutes taken by Denyse Hockley