

# Northern Region Foster Care Focus Meeting November 12, 2024

## MINUTES

## AGENDA

**Chair of Meeting:** Gary Landry

**Person taking Minutes:** Michelle Dean

Gary Landry

**Welcome and Introduction:**

- Meeting called to order at 10:23 am with introductions.
- Six in attendance virtually & Four in attendance in-person at the DCS Truro Office.
- Issues with technology delayed starting time of meeting.

**Review of Attendees list across program:**

**Attended**

**FFFNS:**

Gary Landry, Jill Martin, Shirley Howard

**Foster Parents/Hub Homes:**

Brenda Pettis, Mary Ann Burke, Rose Ann Wright, Cheryl Little, Natasha Greener MacLean, Rob Richardson

**DCS:**

Margaret MacMillan, Michelle Dean (Recorder)

**Regrets**

Georgeina MacKinnon, Margaret MacFarlane, Callum Page, Heather Laidlaw, Sandra Mason, Angela Penney, Brian Malloy, April Ross, Mairi MacLean, Stacey Paupin, Denyse Hockley

## **FFFNS updates:**

- Thank you to the Easter region for having hosted the Foster Family Appreciation Launch this year and next year it will be hosted by the Northern region.
- AGM to be held in Western Region, in Liverpool @ Best Western for May 29, 30, June 1, 2025.
- Gary is leaving and a new ED to be hired.
- Holding "Focus Meetings " virtually and in-person.
- Training Programs
  - Sensitivity Training (3 sessions)
  - NVCI (hybrid – 3 HRS online & 3.5 HRS in class)
  - NVCI Refresher – happening this fall.

## **Allegations and Support Program update:**

- Discussed CAIT and Foster Home investigations. Two dedicated workers are assigned to CAIT.
- Pre-Service Meeting tonight for Northern Region.
- Monthly Virtual Hub Home meetings (hosted by FFFNS) 11:45 am – 1:00 pm. Meeting invites going out this week. The last meeting was held in October 2024.
- Monthly “Did you know” Newsletters sent to membership – check your emails.

## **Child and Family Well Being Program updates:**

### **FOTS Update**

- Met twice a year. Last meeting was last week.
- Pilot Projects happening
- Northern – organic support, Clinical Social Worker & Family Support Worker
- “What Changes should we”
  
- Foster Care Redesign
  - Retention & Recruitment.
  - Need more Foster Care Givers.
  - Targeted Recruitment
  - Specialized / High Level Care
  - Ambassador Program
  - Emergencies, Block Funding, New coding
  - 24/7 placements

## **Foster Care Giver Updates:**

- Gatherings going well.
- Constellations, Hub Homes, DCS, FP – Communication clarification – “who to contact, who to know.”

- Sibling visits, placements – more work/communication needed on process and procedures to follow.
- Want to keep Sibling connections – need to work harder.
- Looking for updated contact list
- Timely information
- More work with communication is needed.
- Not meeting the needs of retention – creating negative for recruitment – need to meet needs.
- Foster Care Givers need “Valued, Heard & Response Time.
- Want a seat at the table – don’t feel valued – need a shift. Foster Care Givers know the kids the best.
- Changes need communicated better.
- Work harder to make a more consistent approach for everyone.
- Hub Homes – “Who’s our Support?
- Need a Hub Homes – What’s support to you?
- Need clarification re: Respite (Letter coming soon with more information).
- Quick Tip on Calendars – Google Calendars – able to share.
  
- Follow-up:
  - Communication issues.
  - Clarification - “Who should know what?.”
  - Training for Calendars for Foster Care Givers.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:33 am.

**Date and time of Next Meeting:** June 2025 TBD

Minutes taken by Michelle Dean