

**Federation of Foster Families Board Meeting, Saturday December 7, 2024, Future Inn
Halifax, NS**

Present

Lloyd Sweeny Brenda Pettis Allie Pitre Darlene Arseneau (Secretary)
Glenda Marsman Mary Ann Burke Ann Jennex-Roberts Rob Richardson (Board Chair)
Gary Landry (ED)

Regrets

Darlene Francis Wendell Fraser Sheila Hill Patricia Cain

Land acknowledgement read by Executive Director

Mission Statement read by Board Chair

Team agreement read by Board Chair

Approval of agenda (1st Ann, 2nd Brenda, passed)

Approval of Minutes from last meeting with 1 change (1st Ann, 2nd Lloyd, passed)

Approval of financials (1st Brenda, 2nd Ann Passed) Meeting Monday on Financials.

Approval of ED report (1st Brenda, 2nd Ann, approved)

Board chair action plan

- Chair to attend every regional focus meeting
- Worked on succession planning
- Still receiving many questions from foster caregivers

Old Business

- Service agreement – No correspondence from DCS. Still waiting for a new revision that addresses our questions and concerns.
- Ambassador job update from ED - looking to have this program put into the service agreement. (the job description for allegation support worker will need to be revised to include new duties included with the ambassador program).
- Succession planning update for Executive Director position– 3 candidates, 1 person interviewed and accepted the job. Start date Jan. 3, 2025.

- Current Executive Director retires Jan 31, 2024. Last day of work Dec. 19 and the board chair and HR committee chair will be at the office for part of the day on the 19th.to share the transition plan with the new Executive Director.
- Office closed between Christmas and New Year’s Day. Allegation Support person will be available while the office is closed.
- Meeting request with Minister of Community Services with the Board. Aiming to meet in March.
- Draft survey for foster caregivers. Average age of foster parents is 53. Currently 518 homes. Childcare is still a major concern. The aim is to have the survey sent out in January after the postal strike.
- FFFNS Office will notify board reps of home closures. Discussion around the “new” compassion committee being notified to be able to send out something (Card, etc.) in cases of foster caregivers retiring.
- Governance training - Wanda Hebert will be asked to do training on basic board governance(suggested dates March 21-23) in Halifax.
- Possible meeting with the Minister March 21st, meet and greet Saturday night, board meeting Sunday.
- Upcoming board meetings
 - April 25/26 New Glasgow, Holiday Inn
 - May 30-June 1st AGM Liverpool Best Western

New Business

- Did You Know to be sent to Foster Parents
 - Upcoming AGM information
 - Deferred questions from September
 - Introduce our new Executive Director
- AGM update- Best Western, Liverpool. Community Booths, Theme, Workshops
- Where’s the Line (potential round table discussions). Board Chair shared some thoughts on the following topics: _

- Board Roles/ED Roles
- Confidentiality
- Board/DCS working Relationship
- Placement assignment types
- Where we can help
- Fergus's legal thoughts – non profit being funded by DCS
- Year to date board meeting budget, currently over budget, meeting virtually in January and February. Increased hotel and childcare cost for board members impacted budget.
- Committee work
 - Game plans for all committees with next two meetings being virtual
 - Policy committee will need to consider any Bylaw revisions needed for 2025
AGM discuss at board meeting, membership require 30 days notice prior to AGM
- Board Chair requested having full access to Federation Letterhead.
- “Welcome to our Family” intro page for new children in care. Board Chair shared info that was brought up during a recent focus group meeting. Board discussed the challenges around this document.
- The Federation's lawyer flagged the wording in our values statement (that was created during succession planning), and the board are proposing it be changed. Will be looked at the change at the next board meeting. Board Chair will forward it to the board prior to replace the wording “Children in care” to “Foster Parents”.
- Kinship foster caregivers as board members /Mi'kmaq board member recruitment. Tabled until next board meeting. Currently, our bylaws don't allow for kinship caregivers to serve on the board.
- Canada Post strike – Most people are getting their cheques. Rose delivering locally in HRM
- New Executive Director was selected. Susan Pace will be starting January 3rd, 2025.
- Revisit in Jan. about policy change Establishing Board Practices.

New Business

- Block Funding – need of complex medical care – is there separate funding? (exception to policy)
- Request from Northern – Northern hub homes met with the children in care team – there is new rules and expectations, added duties. Board Chair will forward concerns on behalf of Northern.
- Board officially Thanked Gary Landry for all he had done.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy

Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy

Secretary, FFFNS