

Federation of Foster Families Virtual Board Meeting, Friday March 21st, 2025 6-9pm via Microsoft Teams

Present

Rob Richardson- Chair	Darlene Arseneau- Kennedy- Secretary
Allie Pitre	Ann Jennex-Roberts- Treasurer
Sheila Hill	Patricia Cain
Mary Ann Burke	Brenda Pettis
Glenda Marsman	

Absent Darlene Francis

Regrets Wendell Fraser – Vice Chair

Welcome & Attendance – Board Chair

Land Acknowledgement read by ED

Mission statement read by Board Chair

Team agreement read by Board Chair

Review agenda 1st Allie, 2nd Ann

Approval of minutes from last meeting on February 7th, 2025 1st Sheila, 2nd Patricia

Approval of financials 1st Ann, 2nd Shelia

Approval of ED report 1st Sheila, 2nd Brenda

Board Chair action plan

- Questions around ambassador program and if kinship homes are going to be included in the program.
- Foster Caregivers lists to be current
- Meet with foster caregivers for support
- Meet with Coordinator of DSP program to discuss AGM presentation
- AGM preparation
- Year-end budget meeting
- Logistics around rescheduling of next 2 board meetings

OLD BUSINESS

- Service agreement – A virtual meeting is scheduled for March 24th to discuss the status of the service agreement

- Ambassador job position update from Susan
- Designated social work position update from Susan

NEW BUSINESS

- Board meeting structure - Board chair meet for quarterly budget meeting with OSD and had discussions around the board meeting budget. OSD is requesting in the draft service agreement that we meet 6 times a year. Looked at what is a realistic board budget request and had discussion around examining areas for cost savings. Some ideas were:
 - Using of the federation board room for meetings
 - Meet and greets – do we host these on Friday evenings or would virtual work better?
 - Committee work – looking if virtual would work verses in person.
- Governance training – Training that was scheduled for March was postponed due to being over the allotted board meeting budget for the fiscal year and now meeting virtually as a result. Had discussions around a new date, time and location, and if before or after the AGM.
- April board meeting location was changed to the Federation Board room. Hotel rooms will be provided for members outside of HRM. We will examine these cost savings and compare to other meetings.
- Did you know e-mail will be sent out by the office by e-mail to foster caregivers on behalf of board representatives from each region that highlights the upcoming AGM
- AGM update
 - Meet as a committee twice a month so far
 - Discussed workshop ideas, keynote speaker, theme, community booths and presenters.
 - Aim to have the largest AGM.
 - 5 presenters
 - Honorary foster caregivers TBA
 - Banquet 6:30-8:30 keynote speaker Arydth Venoit, she fostered for over 50 years.
 - Speech from current Youth-in-care.
 - At the AGM meeting, Board Chair will share about the request from the department in the draft service agreement of adding a community member at large. This will go to a vote for membership at the 2026 AGM.
 - No board elections this year.
 - *Amendment – A call for nominations for the mainland Mi'kmaq seat was sent out in early April.*
- HR/OAS update- will be presented to the board at the next meeting.
- Policy committee update- met Feb. 27th, next meeting March 27th virtual.
- Compassion committee update – developed a google referral form and presented it to the board
- Diversity committee, there was no update.

- It was noted that any proposed bylaw changes must be ready by April 30th to meet the 30 notice requirement for all foster caregivers as per our bylaws.
- Kinship foster caregivers serving on the board - Had discussion around what this would potentially look like. Examined bylaw requirements to serve on the board. Will have further discussion next meeting.
- Antivirus protection will be added to board members laptops
- Susan shared the request of having board specific e-mail addresses for board business.
- Board self-evaluation to be passed in at next board meeting.
- ED evaluation will be done at the AGM by the board chair.
- A board member will reach out to the CB Mi'kmaq board rep to check-in

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 and the next board meeting will be April 25/26 at the Federation office

Respectfully submitted,



Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy

