

Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
Board Meeting #02-170505
APPROVED MINUTES

May 17, 2005

Present: Art Cunningham (Chair), Jean Creagh, Eileen Grant, Catherine Thompson, Bill Dickson, Amber Hewwing, Sharon Davis, Marie Poelman, Shawn Ottewell, Christene Howard, Cathy Sinclair-Smythe

Regrets: David Pickersgill, Jeanette Nicholls

Ex Officio: Bonnie Johnston

Presentors : Yvonne Cameron, Permanancy Planning Worker
Gloria Skinner, Multi-Service Team Manager
Amy Reeves, Adoption Worker

Administration: Gloria Atkinson, Pat Johnston, Sandra Gafos (recorder)

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm . Art welcomed Gloria Atkinson, Executive Manager for Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, Yvonne Cameron, Amy Reeves and Gloria Skinner all from Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Native Multi Service Team office.

1. Approval of Agenda

Add Agenda Item # 12 – Board to Board meeting with Person with Developmental Disabilities May 16, 2005 meeting update.

Agenda approved by consensus.

2. Aboriginal Adoption Staff Sharing

Gloria Atkinson introduced members of the Native office who work in the area of adoption of Aboriginal children. The Native office, in partnership with the Four Directions Foster Parents Association, is holding a three day Foster Care/Adoption Ceremony Conference. The Adoption Ceremony section of the Conference takes place on May 26, 2005. The purpose of this day is to welcome all those families who adopt Aboriginal children. The ceremonies open with a "Grand Entrance", consisting of numerous representatives from First Nations communities dressed in Aboriginal regalia. Minister Forsyth will be providing opening remarks. The Native Services Multi-Service Team has been a major contributor to the success of Calgary and Area's adoption outcomes. Calgary and Area increased adoptions by 37% for the region over the previous year.

Yvonne Cameron, Gloria Skinner and Amy Reeves presented stories of their successes and challenges of placing Aboriginal children. There are currently 47 Aboriginal children in placement and waiting for the process to be finalized. An Elder Coordinator works from the Native office to connect, support and work with Elders within the community. The adoption staff at the Native office are innovative and creative in their approach to attract perspective adoptive Aboriginal parents.

It was mentioned that Aboriginal Awareness week takes place in June. Gloria Skinner is participating on an organizing committee for a Children/Youth Pow Wow scheduled for June 25, 2005 at the Bowness Arena. Foster parents and children in care will attend and participate

in the celebration. Raffle tickets for the 'Wandering Spirit Native Awareness' were available. The funds raised will support Aboriginal children and youth participating in the Pow Wow.

Bonnie thanked the team for their commitment and dedication to helping Aboriginal children and families.

3. Approval of April 19, 2005 Minutes

The Minutes of April 19, 2005 were approved with noted changes to item 6a as per Bill Dickson's notes.

4. CEO Dialogue (Bonnie Johnston)

The CEO Retreat included the Deputy Minister, the three Assistant Deputy Ministers and Sheryl Fricke, Executive Director. Discussions focused on joint responsibilities and working together. A Departmental Review Committee will meet on May 25, 2005. Donna Mah, CEO from Edmonton and Bev Fournier, Executive Manager attending on behalf of Bonnie, will represent the 'Executive Team of the Ministry'.

Discussed the total budget for the Ministry. Children's Services is the eighth largest of all the ministries. The Funding Allocation Committee continues to meet to further develop the new model. Discussed the Funding Allocation Model update that was included in the Board package. The next meeting will be held on May 30 and 31, 2005 in Calgary. The Funding Model will go to CEO Council on June 8, 2005 and to the Assembly of Co-chairs on June 9, 2005. Bonnie requested the Board's participation in identifying drivers in the Region.

Action: Finance and Audit Committee to choose two people to identify drivers for the Region.

Action: Bonnie will send the Board an update after the meeting of May 31, 2005.

5. Finance and Audit Committee (Chris Brennan, Finance Manager)

a) Financial Information

The first month of the fiscal year does not provide indicators, therefore actuals were not discussed. The final funding target will be set once the new CFSA Resource Allocation Model has been developed and approved. This approval is expected early in the second quarter of the current fiscal year.

b) Internal Audits

Reviewed internal audit reports from the two Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Southwood and South Calgary Community of Service (COS) site and the Closer to Home Community Services agency. Discussed the negotiable instruments (vouchers, bus passes, tickets, etc.). The Committee requested the Internal Auditors return to the South Calgary (COS 6) office to perform follow up on the issues identified. There were no significant findings for the Closer to Home agency.

6. Community Liaison Committee (Bill Dickson, Chair)

a) Community Coordinating Council Co-chair meeting with the Community Liaison Committee

The Committee continues to meet with the co-chairs of the Community Coordinating Council and there appears to be good communication among this group. The Youth in Transition to Adulthood Framework was presented at a meeting on May 4, 2004. They were informed that this was a Community Engagement strategy for the Board and could eventually develop into assisting youth in the general public. The CCCs were supportive and would like to be updated on our progress.

The CCCs expressed an interest in hearing about the work of the other CRCs in relation to Youth Issues and Programs. This will be incorporated into the agenda for the Annual Gathering

b) Annual Gathering

The plans for the Annual Gathering are finalized. Catherine Buchanan will attend the Gathering. Board members will greet the Community Coordinating Council members at the sign in desk.

Action: Cathy Thompson will email the greeting schedule prior to the Gathering.

7. Strategic Planning Committee (Eileen Grant, Acting Chair)

The Board Retreat is scheduled for June 21, 2005. Eileen thanked everyone for submitting feedback for the Core Governance Policies, which have been sent to Alan Shugg in Edmonton. Representative from all the regions will meet to review the feedback. Amber Hewwing will represent Region 3 at this meeting.

The Board Development Committee met on May 16, 2005 to review the feedback for the Board Orientation Manual. Board members feel this manual is a useful tool for new and existing Board members. The draft manual will be presented at the Board Development Conference on June 10, 2005 with an opportunity for Board members to present their final comments.

The Board Development Committee also reviewed the input for the Board Assessment process in each region. Each region has a different approach. One region hired a facilitator to complete the process and submit one report. Alan Shugg prepared a synopsis of feedback of the overall process.

Action: The two documents prepared by Allan Shugg will be included in June Board Package (Review of CFSA Board Assessments 2004 and Review of the Board Assessment Guide - Synopsis of Feedback).

The Assembly of Co-chairs will review the process for the Individual Board Assessment. They will also determine how the feedback will be used and the next steps. A report is expected in late fall/early winter.

8. Formation of New Committee (Art Cunningham)

The new Board members will be appointed this week. Art thanked everyone for submitting their interest in the new committees. A draft of the new Committee formation will be sent by email.

9. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (Jean Creagh)

Each Board member received a copy of a letter and a booklet from grandparents expressing their challenges in raising grandchildren. Some of the grandparents recently met with members of the Ministry and personal matters were addressed. The grandparents expressed a desire for the Ministry to develop a Task Force to assist families in the future. It was also mentioned that consideration must also be given to informal caregivers such as brother, sisters, aunts, uncles and friends. These individuals also require the same types of supports.

Action: Jean Creagh will prepare a response on behalf of the Board

10. Updates and Reminders

Board Member Appointments see item 8.

June 10/11 Provincial Board Development Conference

The Board Development Conference in June was organized by Alan Shugg, Senior Advisor Governance Support. Alan will retire on June 30, 2005 and will be recognized at the conference for his many years of contribution. There has been a very good response among the regions with many members attending and a good opportunity for networking.

Provincial Aboriginal Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting

The Committee met on May 1, 2005 to further discuss aboriginal issues. There is very little information on aboriginal issues i.e. Aboriginal Framework Agreement, which is already in place. There is lack of knowledge among governors and ministry staff. The June meeting will focus on a learning process regarding what has already been developed and negotiated.

10. Next Meeting

The meeting on June 21, 2005 will include a staff recognition dinner from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Invitations have been sent to all the Executive Managers.

11. Others

Special Announcement – Amber Hewwing

Amber is expecting a baby in September

Selection of rural location for September 2005 and May 2006 Board Meeting

The Board agreed by consensus to hold the September Board meeting in Strathmore.

Action: The Communication Committee will decide on the location for the May 2006 meeting and decide how to improve public attendance.

The Regional Newsletter was circulated.

12. Board to Board meeting with Person with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) Meeting of May 16, 2005

Seven PDD Board members and six CFSA Board members met on May 16, 2005, to learn about the Board structure of each organization. There are seven PDD Community Boards that report to a Provincial Board, which reports to the Ministry. Their mandate is to provide services to adults with developmental disabilities. Most adults entering PDD come directly from CFSA's. There is currently 89 adults approved for PDD services on a waiting list. The CFSA continues to support these adults.

The PDD Board were thankful to the CFSA Board for initiating the meeting and saw many ways of working together. They invited the CFSA Board members to attend their Board meetings and expressed an interest in attending CFSA Board meetings. Shawn thanked the Board members who attend the PDD meeting.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.