



We Value

Safety – Families – Relationships - Collaboration – Being Open & Willing to Change

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE PERIOD OF May 29th, 2019 - June 25th, 2019

We still have no information from the Ministry about this year's funding allocation or any changes to our sector. On June 20th, 2019 there was a Cabinet shuffle and we have a new Minister – Todd Smith. There is also a new Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues – Jill Dunlop. This Associate Position is and we are awaiting further information on what it will mean.

We received notification that our program supervisor for the Ministry has changed. Mark Horrocks will be returning to our agency. We've had him before and had a positive working relationship with him.

Provincial leadership meetings occurred June 2-4th. Thank you to Ryan Bell for attending. Belinda Karahalios, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister, spoke and emphasized the commitment of the government to improving outcomes and increasing efficiencies. The message continues to be that the Ministry is interested in engaging with the sector and others to inform what the anticipated comprehensive systemic changes will be. The timeline provided for the consultations was June to October 2019 with the plan being communicated after that.

Isa Gros-Louis, Director General for the Department of Indigenous Services also presented on the federal Bill C-92 regarding Indigenous Child Welfare Legislation. The Bill has passed. It affirms the inherent rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous communities to provide their own child & family services. It is a framework and details on its implementation are to be worked out in the next phase.





Chasing Zero

We are chasing having all children and youth growing up safe with families. It is at the heart of everything we do. Success Marker: Zero children & youth growing up in care by 2020.

I met with Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi about the research proposal related to zero young people in group care. As the first step, the proposal will be submitted to the Ethics Committee at Ryerson University.



All at the Table

There is a place for everyone at our table. No one person or group sits at the head. People of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, races, cultures, genders and sexual orientations are welcome to pull up a chair and have their voices help shape our services and decisions. Success Markers: Family involvement in case conferences increases by 10% a year beginning in 2016. Families have a way of telling us if our services were helpful and why.

On June 11th, 2019, Jean Samuel facilitated an excellent and thought provoking day of development with the management team on equity, oppression, white supremacy, and white fragility. We intend to coordinate a session with the Board in partnership with Chatham CAS in the fall.

We recognized PRIDE month in June through social media posts.





Journey Beside

We will continue to work beside our First Nation partners to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of their children and youth. We commit to learning from one another and sharing our agency's resources to support First Nations children, youth and families. Success Marker – a minimum of 80% of staff, foster parents, Board members and volunteers have participated in at least one local training or learning opportunity per year regarding Indigenous People.

On June 4th, 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report. We posted an [agency statement in response](#).

We recognized June 21st as National Indigenous Peoples Day. We chose to honour the day by raising awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We hosted an afternoon session with staff, showed documentaries about the National Inquiry and presented the 15 Calls for Justice specific to child welfare. At a future date, we will be inviting Indigenous staff, First Nation partners and potentially community agencies for a discussion on an action plan in response. [Resource Page](#)



There was an Indigenous Working Group meeting held on June 18th. Agenda items included the MMIWG inquiry report; upcoming privacy changes; children's mental health services and discussions related to identity. All three local First Nations had someone attend and participate.

A First Nations Service Model related to Residential care has been developed provincially with the participation of all Indigenous agencies. There will be upcoming training on the model and we will be inviting the local First Nations to the training and engage in consultation with them about it.



Our Stories

By sharing our heartfelt stories, challenges and the changes we are making, we can better educate our community about the valuable work we do with children, youth and families. Success Marker: We have an annual communication plan that provides the public with more information about the work we do.

As part of a provincial strategy to engage and provide information about child welfare to MPPs, we have reached out to Bob Bailey's office and invited him to visit our agency. If he is able to attend, we will be asking if there are Board members able to participate as well.



My Circle

Each of us has the responsibility to ask ourselves "What role do I play in helping us meet our goals?" and "How am I committing myself to our mission?" This is your circle. Success Marker: everyone has a personal goal that helps us achieve our strategic goals.

We have achieved our success marker in this area. Here are a couple of circles:

"I will strive to promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness through my commitment to building and strengthening relationships with families in the Indigenous community and relationships in the workplace. I will do so through education, reaching out, listening and learning from those we serve."

- Margaret Price

"I am committed to having 'all at the table' so children and youth can grow up with their natural support system and feel safe, and cared for."

-Sarah MacDonald



Getting Better Together

Wellness in our workplace continues as a priority for our agency and we believe we are making progress. I will continue to report on this area in my monthly reports to the Board.

The Mindful Morning wellness sessions were completed with all staff and booster sessions scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Getting up to date with the completion of performance reviews continues as a focus. Our progress so far:

February – 20%

April – 30%

June – 39%

Submitted by:
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