



We Value

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE PERIOD OF May 1st, 2019 - May 28th, 2019

Further details about funding cuts within the Ministry of Children Community and Social Services has been provided. We do not yet know what the impact will be on individual agencies and have not received information on our agency's funding allocation for the year. We also continue to wait on further direction from the Ministry about engagement with the sector on what the changes will be – both to the structure of our sector and the service model.



The Office of the Provincial Advocate was discontinued on May 1st, 2019. The Ombudsman has taken over some of the functions and logistics are still being worked out.

We celebrated Child & Youth in Care Day on May 14th by hosting a bowling event. It was very well attended by young people and supported by staff.



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.

There continues to be zero young people in our care in group care. We are in the process of working with Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi on a research proposal related to zero young people in group care. There is interest in exploring whether taking a position that group care is no longer an option (what we have



done) is substantially different than stating a position that group care will be reduced (which is what currently happens in most of our sector).

The training that Dr. Gharabaghi provided was very well attended and thought provoking. There were 8 young people who attended the evening of April 29th, about 100 child welfare staff from 5 different agencies on April 30th and about 75 community representatives on May 1st.

We also remain focused on the remaining young people at risk of growing up in care.



THANK YOU
DR. KIARAS GHARABAGHI

Thank you Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi and everyone from the community who attended the May 1st workshop. It was a challenging and inspiring discussion on residential care. Overcoming systemic cultures of complacency, mediocrity and blame will require innovation and courage.

We can do this together.

 

CHECK OUT
DR. GHARABAGHI'S
NEW BOOK RELEASE:



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.

Several of our staff attended the first Circles Canada Conference in Sarnia and heard the guest speaker, Tammy Thompson, talk about her experiences. It was powerful and motivating and provided insight on how race and poverty play critical roles in our understanding and experiences in the world.





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.

We achieved our success marker 4 years in a row and have started on our final year. Participation rate for 19/20 so far:

- Staff – 33%
- Board – 9%

June 21st is....



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.

The [Sarnia Journal published an article on Storystork](#), the new program delivering books to children/young people living with kinship families.



[The annual communication plan has been completed for 2019/20.](#)



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 continue to support our youth in care and make sure their voices continue to be heard. I will also liaise with other service provider’s to ensure our youth in care are receiving the best services that can be offered in the community.”

-Brandon Ceschan

“I will use more signs of safety language when asking kids to share their stories to ensure that I am better able to understand their perspectives.”

- Dylan Stelpstra



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.

We hired all 8 of the child protection workers planned for the spring 2019. New worker authorization training begins May 21.

The Mindful Morning wellness sessions for all staff has continued. Based on the feedback and input from the sessions, there will be additional booster sessions scheduled throughout the year.

The results from the Guarding Minds survey show improvements across all areas compared to last year. We will be developing a plan for the year based on the results.

The Social Committee is hosting the annual golf bonanza on Thursday June 6th for all interested staff.

Submitted by:
DAWN FLEGEL, M.S.W., R.S.W
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

