



Highlights from the Board of Directors Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society Board President – Michelle Holbrook

Hello everyone,

The Board of Directors met on May 29th, 2018 however we did not have quorum to proceed with items that required voting. The Board met again on June 26th, 2018 and I am pleased to share with you the following highlights from both the May and June meetings:

- The Board approved the consent agenda which contained minutes from the previous meetings, Executive Director report, Directors of Service report, Committee reports, Ministry Correspondence on the agency's 2018/109 funding allocation and correspondence from two Board members indicating they would not be continuing on the Board for personal reasons.
- The audited statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018 were reviewed by the auditors and approved by the Board of Directors. It was an unqualified opinion from the auditors. Audited statements will be made available on the agency's website.
- Director of Service, Jennifer Thrasher, provided an annual review of the highlights and successes from the past year in line with our Strategic Directions. The same presentation was also provided to staff at a staff meeting.
- Signs of Safety Lead, Christie Klassen, presented the highlights from our agency's second year of Signs of Safety Implementation. This is a framework that keeps the child and youth at the centre of the work and highly involves the family in the decision making and planning. She then led the Board of Directors through an exercise where they practiced how to do an Appreciative Inquiry – a process to identify what is working well, why it's working well and then doing more of it.
- Ryan Bell and Dawn Flegel attended the Southwest Intra Zone meeting in April. Highlights were shared by Ryan and Dawn that included:
 - Continuing to work with Indigenous communities, building relationships and working together to meet the provincial commitments.
 - One Vision One Voice – a self-assessment tool will be coming out in June to be completed by each agency.
 - Supporting each other with the changes of supporting 16 and 17 year olds.
- All Candidates meeting – Each agency was requested to meet with their local MPP candidates in advance of the election. The strategy was to share the needs of child welfare provincially, including supports to Indigenous communities, early help with additions and mental health. Dawn met with the local NDP candidate Kathy Alexander, the only candidate who made herself available to attend the agency and meet with Dawn. Overall it was a good meeting and shared on Social media.
- The importance of Board member attendance at Board meetings and Board Committee meetings was emphasized. This has been a more challenging year for attendance.

- Dawn Flegel provided an overview of the current worries with staff wellness and the priority to stabilize staffing with management and staff. The Board passed a motion providing discretion to the Executive Director to increase staffing levels by using funding from other budget lines in the internal budget and/or by using funding from the Balanced Budget Fund.
 - Ryan Bell provided an overview of the proposed bylaw revisions that he completed. The Governance Committee has reviewed them and fully supports the changes. The bylaw changes were provided to Board members in advance of the meeting. There were no further proposed amendments. It will be brought forward to the Annual General Meeting for approval.
 - The Annual General Meeting this year is scheduled for Tuesday September 25th, 2018 from 4-6 p.m. at the Aamjiwnaang Community Centre.
 - Michelle Holbrook advised that she will be stepping down at Board President in September for personal reasons and will remain on the Board as Past President. Current Vice President Ryan Bell has agreed to become the Board President in September for a 2 year term.
 - All Board members were asked to indicate whether they wanted to serve in another Executive Position or if they wanted to nominate someone for a position. Board members were also asked to indicate their preference for a Board Committee in the upcoming year.
 - Dawn Flegel advised Board members about a concern regarding the provincial Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). There was corruption of a couple provincial Ministry servers that house attachments that agencies uploaded to CPIN. It resulted in over 100,000 attachments being inaccessible for a period of time. Most were recovered, however, there are approximately 1300 remaining where agencies are being asked to either upload them again or recreate them. There is also a concern that the Ministry advised agencies over a month after the issue arose. This is one of the risks of a provincial database that we do not have control over.
 - The following additional motions were passed:
 - Approval of annual Ministry Attestation Form regarding the agency's compliance with various broader public sector Directives.
 - Approval of Policy revisions to the Bylaw Policy and Health and Safety Policy.
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