



Highlights from the Board of Directors

Hello everyone,

The Board of Directors met on November 29th, 2017 and I am pleased to share with you the following highlights from our meeting:

- The Board was provided with an overview of the new Child Youth and Family Services Act which is anticipated to come into effect in the spring 2018. In addition, they were advised about the change to the age of protection effective January 1, 2018 and what the agency has been doing to prepare.
- The Board approved the consent agenda which contained minutes from the previous meeting, Executive Director report, Director of Service report and Committee reports.
- There was a meeting held on November 24th with the eight southwest Children's Aid Societies and their respective Board Chairs (or designate) and Executive Directors. Ryan Bell and Dawn Flegel attended on behalf of our agency. Information was provided to the Board on what was discussed and included the Indigenous Apology and Commitments; Funding to Agencies and CPIN (Child Protection Information Network).
- The provincial Leadership Meetings were held November 26-28th. Leaders and Board members from Children's Aid Societies and Indigenous Child Well Being Agencies from across the province attend these meetings which are held 3 times a year. Mariah Armor, Jennifer Thrasher and Dawn Flegel attended the meetings on behalf of the agency. Topics included meeting the Indigenous Commitments; the provincial One Vision One Voice initiative; Funding; Shared Services and Signs of Safety. Jennifer Thrasher presented during a portion of the meeting with Mark Atanasoff from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies on the work our agency has been doing with Indigenous Partners over the past 5 years. Mark shared his analysis of the factors in our work that were important and could be replicated across the province.
- The Board was provided with a brief summary of the Permanent Relationship Circles that were held over a two year period beginning in 2013 with children and youth in care. We've had two recent requests from youth for a Circle. An invitation will go out to all Board members to participate in these circles. Gayle Montgomery participated previously and shared what her experience with the Relationship Circles has been.
- The agency implemented a new provincial database October 2016 (called CPIN). At the January Board meeting, the Board will be provided with a demonstration of the product and be given information about what's working well about it, what the ongoing challenges are and hear about OPSEU's CPIN Fund It and Fix It campaign.

- The Board was provided with an update on the Youth Hub in our community and our agency's continued involvement in it. We continue to work toward a single Hub where youth can receive services and supports from one location, including housing. There remains ongoing work with over 40 agencies/partners to make this happen. New federal funding is available and an application is being made for this funding. Youth remain very involved at every level.
 - Several motions were passed including the workplans for Board Committees; Financial Reports for the second quarter of the fiscal year and the Quality Improvement Plans.
 - Ryan Bell has offered to review the agency's bylaw pro bono. He has experience in this area and the Board thanked him for his generosity. The timeline for bylaw change approval is the next Annual General Meeting in September 2018. Ryan will put together a presentation for the new year, input will be sought and all changes compliant with new legislation.
 - The Board discussed orientation priorities for the next several months. These included CPIN, a meeting with the Ministry Program Supervisor, Moving on Mental Health, the Payukotayno partnership and site visit; and Signs of Safety/Appreciative Inquiry.
 - The Board discussed the Indigenous Commitments and their role as a Board. Board members are willing to speak regionally and provincially to share their experiences and the changes the Board made. They would also like to attend a meeting of the Indigenous Working Group to hear directly from the First Nations about the service being provided and how to obtain broader feedback. The Board supports the agency re-thinking the jurisdictional boundaries for service to the First Nations. The Board also plans to include the acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory at the beginning of all its future meetings.
 - In September 2017, the Board was asked and agreed to participate in a provincial Governance Excellence Project. The Board was chosen as a high performing Board. There are three steps to this process – a survey; a phone interview and a discussion at a Board meeting with the consultant. Feedback was provided about the survey which will be forwarded to the consultant.
 - There was an in camera session where five items were discussed – 2 related to specific family situations; 2 related to human resources changes and 1 related to a risk management issue.
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