



MINUTES

National Working Group
Richmond Hill, Ontario
June 12, 20123

Attendees: Janice Williams, Brian Williams, Ambrose Ojah, Judy Smith, Andy Leggett, Alec Blue, Donna Blue, Nancy MacFarlane, Wayne, MacFarlane, Donna Wilkinson, Shirley McKay, Linda Krauskopf, Candace Seymour, Tammy Krivda, Cathy Wiebe, Sylvia Thompson, Sharon Joyal, Tamara Smith, Russell Pohl, Diane Molloy, Cheri Crane, Duane Durham, Lynn Eddy, Fronie Blake, Gary Mavis, Peter Dudding, Frits Wortman, Ken Lucas, Gary Landry, Darlene Arseneau, Sheila Cabot, Gena Morrow, Jillian Zusucha, Mary Smith, Connie Mulholland, Sheila Durnford

Regrets:

Call to order 9:10.

Overview of the day

National Executive Directors Update – Candace Seymour/Tammy Krivda

Meet twice a year, once at conference and once in the fall.
Manitoba spearheading Education. – Document on foster parent education throughout the world is presently on the Manitoba website.
Other topics are Insurance, biological children in foster care, collaborative approach, standards, transitioning, outcome based service delivery.

Provincial/Territorial Updates

Ontario – Gena Morrow

47 Children's aid societies plus Ontario Association of Children's Aid Society

Cuts are coming in Ontario.

Nova Scotia – Darlene Arsenault

Youth Achievement awards held in Truro. Auditor General's Report was in line with foster parents feelings. Children's education will be paid until 25.

New Brunswick – Judy Smith



New standards coming out. Increase in kinship homes. Large campaign happening for recruitment, need to look at retention. Pride is ongoing.

Manitoba – Cathy Wiebe

Mentorship program now running. Got funding for a one-year pilot. Still have 4 Authorities. 23 Agencies. Peer Support Program still running and have taken 359 calls, and Critical Incident Stress Management Team starts on June 17. Have 4200 sets of foster parents. 8500 – 10,000 foster children. Agency can grant extension of care to 21. CFS and Adult services don't line up.

BC – Russell Pohl

Cuts may be coming to programs in the upcoming year. Training foster parents to advocate for themselves called BC Advocate Program. Extreme protocol issues in BC.

BC Aboriginal – Gary Mavis

Update of mandate of BC Aboriginal

PEI – Wayne MacFarlane

Key to PEI association is collaboration. Asked for 12% increase. Had a meeting with caucus. Provincial government gave them 5% increase. Government will actively recruit foster parents. Children leave care at 18. It is up to foster parent to prepare children to leave care.

Alberta – Linda Krauskopf

Have new minister. Now called Human Services. Children's First Act – want foster parents to actively act as parents. Can stay in care until 22 and education bursary available until 22. Set up a Face book group for foster parents.

Newfoundland & Labrador – Diane Molloy

New Continuum. Foster care is the best it has been in NL. Survey sent out and had a 78% response from foster parents. Level system is working really well. Block funding is now in effect. Block funding is \$300 per month. No receipts required. Provincial recruitment started in the fall. Got several new foster homes. Had 191 applications. Did targeted recruiting for their board. Got more males involved. Life skills coordinators being hired to help with transitioning. School presentation developed and given in schools. Education being paid until age 21.

NWT – Tammy Krivda



Only foster parent organization in NWT and Tammy is the only staff person.

Recently approved for increase in funding. Getting a part-time admin person in the office. Out of care at age 19 and have no transitioning program. Foster care is troubled in NWT, hard to get social workers.

Yukon – Donna Wilkinson

Monthly meetings with regional services. Foster care manual completed and distributed soon. A lot of changes have been made due to new legislation. Department understaffed so foster parents not supported. Children leave care at 19. More kids staying in foster homes after they leave care.

Nunavut – Ambrose Ojah

Have no foster parent association. Hopefully, in future we will have one. All services are government directed. Big space, few people, lots of challenges. Emphasis on family. Age of majority is 19 but with passing of Bill 51 can support children till 25.

Have 380 children in care, half are voluntarily engaged with department. Look to family first when placing children. Have 200 foster parents. Change happening rapidly, new minister.

MOTION

I approve minutes of NWG as corrected: Sharon

Seconded: Nancy

Carried

Frits advised what positions are available for elections this year.

Positions available are second and third vice and secretary.

Transitioning of CIC's out of care discussion

James McGuirk - Presentation of report and recommendations from the Youth Leaving Care Hearings.

Peter Dudding - The Future of Foster Care

Adjourned 3:20.

