

**KAWARTHA-HALIBURTON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 18, 2007
Peterborough Boardroom**



In attendance

Jack Watkins
Mollie Cartmell
Robert Messacar
Cory McMullan

Sharon McKeiver
Jonathan Bennett
Bill Wellman
Donald Paudash

Linda Gendron
Bill Buys
Jill Worden

Regrets

Jennifer Broderick (on leave)
Robert Pierson
Lesley McRae

Staff

Hugh Nicholson, Executive Director
Linda Mitchelson, Director of Child Protection Services
Leo Cook, Director of Finance
Joan Conrad, Director of Accountability and Management Services
Scott MacDonald, Supervisor Kinship Services

Recorder: Laura Ross

- 1. Call to Order**
Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.
President welcomed new Board members, Donald Paudash, Sharon McKeiver, Cory McMullan.
- 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Approval of Agenda**
No pecuniary interest declared and agenda approved.
- 3. Approval of Previous minutes**
A quorum was not reached at the previous meeting; therefore the minutes are being received for information only.
The President asked the board to take note of item number three which outlines the financial situation at the agency.

4. Business Arising

None to bring forward

5. Board Information Session - Kinship

- Scott MacDonald, Supervisor – Kinship Services attended at the Board meeting and provided an overview of the Kinship Service offered at KHCAS.
- This information included a description of Kinship Services, an overview of the Agency's approach.
- What do we check for:
 - Complete kinship safety checklist
 - CWIS check
 - Criminal record check
 - Interviews of kin within 7 days and 30 days
 - Private interview with the child within 7 days and 30 days
- Comprehensive Assessment of the Kinship Service Family
- Planning meetings are held at intervals after placement.
- Children are visited by workers on Scott's team.
- Financial supports for Kinship Service Families: financial assistance is deemed by the agency as a short term funding; the Ministry provides funds; the agency approaches the foundation for other support for things such as recreation.
- Other forms of assistance: Ontario works, child Tax Credit etc.
- Kin families are encouraged to look for funding options as soon as possible as the agency is not in a position to financially support kinship families.

Issues and Challenges

Funding from OW for kin is not permanent if Legal custody is granted

Minister's announcement has fused many grandparents

Funding from MCYS has not been annualized

Many kin need day care; this is expensive and is not always available

Kinship practices across the province are not uniform.

Kinship Survey is being prepared and will be sent to Kinship families (target date – early November)

Pamphlet – information being prepared

Support group and training for kin families

6. Growing Community Capacity – Community Living Peterborough and KHCAS

This is a report of three Community Capacity Building programs approved in 2006 for the four counties for which KHCAS has the mandate to deliver child protection services.

- Community partners met to discuss ongoing problematic issues.
- Susan Abel discussed some of the issues faced by the agency in providing supports for children and youth with developmental disabilities.
- Highlights from the report were distributed to board members.
- Susan discussed some issues that families involved with our agency face.
- Our agency has many children who are developmentally challenged.
- Children who require services from this system are funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- A lot of dilemmas are occurring because the systems do not work well together. A difficulty faced often is getting an adequate assessment.
- One of the major challenges is that the various levels of the ministry and various services do not work well together.
- This plan works with people with an intellectual disability.
- This is a complex issue, Susan and Jack provided a brief overview of the issues and challenges.

7. Executive Directors Report

Hugh provided the following updates that are in addition to the Executive Director's Report.

- KHCAS instituted a new audit process to establish native status for children proceeding to adoption.
- Hugh reported that the instances that the agency faced at the beginning of the year have been rectified very satisfactorily and that the children are still in their placements. Cultural heritage is an important aspect of the plan of care for children. The requirement at the moment by legislation covers on First Nations heritage.
- Legislation has been passed around professions, there are three pieces to this issue, two relate to us: Access to Justice Act, (Hugh will provide more information as it becomes available. Therapies Act: anyone who does therapy with families or individuals must be registered and meet the conditions of this Act. We don't meet the criteria of this Act. We are looking to be exempted from this Act. These may have some future implications.

Motion #1

Motion to receive Hugh's Executive Director's Report

Moved by Bill Wellman Seconded by Linda Gendron Carried

8. Finance and Human Resource Committee Report

- Updated information that provided to the Board in May.
- The deficit has grown since the report in May.
- Funding that was anticipated is slightly higher than last year.
- Group care placements has continued to drop.

Motion #2

Motion to accept the verbal report of the Finance and Human Resources Committee.

Moved by Mollie Cartmell Seconded by Linda Gendron Carried

9. Strategic Positioning Committee

Energetic meeting setting out a workplan for the year. Set out what the tasks would be for the session.

The Committee will prepare a document to assist the Board with their next Strategic Planning Session. To facilitate this, the committee prepared a table of contents.

Motion #3

Motion to accept the Strategic Positioning Committee verbal report

Moved by Jonathan Bennett Seconded by Rob Messacar Carried

10. Agency Governance and Public Relations Committee

Main focus to review the public relations report prepared by Hugh.

The PR plan is going to be sent out to community partners and the committee will report to the Board when the data is available.

Plans are in place with stakeholders to provide information and speaking engagements.

Motion #4

Motion to accept the verbal report of the Agency Governance and Public Relations Committee.

Moved by Linda Gendron Seconded by Jill Worden Carried

11. Foundation Board Report

Dream Ball is November 17, 2007.

12. New Business

- Meeting dates for Board meetings: President asked Directors to consider if another night would work better.
- Meeting dates need to be established. Board members must have consistency.
- Meetings will remain the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- The Board may consider computers for Board members, also teleconferencing the Board meetings may be looked at.
- Haliburton meeting and Lindsay meeting perhaps in March.
- Step by Step instructions for Board members to access the member website.
- Jack attended a foster parent meeting. The foster parents raised the issue that they had the perception that the vehicles were purchased with money

that would have and should have gone to children's services. Jack explained that the vehicles were purchased in an attempt to save money on mileage claims and to manage our travel issues.

- The foster parents are concerned with the delays in payments to foster parents. This issue was addressed
- The foster parents would like to see a fourth clothing subsidy. This is not a possibility at the moment.
- Medically fragile children fees were three cents less than the Level 3 foster care payment. This was incorrect; Jack will provide further information to the foster parents. Jack will continue to attend the meetings in order to provide a forum for issues to be brought to light.
- A meeting will be planned for Hugh and Jack to introduce themselves with the new Regional Director in Newmarket.
- Board has asked for an information session about the Havelock Initiative.
- Bill Wellman asked for information from First Nations, how the band works, what the political issues are and how the agency can interact with the First Nations communities.
- The agency has 5 aboriginal workers. Hugh and Jack are discussing forming a steering committee to address the issues and challenges that are specific to First Nations. Curve Lake and Hiawatha may be asked to have someone on the committee.

13. **Adjournment**

Motion #5

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Linda Gendron

NEXT BOARD MEETING IS NOVEMBER 15, 2007 AT 5:00

