

**KAWARTHA-HALIBURTON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY September 27, 2007**

We do not have a quorum for this meeting.

In attendance

Jack Watkins, President

Cory McMullan

Jonathan Bennett

Sharon McKeiver

Lesley McRae

Regrets

Jennifer Broderick (on leave)

Mollie Cartmell

Bill Buys

Robert Pierson

Linda Gendron

Jill Worden

Bill Wellman

Staff

Hugh Nicholson, Executive Director

Joan Conrad, Director of Accountability and Management Services

Linda Mitchelson, Director of Client Services

Leo Cook, Manager of Finance

Shelly LaCarte, Supervisor

Recorder: Laura Ross

1. Call to Order

2. Alternative Dispute Resolution Presentation – Linda Mitchelson

Each month a new topic will be brought to the Board as an education piece.

Tonight's presentation is ADR.

- ADR processes are used to speed up proceedings and to cut down on Court time.
- Bill 210 requires CASs to consider ADR before and during proceedings.
- ADR provides more timely resolution of child welfare cases, they are often more cost effective and creates more buy in for participants.
- ADR is Consensual, without prejudice, confidential, neutral, impartial and fair. Encourages creativity.
- This process encourages engagement with families to achieve agreements and plans that families can follow through on.

Requirements for ADR

- Legislation, regulation, Ministry Policy Directives

Appropriate cases for ADR

- Parent/Teen conflict, Expiring temporary care agreements, Access Issues, Long Term Care issues, challenges in communication between worker and clients due to client hostility.

Mediation is one method, tends to be shorter process (6-8 hours), typically used for access issues, typically the child is not at the table during this process.

Family Group Conferencing often involves children and wide network of family, extended family and anyone that the family feels would be important to have at the table. The mediator's job is to prepare the members for the process and then assist in developing a plan.

Aboriginal Approaches

- Utilizes culturally appropriate methods of resolution as defined by First Nations

Executive Director can approve the process by using PRREP Program. This program has been in existence for three years and involves clinical social workers that try to come up with plans that family service workers and families can agree on.

ADR is implemented through an individual who acts as a coordinator for the project. This person is a child protection mediator. A community advisory group meets twice per year to ensure that the program meets the needs of the community.

Our statistics currently look like this:

- Child protection mediation – 7 referrals, 5 settlements
- Family Group Conferences
2 referrals, 2 settlements
- Prepp
9 referrals and 5 settlements.

Last year's statistics in total: 33 referrals, 18 settlements

Challenges

- Role of Children's Lawyers
- Legal Aid financial support
- Pressures to use in inappropriate situations

Future Steps

- Training for ADR facilitators in kinship program and other permanency options.
- Liaison with our "First Nations communities to discuss development of Aboriginal approaches. Ongoing training of ADR facilitators to ensure sufficient

numbers available. Follow up legal Aid and Office of the Children's Lawyer on some of the barriers identified.

3. Financial update by Leo Cook

Please review a hardcopy attached to these minutes.
Leo provided a statistical financial update to the Board.

Highlights

- The board has approved a deficit of \$457,257.00 (in May of 07) the expected deficit to date is \$638,000.00.
- Block one and Block two funding are fixed numbers. Our Block three funding is a variable funding that is based on our numbers of children in care.
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Jack suggested that an analysis be done during the next month, after which time, we may approach the Ministry to outline our concerns and illuminate our position.

The agency is being very diligent to use our programs and processes to keep our costs down.

4. Meeting date for Board meetings

Jack asked about the most convenient time for Board meetings. We are decided on the third Thursday of each month.

5. Adjournment