

**THE KAWARTHA-HALIBURTON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

February 15, 2007

5:00 p.m.

1100 Chemong Road, Peterborough, Ontario

In attendance

Jack Watkins (President)

Jennifer Broderick

Wayne Thomson

Jonathan Bennett

Robert Messacar

Mollie Cartmell

Lesley McRae

Linda Gendron

Robert Pierson

Regrets:

Jennifer Broderick, Bill Wellman, Robin Read, Jill Worden, Joan Ferguson, Bill Buys

Staff

Hugh Nicholson, Executive Director

Linda Mitchelson, Director of Client Services

Leo Cook, Manager of Finance

Joan Conrad,

Recorded by Laura Ross

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1. Call to Order
 2. Correspondence
Included in the board package.
 3. Approval of previous minutes
Motion #1
Motion to approve the minutes of January 2007
Moved by Leslie McRae Seconded by Linda Gendron
 4. Approval of Agenda
(a) Conflict of interest – none declared

Add: Distribution of the Board package, in camera staffing issue, new business – these will be items 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, Adjournment will be item 12.

Motion #2

Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by Leslie McRae Seconded by Jonathan Bennett

5. New business
 None raised.
6. Ed Report

Further to Hugh's distributed report

- For the first time in quite a while we received a ratio analysis that compares our society to other CAS in the province. We were trying to do this 4 years ago with the Services Committee. At that time no one else was doing ratio analysis, it is beneficial to be able to compare our agency to others.
- Two areas that require more detail - Data that we use when opening files – and when we open files.
Reoccurrence of risk for children.
- The strategic positioning committee may want to review this ratio analysis.
- The reopen rate is interpreted as a reopen for investigation, is it the family coming back and asking for more help or is it that there is a need for us to get involved again. The president has asked Hugh to investigate why we are reopening files.
- The ministry on announced payments to extended family members including grandparents, foster parents, adoptive parents, extended family members. The Minister and the Premier also announced this. We have received a lot of calls. Hugh has advised that we have not implemented this so far.
- Hugh distributed the information from the Ministry
- Budget should be done by next month
- Annual plan is in the works
- Accreditation review is at the end of the month, it is in full swing.
- Editorial Board dispute on Foster Parent Newsletter. For the moment the Newsletter is on hold.
- Jack Linda Leo and Joan attended meeting with regional director and part of his staff. Jack had the sense that the ministry is quite comfortable with our budgeting and operational practices. Discussed the funding, tried to push for answers re funding and Jack got the sense that they are not quite sure exactly what is happening. Communication within the Ministry needs to be improved.
- Hugh discussed the permanency funding with them. Our numbers are very solid in comparison with other agencies.
- Investigation numbers are down.
- Ongoing services are up 8%. Children in care is up 7%. Paid days of care 9%. Salary and benefits 21%

- Jack spoke about detrimental reliance. It puts cas in a position of holding back from program development in case the ministry pulls back the funds down the road
- The agency has increased positions. We wanted to move more staff to the front end of the agency.
- Four positions for 12 ways and then a position with ADR. Part of the family service expansion, trying to develop kinship placements. We have been able to grow the agency while staying within budget.
- We will find out the ratio of our children with the total population of the area once the 2006 census information is released.
- A follow up letter confirming the events of the meeting in order to have information in writing. Hugh will look after this letter.
- Complaints have increased. Complaints review Board, a number of complaints have gone before them and their are two judicial reviews in process.
- New standards have been released Ottawa CAS is starting some legal action as they feel that the standards are more onerous than the ones we currently have, and cannot meet. They feel that they should go public as they have the feeling that they are nest for the auditor general report.
- There is a meeting request from OACAS with the Ministry.

Motion #3

Motion to accept the ED Report

Moved by Jonathan Bennett

Seconded by Wayne Thomson

Welcome back to Joan Conrad

7. Finance Committee Report

In camera discussion on grievances. No concerns by the committee

Discussed accreditation. The staff has been working very hard to get the agency prepared for the accreditation review

Discussed our current financial situation

When we last met, we reported that we were eligible for a \$200,000.00 grant for property renewal; we are working on project planning.

We received a letter advising that we would not have to pay back \$400,000.00 to the Ministry...

We are expecting to receive more funding but have not received it yet. Leo is anticipating a surplus.

Expenses in the last couple of months have decreased.

We are looking increase our agency fleet. (cars). Tender will go out for this expense.

Motion #4

Motion to accept the Finance and Human Resources Report

Moved by Rob Messacar

Seconded by Linda Gendron

8. Strategic Positioning Committee
 - Did not have a quorum but had a good meeting.
 - We feel strongly that we would like to be proactive in response to the kinship funding announcement.
 - We had a report from mark Griffin re The Youth in Care Conference. Mark is working very hard on this project.
 - Hugh will touch base with Mark to help him out.
 - The committee suggested that he delegate chores in the planning process. The conference is a regional youth conference, to give you an opportunity to develop some advocacy.

Motion #5

Motion to accept the Strategic Positioning Committee Report

Moved by Mollie Cartmell

Seconded by Jonathan Bennett

The president reminded the chair that the SPC Committee is being asked to review ratio analysis

9. Agency Governance and Public Relations Committee
 - Stakeholders matrix is being looked at.
 - Public Relations training - the committee feels that senior management may need some training.
 - There are two inquests upcoming, public relations services would be needed for this issue.
 - Accreditation update, received report that human resources and volume services are the two areas.
 - Formally recognize the staff's hard work.
 - Nomination Committee had to be put off for the moment. No accounting background resumes were received. A pdf file to be sent out to members of the board perhaps they can use their contacts.
 - New process of coming in and signing in - staff person in the meeting would look after letting anyone know who is in the building
 - Bill 210 came in to effect on November 30th. In order to maintain our license we have to ensure that we meet the criteria as set out by the Ministry. Senior admin. is looking after the work on this . The Board needs to sign off, and have the form sent back by January 28th.
 - Jack Watkins will be signing off on the part of the Board of the Directors.
 - Update to the Governance Committee will be given at the March Meeting.

- There were significant changes in our policies in accordance to the release of Bill 210. This is a component of our licensing.
- The president would like the Governance Committee to look at tenure of board members.
- This request has been forwarded to the nomination committee. Information regarding tenure will be supplied to the nominations committee.
- The board suggested that jack look into getting that information and reporting to the nomination committee.

Motion #6

Motion to accept the Agency Governance Report

Moved by Linda Gendron Seconded by Lesley McRae Carried

10. Foundation Report

- Vests are for sale to staff and board members. Cost is \$30 for men and \$20 for women.
- Foundation has not held a meeting yet this month.

Motion #7

Motion to accept the Foundation Report

Moved by Lesley McRae Seconded by Mollie Cartmell Carried

There has been a lot of material sent out to the Board. Each Board member will be reimbursed \$120.00 per year to cover the cost of printing material.
We will attempt to send out material in PDF format. Travel Expenses continue to be reimbursed to Board Members.

Ministry's announcement of funding for grandparents etc. Permanency funding guidelines have been released.

There has been discussion at the Ministry level and the Committee level

Chair is asking that our action be suspended until the 31st of March and we can receive the necessary funding and policy information

Motion#8

Motion to direct the Society to delay the implementation of this program.

Moved by Jack Watkins Seconded by Lesley McRae Carried

We are going to take a look at this, if we transfer the responsibility from our staff to kinship placements, will this become more financially viable.

The ministry is asking for us to do this out of our budget, on paper it appears that we would have more money kept at the agency. In actual fact we would not actually have substantial extra money.

We also cannot rely on the Ministry to keep the funding in place; we could be making an 18 year commitment to families.

We need to have some sort of public statement. We also have to develop some preemptive position in case the Ministry comes to the agency and raises the issue that we are not in compliance with this directive.

We should send our motion to other CAS's and send the information to Jeff Leal. We need more information and detail.

What is the reaction of other agencies; can we sit behind and not blaze a trail on this?

Other agencies are in contentious situations with the Ministry, many other issues are involved here.

There was a discussion at the directors of service level, similar discussions with Boards to ensure a clear position. Copying the other agencies is a good idea; we can work together with other agencies.

We need an immediate direction to Hugh on this issue

<p>The minute's note that Mollie has moved to the Chair's position, Jack has vacated the chair at 7:03 p.m.</p>
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Further discussion:

May not be a good idea to blaze a trail on this. If this gets out that we are in violation, the local media will have fun with this and we will wear it.

Either way we are in violation. In practical terms we are not any different from other agencies in this regard.

Hugh feels that responding via the motion is a proactive step.

Can we have the Ministry clarify the information?

Until the MCYS commits the necessary funds to support the OPF policy:

