



Letter from Board President & Executive Director



**Sandra
Robinson**
President



**Jennifer
McLauchlan**
Executive Director

The fiscal year 2020/21 will forever be known as an unprecedented year. In mid-March 2020, nobody would have imagined the impact that the world-wide pandemic known as COVID-19 would have on individuals, communities, businesses or the social, personal or economic toll it would take. Even at the time of writing this report, the world continues to work together to fight this healthcare crisis by finding ways to adapt, provide support and forge connections with each other, our community and the children, youth and families we work with.

As a mandated Agency, we had to quickly adapt service delivery to ensure compliance with provincial and local public health direction regarding COVID-19 protocols, while continuing to deliver services to children, youth and families in our communities as well as ensuring the safety of staff, volunteers, foster parents and kin parents. Saying thank you for the dedication, compassion, support and exceptional care that has been delivered over the past year is simply not enough. We know that every family, parent and child has been impacted by the pandemic, including our staff, volunteers, foster parents and kin parents and to know that supports and services continued, is truly inspirational. As an Agency we have learned an immense amount about the resiliency of our staff, volunteers, foster parents and kin parents and for their support we are forever grateful to work with such a strong group of individuals who have been unsung heroes throughout this pandemic.

Many people contributed to the development of strategies to support the work of the Agency throughout the pandemic for which we would be remiss for not acknowledging and extending a sincere thank you. The Joint Health and Safety Committee, the Union Executive, our leadership and staff who consistently provided input and feedback into our planning every step of the way, which allowed us to change, adjust and implement plans that created balance in our service delivery, while ensuring safety. The Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Foundation was also a key partner to the Agency by providing much needed financial support to families and youth over the past year. The Foundation's ability to respond to the many changes was paramount in helping the Agency provide the necessary support to those we serve.

As the pandemic took its toll on our daily lives, our mental health both personally and professionally, we know the pandemic impacted some more than others. This health crisis cast a bright light on how marginalized communities have been disproportionately and negatively impacted by the pandemic. As an Agency serving some of the most vulnerable people in our community, our supports needed to assist with the impact and pressures the pandemic presented whether that be emotional or financial.

These challenges presented during the pandemic have only strengthened our commitment to working with our communities to identify and address systemic issues which put children and youth at risk.

After 18 months of consultation, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services launched plans to redesign the child welfare system on July 29th, 2020. The vision of the redesign is "an Ontario where every child and youth has the support they need to succeed and thrive." The primary focus of the redesign is for child welfare, residential and community-based services to build a coordinated range of services that strengthen families, focusing on community-based prevention and early intervention. Services will be high quality, culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of children, youth and families.

Guiding the work are five (5) pillars:

1. Child, Youth, Family and Community Well-Being
2. Quality of Care
3. Strengthening Youth Supports
4. Improving Stability and Permanency
5. System Accountability & Sustainability

As an Agency and sector, the vision and pillars of child welfare redesign are welcomed changes which the sector has advocated for. We look forward to working with our community partners to strengthen community services to support children, youth and families in our communities.

Over the past year, the Agency also took steps to implement and advance the work of the Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board in March 2020. The Strategic Plan very much aligns with the vision and pillars of child welfare redesign and work during the fiscal year focused on developing systems to support early intervention and admission prevention to support families as well as reduce the number of children and youth in care. One of the most significant undertakings is the implementation of Signs of Safety (SOS) which is a practice model that originated in Australia over 30 years ago and has been adopted by many other Children's Aid Societies. In line with the strategic priorities for the Agency, throughout the three (3) year implementation period, the Agency will shift its practice, policies and organizational structure to ensure that parents, children and people naturally connected with the family are at the centre of the work to ensure child safety. The shift ensures that we are actively planning with families and natural connections throughout our engagement with them, while also ensuring the child's voice is heard. Over the course of the next two (2) years, there will be ongoing training and engagement with community partners about the model and how we will work collaboratively to support and engage with children, youth and families. We extend our thanks and appreciation to the SOS Implementation team for their contribution and leadership.

Letter from Board President and
Executive Director continued inside ►

The Agency remains steadfast in the commitments made towards Truth and Reconciliation and continue to work with Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services, Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation to restore the mandate of service delivery for Indigenous families. We are thankful for the work of the Indigenous Circle who continue to guide our work with Indigenous children, youth and families.

During the past year, Rod Sutherland's term as Board President came to an end and we welcomed Sandra Robinson to the elected position of Board President. Sandra has been with the Board since September 2019. We also welcomed three (3) new Board members, Amanda English, Chantelle Gray-Wheeler and Jessica Slade. At the conclusion of this year's Annual General Meeting, we will say goodbye to two (2) long standing Board members – Rod Sutherland who joined the Board in June 2012 and Linda Saunders who joined the Board in September 2015. Both Rod and Linda were elected to executive officer positions with the Board during their tenure. Their leadership, commitment and advocacy of the work that our Agency does to support children, youth and families will be missed. On behalf of the Board, Leadership Team and community, we thank you.

We look forward to the year ahead as we continue to advance the work of our strategic directions, Signs of Safety as well as the work related to child welfare redesign. Much of the work in the year ahead will also include equity, understanding who we work with and strengthening our work towards Truth and Reconciliation. These are significant priorities for the Board and Agency. We are determined and hopeful to achieve the best possible outcomes for children, youth and families we support and believe this next year will be full of possibilities, hope and collaboration that will lead to positive outcomes for all we serve.

– Sandra Robinson and Jennifer McLaughlan

Working to Keep Children Safe



2,479

Number of child protection reports received



1,150

Number of matters assessed as not meeting the criteria for intervention, nor needing a full investigation



1,329

Investigations opened



80

Number of families linked to other services to best meet their needs



296

Number of families receiving ongoing services at fiscal year end



88

Number of active legal files at March 31, 2021



80

Number of files referred for alternative dispute resolution in 2020-21

Children in Our Care | March 31, 2016-2021



STRATEGIC PLAN AND DIRECTIONS 2020-2023

OUR VISION:

Families and communities that thrive.

OUR MISSION:

Engaging families and the community to protect and support children, youth and young adults.

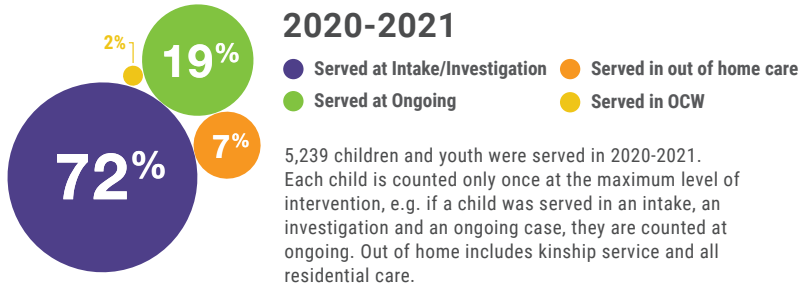
OUR VALUES:

- Child and Youth Centered
- Equity and Inclusion
- Integrity and Accountability
- Strength Based and Informed Practice
- Together with Partners
- Family Focused

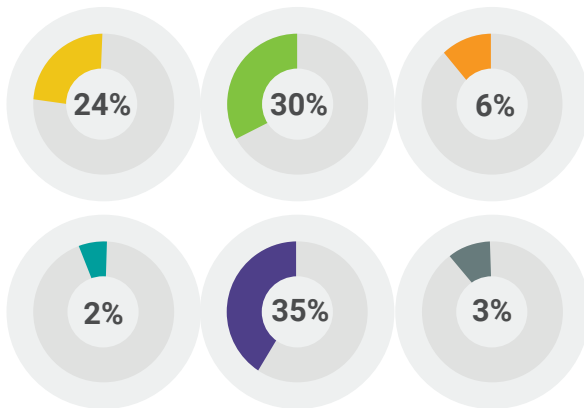
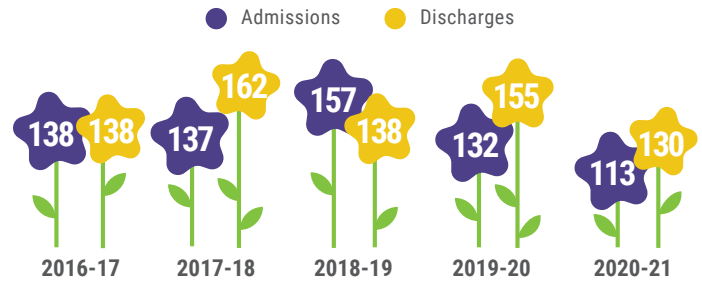
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

- Our commitment to service responsiveness
- Our commitment to community partnerships and collaboration
- People are our greatest strength

% of Children Served by Maximum Level of Intervention 2020-2021



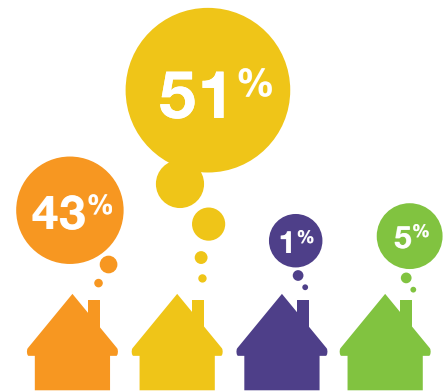
Admissions and Discharges by Fiscal Year 2016-2021



% of Children Served by Age Group



5,239 children and youth were served in 2020-2021. Each child is counted only once at the age category they were on March 31st, 2021.



Where Did Children and Youth In Care Live?

At March 31, 2021



"We are determined and hopeful to achieve the best possible outcomes for children, youth and families we support and believe this next year will be full of possibilities, hope and collaboration that will lead to positive outcomes for all we serve."

– Sandra Robinson and Jennifer McLaughlan, KHCAS



SERVICE TO CHILDREN IN OUR CARE



71 Total number of approved foster homes at year end¹

¹ Includes Foster Care, Kin in Care and Formal Customary Care Homes.



During the year, an average of **52 CHILDREN** were in Kinship Service Placements



Less than **5 ADOPTIONS** were finalized for children in 2020-2021 (due to court processing during COVID)



During 2020-21 **5,239** children and youth aged 0-21 years in the jurisdictions of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes & Peterborough were provided services by Society child welfare workers in the community.

KAWARTHA-HALIBURTON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

This information should be read in conjunction with the audited Financial Statements at March 31st, 2021

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At March 31

	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS		
Current	536,713	723,985
Tangible Capital Assets	2,569,347	2,708,123
	3,106,060	3,432,108

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		
Current Liabilities	1,485,094	1,668,222
Post Retirement Benefits	620,900	576,800
Fund Balances	1,000,066	1,187,086
	3,106,060	3,432,108

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

For the year ended March 31

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue		
Province of Ontario	22,707,129	23,108,678
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	14,662,512	15,075,708
Boarding and personal needs	5,913,365	6,996,918
Amortization	138,776	152,535
Other operating expenses	4,198,856	4,126,256
	24,913,509	26,351,417
Expenditure recoveries and other income	(2,019,360)	(2,225,982)
Net expenditures	22,894,149	24,125,435
Excess of net expenditures over revenue	(187,020)	(1,016,757)
Fund balances, beginning of year	1,187,086	2,203,843
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	1,000,066	1,187,086



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