

 <p><b>foster parents</b> British Columbia BCFFPA</p> <p><b>Board of Directors February 25, 2013 Conference Call</b></p>	<p><i>In Attendance</i></p> <p>Heather Bayes, President Russell Pohl, Vice President Marcy Perron, Treasurer Kathrynne Coxon, Coast Fraser Delegate Kevin Daniel, Interior Jayne Wilson, Executive Director</p>	<p><i>Absent</i></p> <p>Lee Lachmuth, North Delegate</p> <p><i>Guest</i></p> <p>Jacqueline Marshall, MCFD</p>
	<p>A quorum being present, the meeting commenced at 6:38 p.m. <b>*M/S/C (Moved/Seconded/Carried)</b></p>	
ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
1. Minutes of Previous Meeting	No changes to the Minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting.	<p><b>MOTION</b> to accept the Minutes of January 28, 2013 Board of Directors meeting as circulated.</p> <p><b>*M/S/C</b> Tamara/Marcy</p>
2. Additions and Changes to Agenda	No changes.	
3. President's Report	<p>With the restriction on travel, all meetings involving the MCFD have been through conference calls.</p> <p>The President participated in a call about the new edition of the Foster Family Handbook to review the additional sections about child care (babysitting) and relief.</p> <p>A call with the Provincial Director of Child Welfare and Assistant Deputy Minister, Bev Dicks regarding concerning issues in the Interior.</p> <p>The new process to outline a Provincial Protocol is underway. There will be weekly calls until the process is completed.</p> <p>There are no further meetings scheduled. We are waiting for some responses to the action items from these calls.</p>	
4. Vice President's Report	BCFFPA support case numbers are increasing again. We're receiving referrals from other agencies now. An MCFD office is hoping to host a Support and Advocacy training for social workers. Further workshops are scheduled for Hollyburn, Abbotsford and Prince George.	
5. Treasurer's Report	The financial statements are in good order. We have tight control over the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. We may have a small deficit reflecting costs of support and advocacy delivery, however other savings may offset those costs.	<p><b>MOTION</b> to accept the Treasurer's report as delivered.</p> <p><b>M/S/C</b> Marcy/Kevin</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Ensure to bring the Support and Advocacy expense breakdown to the AGM in May.</p>

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6. Director's Report	<p>There were no responses to the Vancouver Island call for nominations.</p> <p>The CKNW Orphan's Fund grant application has been sent in requesting funds to support Camp for Kids.</p> <p>BCFFPA is responsible for purchasing the speaker gifts for the Stand Together Conference (March 22-23, 2013).</p> <p>A Risk Management Plan is currently being developed.</p>	
7. CFFA Update	<p>BCFFPA has not yet received the conference package for the June national conference. The Vice President would like to attend the whole conference as part of the CFFA Board of Directors and the ED should attend the National ED Meetings at the beginning of the week.</p> <p>BCFFPA is able to hold 1 Board seat and have 2 delegate positions as well. The Secretary is interested in being a CFFA delegate as is our Interior Delegate.</p> <p>The Secretary would like to attend the conference and has offered to provide her own transportation and lodging costs. The VP suggested that BCFFPA cover costs to attend the conference.</p>	<p><b>MOTION</b> to approve the conference, lodging and travel costs for the VP to attend CFFA Conference in June 2013 and to approve travel and accommodation costs for the ED to attend the ED meetings at the conference.  <b>M/S/C</b> Kevin/Kathrynne</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> to appoint the Secretary as CFFA delegate.  <b>M/S/C</b> Russell/Kevin</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> to appoint the Interior Delegate as CFFA delegate.  <b>M/S/C</b> Russell/Marcy</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> to support the Secretary's attendance at the CFFA Conference by paying the conference fees.  <b>M/S/C</b> Marcy/Russell</p>
8. Ongoing Business	<p><i>Support and Advocacy</i></p> <p>A foster parent who has applied to adopt has been told that if they don't comply to Ministry requests the adoption could take longer. A few more homes have been told that if they don't comply to Ministry demands, their home will be closed.</p> <p>A child was moved from an 8 year placement because the foster parent was uncomfortable complying with the psychology/attachment program by Chuck Geddes. The process is intrusive and includes in-home restructuring that causes disruption for family members and significant increase in workload for foster parents.</p> <p>Abbotsford is committed to using Chuck Geddes' program. Foster parents are telling our Abbotsford Local</p>	

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	<p>representatives that the process is disruptive. Our North and Interior delegates have had similar experiences with the program.</p> <p>There are a number of additional supports for foster parents fostering for Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society.</p>	
<p>9. Guest Speaker – MCFD Jacqueline Marshall</p>	<p>Jacqueline is the Out of Care Consultant for Fraser South and East.</p> <p>Support workers use all out of care options, not just 54.1. Most out of care options are accessed by family members.</p> <p>Section 54.1 agreement is used with a CCO. A 54.01 agreement is a permanent family placement and is used before child becomes CCO status. Although foster parents can use a 54.1 agreement, this is unusual.</p> <p>54.1 transfers permanent custody to a non-family member. Regular care rates are received, no medical/dental coverage is provided and you are not eligible for the Child Tax Benefit. In this case the child has no automatic inheritance rights to the guardian’s estate and there is no name change. Parents can apply to retake custody (a level of vulnerability for the new guardian). If this were to take place, MCFD would do a prior contact check, depending on the situation.</p> <p>Before agreeing to a 54.1, seek independent legal advice. Not all social workers are well versed in the 54.1 and what may appear to be a good idea may not actually be a good fit. The application must be generated by the MCFD guardianship social worker.</p> <p>The use of 54.1 is very low and is not really a good fit for foster parents. Adoption is often a better idea. Most 54.1s are accessed by grandparents who are comfortable with the idea of one day returning the children to their parents.</p> <p>There is no ability to add additional funding for support of the child under a 54.1; this is the case for adoption through the Post Adoption Assistance Program.</p>	
<p>10. Regional Delegate Reports</p>	<p><i>Coast Fraser Region – Kathrynne Coxon</i> Written report submitted. Chilliwack’s Local is struggling with low attendance and has lost its president.</p> <p>Surrey Local start up meeting is on March 15<sup>th</sup>.</p>	

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	<p><i>Interior Region – Kevin Daniel</i> Written report submitted. Confirmed a forum for foster parents will take place in March in Williams Lake to review the practice/policy conformance.</p> <p>The Regional Board is offering training opportunities.</p> <p>Foster parents from the Vernon Support and Advocacy training don't want to take the exam. They appear to be concerned about potential retaliation from the Ministry for providing advocacy to other foster parents. The Vice President spoke about the need to use skills and to speak up in support of the foster parent community.</p> <p>A letter to BCFFPA is being drafted by the Vernon community.</p> <p><i>North Region – Lee Lachmuth (not available)</i> Written report submitted.</p> <p><i>Vancouver Island Region – No Report Available</i></p>	<p><b>ACTION</b> provide the specifics of BCFFPA's liability insurance for the Board and include in the Support and Advocacy curriculum.</p>
11. New Business	<p><i>Coast Fraser – Region Size and Workload</i> The President spoke regarding the size and workload of the region and asked if the Regional Delegate would like some assistance. The Delegate feels that it's manageable at present. The Interior Delegate suggested that employing the use of conference calls to connect with Local Presidents is a very useful tool.</p> <p><i>National Foster Parent Association Conference – June 2013</i> Jo Axe (former Vancouver Island Delegate) has submitted a proposal to speak at the conference regarding accessible resources for foster parents in remote regions. The ED was invited to co-present, but this may not be necessary.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b> Identify whether a co-presenter is necessary before a decision is made for ED to attend.</p>
12. Next Meeting	Next meeting via conference call on March 25, 2013.	
	Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm	