

 <p>foster parents British Columbia BCFFPA</p> <p>Board of Directors July 24, 2016 Conference Call</p>	<p><i>In Attendance</i></p> <p>Russell Pohl, President Tamara Smith, Vice President Lance Bereck, Treasurer Walter Aguilar, Coast Fraser Delegate Victor Elkins, Coast Fraser Delegate Kevin Daniel, Interior Delegate Tanya Tagmann, North Delegate Jayne Wilson, Executive Director Ronda Sweeney, Community Network Manager</p>	<p><i>Absent</i></p> <p>Monica Buchanan, Secretary Chad Hooker, Vancouver Island Delegate</p> <p><i>Guest</i></p> <p>Anne Clayton, MCFD Connie Epp, MCFD</p>
<p>The meeting commenced at 6:35 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*M/S/C (Moved/Seconded/Carried)</p>		
ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
<p>1. Ministry Liaison</p>	<p>Liaison informed Board that Brenda Lewis and Renee Bacy would be covering her area while on vacation during the month of August.</p> <p>The 3rd annual Guardianship Forum is scheduled for the end of September. The forum is a highlight for social workers.</p> <p>Ministry continues to focus on Permanency. Targets for placements, adoptions and 54.1 placements have been increase for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.</p> <p>Foster Family Month is in October. A committee has been formed and preparation has been started. The committee is made up of MCFD workers, resource teams and provincial agencies. BCFFPA President noted that BCFFPA would like to receive invitations to all celebrations and events province wide.</p>	<p>ACTION: <i>Connie to send an email to EDS requesting they invited BCFFPA to Foster Family celebrations.</i></p>
<p>2. Regional Delegate Reports</p>	<p><i>Interior Region– Kevin Daniel</i></p> <p>Regional Board met in July. There is has been discussion about the sliding scale system. Some foster parents in the Interior Region have reported that the MCFD continue to use the scale in reference to payment. There are disagreements on what the pay scale should be. Payments to foster parents should be standardized across the province. Treasurer noted that he has heard the sliding scale was being used in the North as well.</p> <p>Regional Board’s next meeting will be held in September at the BCFFPA AGM in Nanaimo.</p> <p><i>Northern Region – Tanya Tagmann</i></p> <p>Prince George Local in partnership with Axis Family Services and Carrier Sekani Family Services held a BBQ for the foster families. A local water rafting company came and provided water sports for the event. Great time was had by those who attended. Received a lot of positive feedback about</p>	<p>ACTION: <i>MCFD liaison to look into the possible use of sliding scale in the Interior and Northern regions.</i></p>

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	<p>event.</p> <p>Delegate has been supporting a family.</p> <p>Delegate had an opportunity to visit President and Executive Director on July 8, 2016 at the Provincial office.</p> <p>Delegate has engaged in conversations with local MCFD office in possibly bringing BCFFPA President and Vice President to Prince George to hold educational workshops for foster parents. Waiting on response from MCFD to see if they would like to proceed in planning.</p> <p>Delegate will be contacting the Interior Delegate as she would like to take part in the next Regional Board meeting.</p> <p>Delegate will be attending the Guardianship Forum in September.</p> <p><i>Information added by Lance Bereck</i> Concerns have been raised in the North of foster parents being levelled above their abilities. As well as the lack of qualified home in their areas.</p> <p>Foster parents are frustrated with the levelling freeze in the Buckley Valley area. Vice President stated that Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission have also been experiencing levelling freezes. The President noted that Surrey has been in a levelling freeze for 6 years now.</p> <p><i>Coast Fraser Region– Walter Aguilar</i> July has been a busy month for Delegate.</p> <p>Foster parent groups have not been meeting in summer months.</p> <p>Foster parents have been noting some challenges in breakdowns with communications between themselves and the MCFD offices during summer months. This can be quite frustrating. Second Coast Fraser Delegate stated foster parents in his region were voicing the same concerns.</p> <p>Delegate plans on connecting with 2nd Coast Fraser Delegate to find out how they can best serve foster parents in their region.</p> <p>Delegate will continue to connect with Locals, foster parents and attend partnership meetings in hopes of reaching out to new people.</p> <p><i>Coast Fraser Region– Victor Elkins</i> Delegate is currently working on the Union workshop presentation for the AGM in Nanaimo.</p>	<p>ACTION: MCFD liaison will look into levelling freezes in Coast Fraser and Northern regions. .</p>

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	<p>Delegate arranging a meeting with other Coast Fraser Delegate to discuss their region.</p> <p><i>Information added by Tamara Smith</i> Resourced homes in Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission are having children being removed and put in restricted and under qualified homes.</p> <p>President noted that there should be focus on retaining foster parents versus recruiting.</p> <p>Currently Coast Fraser, Interior and Northern regions are experiencing a shortage of available trained homes to take children.</p> <p>President stated that BCFFPA would like to become more involved with the MCFD offices. Would like to see training workshops offered in effective communication between social workers and foster parents.</p>	
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting	No changes to the Minutes of May 30, 2016 meeting.	<p>MOTION to accept the Minutes of the May 30, 2016 meeting as circulated. *M/S/C Kevin/Walter</p>
4. President's Report	<p>President continues to be busy with advocacy cases. Has been working with Krissy to organize the program.</p> <p>Attended the Federation of Community Social Services of BC general meeting June 22 – 24, 2016 in Penticton.</p> <p>Met with Northern Delegate at Provincial Office in the beginning of July.</p> <p>Continues to have dialogue with Sarah Lloyd in the Northern region on how to rebuild relationships between foster parents and MCFD.</p> <p>A Support and Advocacy training is scheduled for the beginning of September in Chilliwack. Foster parents in this area are in high need for support. North delegate asked to be kept informed of the dates in case she is able to attend.</p> <p>Meetings have been scheduled for September 8, 2016 in Victoria.</p>	
5. Vice President's Report	Office is running smoothly. Executive Director will be working from home for the next month due to medical.	
6. Treasurer's Report	Transportation is over budget due to advance bookings for CFFA conference and AGM travel. Overall budget is on track for the beginning of the fiscal year.	<p>MOTION to accept the Treasurer's report and May and June financial statements</p>

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	<p>Treasurer requested that the office look at process of how membership lists are distributed to the Locals. As well, asked for clarification about the renewal process.</p> <p>Treasurer enquired about the status of the Membership Perks or discount list. Requested that the office staff revisit and connect with new companies willing to give discounts to foster parents. Building the discount list would be an incentive for foster parents to become BCFFPA members.</p>	<p><i>as presented.</i> *M/S/C Tamara/Kevin</p> <p>ACTION: Office staff to build discount list.</p>
7. New Business	<p><i>VCAs and Care Plans</i></p> <p>Treasurer noted that birth parents in his region are being coerced into VCAs to avoid their children being removed from home and then MCFD refusing to return. Does Provincial office have a copy of a VCA contract? If not, could the Executive Director obtain for a copy to review.</p>	<p>ACTION: Executive Director to obtain a copy of Voluntary Care Agreement.</p>
7. Next Meeting	Next meeting Conference Call on September 11, 2016 at 6:30 pm.	
	Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.	