

BCFFPA Annual General Meeting 2016

Motions Activity Report



Motion (06/AGM/16) that BCFFPA Board further facilitate the steps to forming a union or joining a union that will represent the best interests of foster parents in BC.

Motion (07/AGM/16) that BCFFPA establish a working committee of 6 foster parents to assess the possible unionization of foster parents.

Origin of Motion

The origins of this motion began at AGM 2014 in Prince George. Meetings and consultations have taken place with unionized fostering environments and a presentation was provided at AGM 2016 in Nanaimo.

Origin of Motion

This working group would work at arm's length from BCFFPA's operations

September 2017 Update: In the late Spring of 2017 a union working group was formed and tasked with interviewing several BC unions to determine suitability of foster parent alignment with a unionized environment. The summary findings and recommendations will be presented at AGM 2017 by Val King, one of the union working group members.

Motion (08/AGM/16) that the Board of Directors pursue funding for a least one full time position (or two half time positions) for a support and advocacy person within the Provincial BCFFPA. The position would oversee the BCFFPA's Provincial and Regional support and advocacy network and manage the collection of data pertaining to said support and advocacy.

Origin of Motion

BCFFPA has been providing support and advocacy for many years without funding. In the past 6 years we have utilized dedicated volunteers who work several hours each week. Given that this is a critical service and we are always at risk of losing volunteers, there is an immediate need for funding to pay wages.

September 2017 Update: There was discussion with Ministry leads regarding 2 half time positions on October 6th, 2016. Application for one-time-only funds was submitted on October 18th, 2016. Part time support coordinator was hired in Fall 2016 until February 2017. No funds were forthcoming however BCFFPA was given permission by MCFD to reroute some existing contract funds to apply to outreach and support expenses including volunteer reimbursement and travel costs.

Motion (09/AGM/16) The BCFFPA request opportunities from MCFD for foster parents to attend and speak at training events held for Ministry staff with the purpose of educating the staff regarding our experiences as foster parents.

Origin of Motion

N/A

September 2017 Update: Forwarded copy of all motions for action by MCFD on October 13th, 2016. During visits to MCFD offices and on conference calls, BCFFPA addressed this request through advocating for more opportunities for partnership training. The new Resource Worker training which is almost completed, does speak to the experiences of foster parents in the field. BCFFPA is currently putting together a "cheat sheet" for social workers which is a compilation of tips about working within a foster home environment and what foster parents require and appreciate from workers who they work in partnership with. The past fiscal year saw several workshops hosted on the Island and in the Northern region in a partnership setting allowing all to share their experiences.

Motions from BCFFPA Annual General Meeting 2016 Activity Report continued...



<p>Motion (10/AGM/16) that BCFFPA approach MCFD to renegotiate a new Provincial Protocol Document.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion <i>This will be addressed through the Resource Social Worker Policies (revised Caregiver Support Service Standards).</i></p>
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September 2017 Update: The Resource Work Policies (finalized December 2016; issued in March 2017) include provincial policy on investigation of a care home and quality of care reviews. Provincial protocol language will no longer be used. BCFFPA did review the new document and discuss a number of changes. Only some of our suggestions and requests were included in the final version.

<p>Motion (11/AGM/16) BCFFPA look at the inconsistency of pay at all levels, overages, sibling group and multiple contracts.</p> <p>Motion (15/AGM/16) that BCFFPA negotiate the cost of living increase in maintenance and fee for service retroactive as of the last cost of living increase.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion <i>Ongoing issue.</i></p>
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September 2017 Update: BCFFPA has submitted a total of 5 requests throughout the past 18 months to various leads at Strategic Priorities to secure BCFFPA's place in the working group that is reviewing the current level system for foster homes. We have clarified our historical involvement and are waiting to be invited to the table. We have had separate conversations with Resource Team Leads regarding application of a sliding scale, its history and how it has evolved into common practice. It is disappointing that in spite of BCFFPA's direct contact and positive relationships with those who are involved in designing the new system of care which resulted from the Residential Review in 2012, our requests have not been successful to date.

<p>Motion (12/AGM/16) to have BCFFPA talk to MCFD regarding foster parent files; that nothing should be placed on their file without foster parent knowledge and without foster parent signature. And there should be a statute of limitations.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion <i>Ongoing issue.</i></p>
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September 2017 Update: BCFFPA forwarded a copy of all AGM motions for action by MCFD on October 13, 2016 at the request of our former Ministry liaison. There has been no activity on this motion to date.

<p>Motion (13/AGM/16) that BCFFPA look into how and why the MCFD can combine separate contracts for mileage.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion <i>Practice reported extensively in the Interior region.</i></p>
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September 2017 Update: We have had ongoing discussions regarding combined mileage with Provincial MCFD and it appears to be a regional variation in practice. To date we have had no success in advocating for adherence to the generally accepted interpretations of policy wording.

**Motions from BCFFPA Annual General Meeting 2016
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<p>Motion (14/AGM/16) to request that BCFFPA review the service payment to foster parents, to let us know what the breakdown is. Foster parent responsibility and Ministry’s responsibility.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion N/A</p>
<p>September 2017 Update: Forwarded copy of all motions for action by MCFD on October 13th, 2016. In the Resource Work Policies, the breakdown is represented on page 116. BCFFPA has requested a further breakdown if it is available.</p>	
<p>Motion (16/AGM/16) that BCFFPA look into central calling system for after hours. The current system is not working.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion <i>Caregivers are dissatisfied with current services through centralized service hub and After Hours.</i></p>
<p>September 2017 Update: Forwarded copy of all motions for action by MCFD on October 13th, 2016. BCFFPA now has direct contact with the Manager responsible for the Centralized Services Hub and will be addressing this request.</p>	
<p>Motion (17/AGM/16) to have BCFFPA meet with MCFD to establish a consistency provincially across contracts (insurance riders excluded, foster parents being given only their payment page, plans of care not existing but contractually obliged to follow).</p>	<p>Origin of Motion <i>Ongoing issue.</i></p>
<p>September 2017 Update: Discussions have been had with Provincial office and we have heard nothing to date from the regions regarding whether or not there has been a change.</p>	
<p>Motion (18/AGM/16) that BCFFPA take this survey [about access to relief] and distribute it to all foster parents in BC.</p> <p>Motion (18a/AGM/16) for BCFFPA to take the results of the province wide survey to the Ministry with the purpose of collaborating and creating a new relief system, that supports foster parents, reflects what in is the best interest of the child, and creates more stability for children and youth in care.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion N/A.</p>
<p>September 2017 Update: BCFFPA distributed a Survey Monkey version of the “relief survey”. There were only 288 responses received. The response summaries were forwarded to the survey author in the Kootenays region for review. The survey responses are being converted into graph form for forwarding to the provincial Ministry office.</p>	

**Motions from BCFFPA Annual General Meeting 2016
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<p>Motion (19/AGM/16) to request the BCFFPA Directors advocate to MCFD and Aboriginal Agencies to develop training for foster parents specific to developing permanence for children and working with families and implement the involvement of foster parents/caregivers at the earliest stage of permanence development.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion N/A.</p>
<p>September 2017 Update: This will be addressed through the new PRIDE model of training and through the Ministry's current focus on permanency for children and youth in care.</p>	
<p>Motion (20/AGM/16) that the BCFFPA, through discussion with MCFD, determine one consistent day of each month that maintenance and fee for service payment is direct deposited.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion N/A.</p>
<p>September 2017 Update: Forwarded copy of all motions for action by MCFD on October 13th, 2016. Our understanding is that payments are always issued on the same day.</p>	
<p>Motion (21/AGM/16) that BCFFPA investigate if there is equity of payment support between MCFD and delegated agencies.</p>	<p>Origin of Motion N/A.</p>
<p>September 2017 Update: Forwarded copy of all motions for action by MCFD on October 13, 2016. Limitations of budget and personnel have necessitated a delay in activity on this motion.</p>	