



**Board of Directors
February 24-25, 2017
Face-to-Face Meeting
Burnaby, BC**

In Attendance

Marcy Perron, President
Lance Bereck, Treasurer
Chad Hooker, Secretary
Victor Elkins, Coast Fraser Delegate
Walter Aguilar, Coast Fraser Delegate
Tanya Hooker, Vancouver Island Delegate
Kevin Daniel, Interior Delegate
Tanya Tagmann, North Delegate
Jayne Wilson, Executive Director
Ronda Sweeney, Community Network Manager
Russell Pohl, Solutions Facilitator

Guests

Friday Presentation
Jerome Dickey, Vantage Point Volunteer
Strengths Finder Assessment and Team Building

A quorum being present, the meeting commenced at 8:48 a.m.

***M/S/C (Moved/Seconded/Carried)**

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
1. Solutions Program Update	<p>Recent meeting with a group of 36 Vancouver foster parents. Many dissatisfied by a variety of issues with MCFD. One foster parent with 25 years of experience and no protocol history stated that his home was closed for unjustified reasons involving the misinterpretation of his email address. A lawyer is involved. Contract services for children and foster parent service fees are being cut. In the Vancouver region specifically, the contract amounts are now too low to afford housing as rents are very high. Much discussion regarding the Level 3 home restrictions on foster parents: not supposed to rely on the foster home contract yet not able to work to make additional money. Many foster parents are single and unable to rely on a partner for income.</p> <p>Vancouver foster parents are forming a Local. Russell will assist and work through the issues with MCFD.</p> <p>Met with EDS for Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack. Will provide a summary of our BCFFPA membership numbers in the region and average ages and years of fostering (no identifying information), as well as a breakdown of the support case themes and numbers in the region. EDS believes that the critical issues can be attributed to systemic process rather than specific workers.</p> <p>Discussion regarding a returning worker with EDS or the northwest region. Worker being reinstated which is concerning to the community. Smithers Local may require some recruitment and additional Board members due to our Treasurer's upcoming move. Meetings held every second month.</p> <p>Many concerns from the Cranbrook area. Only 8 homes. No one wants to speak up regarding issues with MCFD.</p>	

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	<p>Support database paper design underway. Once the online membership database is created it will ease the collection and tracking of records/statistics.</p> <p>No information yet on one time only funding application for the Solutions program.</p> <p>With the upcoming election, everything slows down and wraps up rather than ramping up during the interregnum period. Still a month of activity left.</p>	
<p>2. Presentation: Strength Finder Assessment/Board Team Strengths</p>	<p>Presentation included summary of StrengthFinder Assessment and how it applies to creating a strong team. Discussion regarding what makes a high performance team and individual assessment outcomes.</p>	<p>ACTION add check-in to the end of each monthly agenda</p> <p>ACTION arrange for a workshop on how people deal with conflict. Basic info online</p> <p>ACTION clarify roles and responsibilities of Board members including expectations and descriptions (distribute Board Essentials document)</p> <p>ACTION send monthly update about current office and program activity</p> <p>ACTION reconfirm who is active on which committee. Russell to take on the oversight of accountability</p>
<p>3. Fund Development Program Update</p>	<p>Anita outlined the current standing of letters of interest sent, grant applications in process and community group meeting dates already arranged. Discussed fund development plan for ongoing success and sustainability.</p>	
<p>4. Training Projects Update</p>	<p>Dianne provided a summary of progress to date and current deadlines for both the Resource Worker Training and the Caregiver Training. Provided information about Kinship/Out of Care Training and upcoming PRIDE in-service training for foster caregivers.</p>	
<p>5. AGM 2017 Planning</p>	<p>Ronda provided a visual diagram representing the layout of the event week. Discussion regarding logistics of timing and event details. Registration fee this year will be \$500. Explained the increase in fee due to additional day and a half of event time. Discussion regarding room block.</p>	<p>ACTION create a poster for the AGM providing information about value received for the registration fee and details about booking rooms for April 1st</p>

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	Discussion about keynote speakers to open the AGM meeting and Banquet. Board is welcome to put names forward.	
6. Honorary Associate Award	A name was put forward to receive the award for Honorary Associate at the 2017 AGM. Discussion. [Name withheld in the Minutes for surprise purposes.]	MOTION to present [name withheld] with the Honorary Associate Award. M/S/C Kevin/Lance
7. Minutes of Previous Meeting	No changes to the January 23, 2017 minutes	MOTION to accept the minutes of January 23, 2017 meeting as distributed. M/S/C Chad/Tanya T.
8. Agenda	Additions to the agenda/parking lot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster parent recruitment campaign • Membership recruitment • MCFD funding to foster parents • Membership structure • Locals discussion • Will take notes to add to parking lot 	
9. President's Report	Working on group extended benefits insurance. Age of average foster parents is going to pose a challenge. Premiums would likely be high. Program would expect BCFFPA to be responsible for missed premium payments for individuals. If foster parents unionize, this would take care of the accountability piece. Too much burden for BCFFPA to shoulder.	ACTION include this information in the next FosterlineBC magazine ACTION send a letter to the Ministry regarding increases for foster care maintenance
10. Treasurer's Report	BCFFPA's financial statement reflects that we are in a good position currently. Highlighted a few key points of interest.	MOTION to accept the January financial statements as presented. M/S/C Kevin/Chad
11. Regional Delegate Reports	<p><i>Interior Region – Kevin Daniel</i> Fundraisers are taking place. Kootenays morale is at an all time low. Cranbrook foster parents are driving long periods of time (2 hrs+) to take CICs for visits. Questions received about cost of rooms for AGM. Noted at the Board meeting that the cost of \$169/night is the same as recent AGM years. Unreduced cost for these rooms is \$415/night on average.</p> <p><i>Vancouver Island Region – Tanya Hooker</i> Delegate and Secretary attended the Island partnership meeting. Board members noted the Island agency's use of BCFFPA terminology (ie. "Locals", advocacy, peer support). Concern that this could cause confusion for foster parents telling our services apart. Discussion on possible change of common terms for BCFFPA. Many challenges from agency</p>	

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	<p>regarding BCFFPA's membership and benefits. Delegate/Secretary hoping to meet with agency ED.</p> <p>Courtenay area wanting to open a BCFFPA "Branch". Campbell River also very engaged with BCFFPA and MCFD contact on the upper Island is requesting BCFFPA workshops.</p> <p><i>North Region – Tanya Tagmann</i> Attended a pre-service orientation. Axis Family Resources and Delegate have re-established partnership meetings. Invited MCFD staff did not attend the January meeting. New strategy to engage people.</p> <p>MCFD resources office is moving their office. BCFFPA's branch in Prince George is attended by only 2 people at present. Focus on encouraging people to attend the AGM.</p> <p>1 support case at present: a woman who is fostering without a contract which will likely become a case for the Solutions program.</p> <p>There is another foster parent support group running in the area. They aren't interested in aligning with BCFFPA.</p> <p><i>Coast Fraser Region – Walter Aguilar & Victor Elkins</i> Foster parent with illness does not want to divulge to MCFD for fear of losing child. Discussion included that if she does not divulge her illness to MCFD then she will likely lose the child anyway once they find out.</p> <p>Difficult to find people to step into positions at the Local. Hollyburn has different families attending. It is challenging to secure respite. Although it's a big region, foster parents are keeping to themselves.</p> <p>Working on letter to send to members. Will include AGM information and how to contact regional delegates. Plans to send by mail and email.</p> <p>Russell mentioned meeting with Vancouver families who want to create a BCFFPA "branch".</p>	
12. Executive Director's Report	<p>Discussed personnel matter [in camera portion].</p> <p><i>Visa for President</i> Have secured a 3rd Visa card in Marcy's name. Currently we have 1 for the office in Jayne's name, 1 for the Solution's program in Russell's name and one for Marcy. Although we had discussed the acquisition of a 3rd card, we didn't vote and need to do so. The same credit limit will be spread among the 3 cards.</p>	<p>MOTION to secure a 3rd Visa card in the President's name and maintain the 2 existing cards for office and Solutions program.</p> <p>M/S/C Tanya T./Victor</p>

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	<p>The ED discussed future plans regarding family goals and an upcoming planned move.</p>	
13. Committees	<p>No reports to present. Discussion regarding engaging members to participate in committee work.</p> <p>Russell discussed accountability for committee work and commitments to take on projects. He will be point person to ensure that work is underway or completed.</p>	<p>ACTION engage BCFFPA members to join in subcommittees through FosterlineBC.</p> <p>ACTION send committee list to all Board members.</p>
14. Ongoing and New Business	<p><i>Vice President Position</i> Russell Pohl has indicated a willingness to hold the position until the AGM when the position is posted for election. Russell spoke about his concern regarding stepping back onto the Board due to his belief that when there is new leadership the former President should step away to allow for change. Discussion.</p> <p>\$500 distributed to all active BCFFPA branches.</p> <p><i>Gift for Tamara Smith</i> Tamara was on the Board for 5 years. A thank you gift is appropriate for the time spent serving BC's foster parents. Discussion regarding what would be appropriate and appreciated.</p> <p><i>Connecting to Locals through Conference Calls</i> We have discussed this possibility in the past. Video conferencing may be a useful tool in this case. Discussion regarding who would attend, who moderates the call etc.</p> <p>Discussion regarding live streaming pieces of the AGM through the website. How to coordinate and engage with members.</p> <p><i>Motions from the Floor</i> This past AGM we received 17 Motions from the floor. This represents a lot of work that we may or may not have the capacity to complete in one year. Is there any ability to limit the Motions that are presented?</p> <p><i>Code of Conduct</i> The behavior of one individual at our AGM was very distracting and concerning and was against our Code of Conduct. Discussion regarding placing the Code of Conduct in AGM packages or reading out applicable pieces prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>MOTION to appoint Russell Pohl to the position of Vice President until the term comes up for election. M/S/C Kevin/Tanya H.</p> <p>ACTION send Treasurer the cover letter for the \$500 cheques.</p> <p>MOTION to provide a gift value up to \$500 to Tamara Smith. M/S/C Kevin/Walter</p> <p>ACTION Tanya T. will chair the Technology Committee.</p> <p>ACTION check with Parliamentarian regarding whether or not it is possible to limit Motions from the floor.</p> <p>ACTION Tanya T. will connect with Kevin regarding attending the Macro Meeting prior to the AGM.</p>

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	<p><i>Special Needs</i> Caring for children with special needs can be very isolating. Hope that we are representing the needs of children with special needs out in the community .</p> <p><i>Standards of Practice for Foster Parents (by Foster Parents)</i> Can we create a document that would set out standards of practice? An extraordinary amount is being asked for foster parents such as staying 24/7 with children in the hospital. Caregivers are burning out. Foster parents should document everything. Could start filing WCB claims.</p> <p><i>BCFFPA Mandate: Foster Parents or Foster Families?</i> Discussion regarding representing the whole foster family unit rather than only foster parents. Would mean multiple changes. All will think about it for now.</p> <p><i>Additional Face to Face Meeting</i> An additional face to face meeting in the 2018 year would be helpful for a strategic planning session. Board members find it very useful to meet in person. Discussion.</p> <p><i>Solutions Program Volunteers</i> To build the network, those who have taken the course need to complete the final test. We should be building this network actively.</p> <p>How are unsupported foster parents tracked? Large issues about unsupported foster parents have been seen in the reports released by the Rep’s office.</p> <p><i>Increasing Membership</i> What entices people to join BCFFPA? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickets to events • Bursaries for foster and former foster children, “natural” children and foster parent reimbursement for Camps and Fine Arts • Hotel discounts • Store discounts • Involvement in policy/practice and governance • Community network </p> <p>Discussion regarding additional possibilities for discounts.</p> <p><i>Locals “Branches”</i> How can we increase support to our branches? Perhaps create kits that include helpful information. Tanya T. will connect with the branch presidents. Tanya H. will take this on if Tanya T. is unable. Branches need to see something from us before we’ll see more support and enthusiasm from them.</p>	<p>ACTION create a flyer describing perks and discounts.</p> <p>ACTION send Locals (branch) list to Tanya T.</p> <p>ACTION send note from AGM world cafe in Prince George regarding Locals to Board.</p>

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	<p><i>Legal Assistance for Fostering Issues</i> Lawyer in the north region is very keen to advocate for foster parents when necessary. Will connect with ED.</p> <p><i>Shorted on Payments</i> For general information, the North delegate's family has received cheques that are smaller than they should be.</p> <p><i>Websites for Branches</i> If creating branch websites associated with BCFFPA, we should have approval of content. Could open a portal through our own site. Technology committee could discuss.</p> <p><i>BCFFPA Brand</i> Discussion about what other words can be used to represent BCFFPA as another agency is commonly using our terminology.</p>	
15. Adjournment	Meeting ended at 2:20 pm. Next meeting on March 27 th , 2017 via conference call.	