



FOSTER PARENTS SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

Charitable Status # 0873919-09

March 25, 2010

ATTN: Ene Underwood

RE: FPSO Directors' and Presidents' meeting

POLICY:

FPSO Recommends:

- When the Ministry of Child and Family Services drafts a new directive for the Child Welfare system, they also develop the policy to facilitate the directive.

FPSO believes that if the Ministry of Child and Family Services developed the policies to support the directives it would benefit the Child Welfare system in multiple ways:

- It would increase fiscal responsibility if the Ministry struck a committee to build a policy to support a directive. They would be funding one team of people, rather than 53 teams developing 53 different policies.
- Having 53 different policies across the province, results in disparity within Ontario's Foster Homes which negatively impacts retention.
- One policy that is developed in the best interests of children in care and their Foster Care providers will ideally produce an environment that enables the best possible positive outcomes.

PER DIEMS:

FPSO Recommends:

- Standardized levels of all foster homes in Ontario, with the designations of Regular, Specialized, Treatment and Enhanced.
- The Foster homes be evaluated using guidelines outlined by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services in the Central Region funding formula documentation. (1997-1999)
- The Per Diems for each level of home be as follows, Regular - \$31.07, Specialized - \$43.81, Treatment - \$61.22 and Enhanced - \$91.50 (These amounts are based on current rates within Central Zone)
- The Skills and Experience grid allotment of up to \$6.00, as designed by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services, be uniformly applied across the province to encourage the training of the primary caregiver, be applied in addition to the daily Per Diems.
- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) as per the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to be automatically applied to the Per Diem and the Skills and Experience grid allotment.

RESPITE:

FPSO Recommends:

- As the Ministry funds the agencies twenty-four (24) days per year per child, we would like to see these monies allocated for use at the discretion of the Foster Parents, by all agencies.

MILEAGE:

FPSO Recommends:

- Mileage to Foster Parents should be paid at the same rate as the personnel at their local CAS.
- All mileage incurred for the needs of the child be reimbursed.
- Per Diems should be exclusive of mileage costs.

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES:

FPSO Recommends:

- That a joint committee be struck by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services, with representatives from FPSO and OACAS to discuss entitlements and reimbursable expenses across the province, to standardize best practices.

TRAINING:

FPSO Recommends:

- That FPSO be granted the responsibility to host the digital PRIDE training on our website. This may help fill the void created by agencies limiting the training they offer as a result of deficits. FPSO has the technical capability to provide the vehicle for training Foster Parents.
- The Advocacy training program as developed by FPSO be adopted by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services as standard across the province.

On Behalf of the Foster Parents Society of Ontario

Respectfully Submitted by

Vanessa Milley

FPSO Governance and Policy Chairperson

Cc: Barry Lewis

Cc: Dr. Wendy Thomson, CBE

Cc: FPSO Board of Directors

Cc: FPSO FPA Presidents

Cc: Attendees at Presidents Meeting

Cc: Jim Mallon, LDF

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