

FOSTER PARENTS SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

End of Month Corporate Update

January 2017

Hello Directors, Presidents, Advocates, & Executive Members:

The officers of the FPSO have initiated a new format for sharing the work of the board month to month. Historically we had an action list for the Directors, but members often did not have access to it. We have the committee reports that are a part of the Directors meeting minutes, but again members did not always have access to these. We for a while were publishing the Active Statement of Goals and Objectives (ASGO) but members felt it was too lengthy.

So; in our continuing commitment to share information and practise transparency we have decided at the end of each month to publish to all Directors and Presidents a monthly corporate report; which we encourage you to share with your executives and foster parent members.

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

- The bursary edition of the HILITES is in process with a goal of publishing by end of February.
- Planning for Conference 2017 is under way; this year there will be a few changes, some due to members' requests, and others in response to efficiency and productivity.
- Provincial advocacy in the areas of;
 - o Raising the image of foster parents.
 - o Standardizing across the province.
 - o The Best Interest of the child.
 - o The Rights of the child as designated by the UN.
 - o The rights of the caregivers (foster parents).
 - o The strength of one voice.
 - o Collaboration with other partners in the Child Welfare field.
 - o Recognition of the Skill level of foster parents.
 - o Protection of the foster parent specific to CPIN (SAFE, financial, medical; privacy)
 - o Legislation (Host Family Policy) (Bill 89 – education).
 - o Supports for children and youth with Special needs.

FPSO advocates for the designated lobbying efforts through letters, meetings and attending events. The designated members of the FPSO board continually bring forward the specific areas of lobbying at every opportunity.

Letters written (most recent)

- Host Family Policy Letter – The letter was written in response to the features of the new policy as written by the Ministry of Social Services (MCSS) Our concerns focused mainly on the reduction of numbers of Developmentally Disabled (DD) adults a host family home was allowed to have under the new legislation, the policy designates no host family home may have more than two DD persons in the home. This is a challenge for the foster families who are interested in home sharing with a host family facilitator and wish to have both foster children and host family members. Families often wish to do this as their DD foster children become adults, and the family wishes to remain the home for the young DD adult.
 - o Letter was written by us on July 8th, 2016.
 - o Response from MCYS, September 29th, 2016
 - o Response letter from MCSS, September 22nd, 2016**letters posted on FPSO website

Meetings attended

- Leadership Group Meeting, (ORCA, OARTY, FPSO) scheduled for January 30th, 2017 to be attended by: Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Milley, Elaine Pratt. Meeting to focus on CPIN. (meeting was at the last minute postponed due to illness, new date TBA)
- Residential Services Reference Group, meets bi-monthly, attendance was by invitation only – Attended by: Cecile Brookes; Cecile has currently attended two meetings. (meetings are scheduled to run through until October 2017)

Events FPSO has represented

- OnLac Data review workshop – attended by: Vanessa Milley
- CCYC – (Caring for Children and Youth Council) – attended by: Cecile Brookes
- Caregivers Forum, January 11th, 2017. Attended by: Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Milley, & Elaine Pratt
- LGTBQ advisory group – We would like to thank Steven Tran for his work representing FPSO on this advisory, and we welcome a new foster parent to this role. ***report available
- CFFA – (Canadian Foster Families Association) – FPSO has an active Director on the CFFA Board of Directors; our Director attends all CFFA meetings, and participates in CFFA correspondence – reports shared at Directors sessions. – CFFA Rep; Elaine Pratt

Connections to our members

- FPSO South West Zone Meeting – January 21st, 2017
- FPSO Eastern Zone meeting – January 28th, 2017 (postponed due to weather, rescheduled for Feb. 4th 2017)

New Projects

- Advocacy – Due to member request Advocacy One will be presented in each of three FPSO Zones; South West (May 13th), Central (May 6th), and Eastern (April, 8th). Any member may send advocates to take training in any zone location; training fee will be \$100.00 per person and will include lunch. Specific times and locations will be forwarded to all leadership once all areas are firmly confirmed. *** PLEASE NOTE due to the decision to train Advocacy One in the zones, this year (2017) Advocacy One will not be trained at Conference. Other advocacy levels will be trained at conference along with all of the other training opportunities that will be available.***
- Public Relations media campaign – The campaign will have a focus of raising the image of foster parents and increasing positive exposure. FPSO has serendipitously connected with students from Niagara College who are taking on FPSO's media campaign as a class project. The campaign will use Print, radio, television and internet. This is an exciting opportunity – Project Lead John McMahon.
- Upcoming Television Segment – FPSO was approached to participate in a very exciting opportunity with a T.V. Production studio. More details will follow as we are allowed to share.

Upcoming

- Upcoming FPSO Central Zone Meeting – February 11th 2017
- FPSO Executive Committee and Committee Chairpersons Work Group, February 17 & 18, 2017
- Strategic Round Table, - committee designated to discussions regarding children 6-12 years of age – attendees were by invitation only. Cecile Brookes is invited to participate, meetings have not yet begun.

Announcements

- The FPSO Board of Directors would like to welcome Elaine Pratt as the Conference Committee Chairperson and thank Lorraine Tinney for her leadership to the Conference Committee.
- FPSO would like to welcome new FPSO Directors:
 - o Esther Frost Region 7 (thank you to outgoing Director Lorraine Tinney)
 - o Dee Duvall Region 17 (thank you to outgoing Director Dave Smith)
 - o Heather Campbell Region 19
 - o Jeanette Jones Region 22 (thank you to outgoing Director Tim Ritchie)
- The FPSO Board of Directors would like to welcome Vanessa Milley to the role of FPSO Executive Director