



January 2021 Month End Report

This report covers the month of January.

“Family is not defined by our genes, it is built and maintained through love and perseverance”

— *Unknown*

I hope so far the New Year is going well for each of you. However, with us all cooped up at home in this lock down, perhaps not as well as we had hoped. FPSO has done a good bit of correspondence this month. We are in discussion with our members and the provincial leaders about access visits and how to protect the safety of foster families. We have also had conversations about the vaccine roll out. We are in agreement with the CAS's who are recommending foster families be included along with workers for the essential workers vaccination roll out (for those who intend to be vaccinated). We have learned that the vaccine is not a live vaccine so is safer for a larger number of people than we had expected. We have also heard it may be offered to the child welfare essential workers as soon as April. This will be dependent on supply chains and the success of the current vaccination roll out.

We have also continued to follow up on the OSAP challenge we began working on last spring, we understand there is not yet a completion of the OSAP application review so we will have to wait a bit more on this one.

You may be interested to know the 2020 year end financials are well under way and should be available to our members by the end of February. We have also put together a schedule for 2021 which is coming to you along with this month end report and will be posted in the events section of our website.

Accompanying this month end report are the details on foster parent training for February, we have already confirmed dates for trainings up to the end of June and all of these will be posted in the training section of the website, and distributed by email.

We are looking forward to seeing your entries for our first contest of 2021. So far we have some wonderful alien pictures come into the office. We wanted a fun family event to add a little interest to our lock down winter days.

We are also looking forward to our first RLO (Regional Liaison Officers) meeting slated for the end of February. We would appreciate receiving the contact details for all the RLO as soon as they are confirmed by the local area.

Lots happening at FPSO, please see further details within this month end report

Thanks

Vanessa

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

This item has been moved to the end of the report.

Letters and proposals

- ✦ Dues letters to new agencies were mailed out in January
- ✦ Dues letters to the private sector will be mailed in early February.
- ✦ This month FPSO prepared a letter to the Ministers of the Ministries of Child Welfare and Community services & Public Health, as well as our Premier. The letters were requesting support for foster families who are now deemed to be a part of the essential service of Child Welfare. We feel foster families need to have their own personal safety and the safety of their homes protected as they aim to navigate the demands of access visits. We advocated for full PPE, social distancing, a safe and sterilized place for the visit, and for the visit to be supervised by CAS delegates in order to help ensure safety protocol are observed.
- ✦ Prepared a package of contests for member foster families, with a submission date of February 28th – We look forward to your recipe submissions and alien art work arriving to join the submissions we already have.

Meetings Attended:

- ✦ OACAS residential advisory committee continues to meet every other week –
- ✦ Foster Family Advisory committee: the advisory took a break for the Holidays, and has not met so far in 2021.
- ✦ Designates from the Advisory, which included Vanessa Milley made a presentation representing the “lessons learned” from the conversations and work of the Advisory. The presentation was held on January 18, to provincial Child Welfare representatives and was

- 👤 well received. We look forward to two additional opportunities to present information shared all pertaining to foster families experiences during COVID.
- 👤 January 28th, virtual meeting between FPSO CEO and OARTY ED. Conversation focused on some COVID related details (vaccinations, access, funding). We also discussed private foster parent membership, and the Letter of Mutual Understanding – which is an agreement between FPSO and OARTY to work together in like projects and to avoid working on projects that are detrimental to each other. We have an agreement to virtually meet every quarter, and connect in between as challenges arise.

Pending meetings

- 👤 Most meetings at this time are with our members, or with professionals and partners in child welfare. And will be virtual
 - Ministry of Colleges and Universities {OSAP},
 - Royal bank {support for online payment options for FPSO events};
 - Durham College {conference planning};
 - DJB {accounting for yearend};
 - Trainers {virtual monthly training for foster families}
- 👤 The Residential Services Table, has reached out to FPSO CEO to join this provincial leadership group. This group looks at legislation, and provincial child welfare planning.

Connections to our members

All via email – however there have also been many phone calls during this time period from both FPA leadership and individual foster parents.

- 👤 January 12 – forward of a training opportunity for foster families
- 👤 January 14 – November/December Month End report
- 👤 January 16 – Copy of the letters to pertinent Ministers regarding access visits and the need for foster family safety.
- 👤 January 21 – Regional Liaison Officers, Role, Responsibility, and details on how to slate a liaison officer for your FPA/FFA.
- 👤 January 22 – distribution of cooking contest, and alien artwork contest.
- 👤 January 25 – distribution of the mailing and emailing addresses for submission for the contests.
- 👤 January 28 – request to the field for their questions regarding Customary care for our upcoming April training.

Conference

- ✚ Conference has been moved to August 2021, to give an increased opportunity for a live event.
- ✚ FPSO is currently working on the conference package. We are working with concurrent planning. Conference will be either:
 - A 100% live event
 - A 100% Virtual event
 - Or A blended live and virtual event
- ✚ We will not know exactly which kind of event we will end up with in August, as COVID realities change every week. We will continue to inform ourselves and our decisions. And will make decisions that will support the greatest number of foster families benefiting from conference.

Training

- ✚ February 18 – leadership training with Landy Anderson (see attached flier or website for details)
- ✚ March 18 – Foster family Food Eco-Systems with Landy Anderson (details and flier will be emailed to all members by mid-February, and posted on Website)
- ✚ April 22 – Customary Care with Erin Moe & Juliana Ciach (details will follow)
- ✚ May 20 – Serious Occurrences – what they are and how they are reported.
- ✚ June 19 – Fire safety and the foster home
- ✚ Workshop trainings set for August – Conference.

*** NOTE all trainings will be posted in the training section of the FPSO website, with full details as soon as everything is confirmed. All of the monthly trainings are virtual. Most of the trainings will be no charge to Members***

*** NOTE if you have any topics of interest you would like us to look into please let us know. ***

Charitable status

- ✚ The Charitable rebate for the last six months of 2020 will be \$1,117.00 as spending again was very low and a great deal of focus was on paying down the FPSO historically accumulated debt load.

Surveys

- 👤 During COVID FSO has now been requested to participate in four different surveys. All of the surveys are looking at one aspect or another of how COVID is affecting facets of foster family life or realities.
- 👤 We are encouraging our members to participate with these surveys as without your voice they are limited to understand the dynamics of foster families and limited in the recommendations they may make.

BROCK University Survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fosterparentwellness>

Ottawa University Survey https://uottawapsy.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTirQDJGpqisZnL

Private Membership .

- 👤 The membership letter for private members will be going out with the public sector dues invoice letters.
- 👤 Under Bylaw #6 public relations to the Private Foster care Agencies will be managed by the Chief Executive Officer

Website

- 👤 The members section of the website is ready for the links to each of our members agencies.
- 👤 The training section is going to be infilled with each training flier as they are completed.
- 👤 The events section will have not only events like conference, and the contests we plan to run through the year, but also a schedule of events.

Fundraisers

- 👤 No new fundraisers at this time
- 👤 If anyone has recommendations of fundraisers please contact Operations & Services Chairperson Norm Lalonde @ careyprice6131@gmail.com

Contact

fpso@fosterparentssociety.org

Milley17@sympatico.ca

905-892-1591,

905-788-6820

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

These items remain a constant focus of the FPSO, and will be forwarded at every opportunity.

- ✦ Provincial Advocacy in the areas of;
 - Raising the Image of foster parents.
 - Standardizing the foster care per diem rates for foster parents and reimbursable amounts for the children in care across the Province based on the Toronto CAST model.
 - Advocating for a child welfare system that is centered on The Best Interest of the Child.
 - The Rights of the child as designated by the United Nations.
 - The rights of the caregivers
 - The Benefits and Strength of one voice.
 - Collaboration with other partners in the Child Welfare field.
 - Recognition of the Skill level into Regular, Specialized and Treatment Levels of the foster parents ability to parent different children recognizing the different needs and challenges of the children coming into care.
 - Protection to the foster parent specific to CPIN including:
 - Information written about foster parents and how it is stored.
 - Securing our financial and medical information on CPIN.
 - SAFE, financial, medical
 - Foster parent privacy
 - Legislation;
 - Supports for Children and youth with Special Needs.
 - Gathering of adoption disruption and breakdown statics – to better inform adoption practises.

Acronyms:

FPSO – Foster Parents Society of Ontario

AGM – Annual General Meeting

PACY – Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth

PAD – Presidents' Advocates' & Directors

OARTY – Ontario Association of Residential Treatment for Youth

ORCA – Ontario Residential Care Association

CAST – Children's Aid Society of Toronto

CPIN – Child Protection Information Network

SAFE – Structured Analysis Family Evaluation