



April 2019 Month End Report

This report covers the month of April.

For the officers of FPSO April is the busiest month we have had so far this year; with many calls to setting up meetings and connecting with our members, member leadership, and other leaders in the child welfare field.

The month was also very full with the updating of the FPSO Website, and putting finishing touches on the FPSO Annual Education Conference.

We continue to find more questions than answers on how the changing Child Welfare field will affect foster families and the children in their care. We value and appreciate all of you who have called, emailed and texted how things are going in your local area. As well as what you are challenged with and what concerns you. All of this communication helps to guide FPSO leadership, and the work we do.

This is a time like no other; together we will be stronger.

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

This item has been moved to the end of the Month end report above the list of acronyms.

Letters and proposals

- ✦ FPSO brochure has been updated in preparation for distribution to the private sector along with a membership mail out. The brochure will also be included in the upcoming Foster and adopt conference FPSO has been invited to be an exhibitor.
- ✦ The conference HILITES have been sent to the new webmaster for revamping, and all of the articles for the HILITES have been drafted, once all workshops are finalized the HILITES will be posted on the website and distributed to all members (pending mid to late May).
- ✦ The 2018 membership forms for the private sector have been updated for 2019, and will be included in the private sector membership invitation mail out.
- ✦ A cover letter for the private sector is in draft for the pending mail out.
- ✦ The mail out will be completed and distributed to all contacts once the conference HILITES are completed (May).

- ✚ A letter has been prepared for the CAS to go along with the conference HILITES to support conference attendance.

Meetings Attended:

- ✚ April 6 – Eastern Zone meeting
- ✚ April 13 – Central Zone meeting
- ✚ April 13 – Executive and Committee Chairpersons meeting
- ✚ April 27 – South West Zone meeting
- ✚ FPSO Officers participated this month with Partners for a Foster Parent Program -0 this group originates in B.C. they are working on developing training and supports for foster families who parent challenging teenagers. We have thus far collaborated with letters of support for their program, and in the future will be asked for input, assuming the group's grant proposal is approved.

Pending meetings

- ✚ CFSRB – contact has been initiated, dates for this meeting have yet to be confirmed
- ✚ Adopt4Life - Meeting scheduled for May 8.
- ✚ Evergreen – contact has been made, discussions are in process to schedule meeting. (The goal of this meeting is to review the changes within child welfare and together evaluate how these changes may have a negative impact on the homeless rates in Ontario).
- ✚ Private sector leadership
 - OARTY – meeting set for May 1
 - ORCA – meeting pending
- ✚ Child Welfare PAC – meeting set for May 15
- ✚ Officers have multiple meetings set with different Hotels in preparation for our annual educational conference.

Connections to our members

- ✚ April 1 – message from PACY
- ✚ April 4 – Summer session of Zone meeting reminder
- ✚ April 9 – Invitation for participation for young people interested in submitting art work to the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC).
- ✚ April 10 – Globe and Mail article – Crown Ward
- ✚ April 12 – Article – social programs
- ✚ April 12 – Toronto Star article – Brant CAS budget cuts
- ✚ April 12 Article regarding the Ombudsman
- ✚ April 24 – Harvard article pertaining to children's human rights
- ✚ April 26 – National Post article – A broken system
- ✚ April 30 – Article regarding executive functioning

- ✚ April 30 – Children in Limbo taskforce article – instability in care
- ✚ April 30 – Question to the field regarding FPA/FFA budgets and conference estimates.

Conference

- ✚ Conference 2019 is in final stages of development we are arranging Advocacy, First Aid CPR, Transition planning, Working with the Educational System, Gangs and violence, True Colors, and a number of other options.
- ✚ We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at conference.
- ✚ We will be promoting our conference at the foster and adopt conference where we will be exhibiting.
- ✚ We will be promoting our conference to the private sector.
- ✚ As many of you have requested we seek a different venue, work in going into this. However, the board must be very mindful of conference costing and ensuring a financially neutral or beneficial conference.

Advocacy

- ✚ During Conference 2018 it was confirmed; FPSO will be revamping the advocacy program, the revised program will levels of advocacy to include; Advocacy Foundations, Safeguarding, Coding and the Eligibility Spectrum, Police Perspectives, Appeals – what to do when you disagree with a decision or action of the CAS. We look forward to having this ready for conference 2019.
- ✚ **FPSO continues to seek experienced advocates who would be interested in participating in information sharing in preparations for the development of an advanced advocacy workshop. Please contact Vanessa Milley if you are interested Milley17@sympatico.ca**

Charitable status

- ✚ Response from FPSO was returned to the CRA by March 15th; we now wait for the CRA to reply once again.
- ✚ We continue to wait for a response back from the CRA.

Private membership

- ✚ FPSO continues to pursue members in the private sector.
- ✚ We have pending meetings with both ORCA and OARTY as well as with Adopt 4 Life, among other items for discussion at these meetings will be the opportunity for FPSO membership.
- ✚ FPSO has a number of group and individual associate members; we are looking to continue to expand these numbers.
- ✚ The mail out to private associations will be mailed as soon as the conference HILITES are complete

Website

- ✚ The revamped website is open and operating.

- ✦ There is continued work to back file articulated, documents and details. We appreciate your patience as the website develops.

FPSO Foundation Proposal

- ✦ The members voted to accept the foundation proposal during the 2018 AGM.
- ✦ The officers are looking for volunteers to participate in the preliminary work of developing the foundation.
- ✦ So far no volunteers have come forward.
- ✦ **If interested please contact Vanessa Milley at Milley17@sympatico.ca.**

Upcoming Meetings Events

- ✦ Conference planning is for the third week of September.

Fundraisers

- ✦ Fundscrip fundraiser is in the planning stages, details will be distributed following the launch of the value Village fundraiser.
- ✦ ***New fundraising program*** – FPSO has connected with value Village for a “Spring Cleaning” fundraiser. Details will be posted on the website as soon as it is up and running again. The general goal of the fundraiser is to have donations of items all come in on a designated day. We will be looking to support from our members in gathering items for donation, as well as local area “champions” willing to coordinate donations in their local area. – More detail will follow separately. In the meantime start sorting your closets and putting all your items aside for the donation date.
- ✦ ***Still Looking for local area members to supervise this fundraiser region.***
- ✦ FPSO welcomes any fundraising suggestions. Please contact Dee Duvall our O & S Chairperson with any ideas ddddgirl5@hotmail.com
- ✦ Please keep an eye on your emails for future fundraising opportunities we will be counting on our members to support.

*****Note to members, the Dues are coming in, if yours have not yet been sent, please forward them. The earlier in the fiscal year (beginning January 1st)dues arrive; the better for the financial stability of the board. *****

Contact @ Milley17@sympatico.ca, 905-892-1591,

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