



March 2020 Month End Report

This report covers the month of April.

“Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first.”
Mathew L Jacobson

A Happy Springtime Greeting to you all.

As we each sit inside our own isolated homes; standing together to stay apart. We are as much in this present challenge together as we are in our own individual challenges with isolation and social distancing. It seems for a lot of us we on one hand have a lot more time without the driving, the scheduling and the appointments; yet on the other hand we seem to have so much to manage organize and oversee. The children and youth being at home with us all day long has a very unique balance of less demand on us and more demand on us at the same time. We may find we are finally used to this new parenting paradigm only to see things shift back closer to what they were before the pandemic hit.

While all of this is going on the Board has continued to work on behalf of the foster parents of Ontario, attending virtual meetings, writing letters, forwarding information we feel is of help and support to you, and posting information on our website.

We are getting questions about conference planning. As I write this greeting here on May 20th I am realizing this is the week we would all have been happily gathered together participating in our annual educational conference. It seems so very long ago we shifted our conference dates to August 20-23 (Plan B). Now we sit watching and waiting to see if we will be able to go ahead with Plan B, adjust Plan B or shift to Plan C. We will continue to seek up-to-date information to make good decision regarding conference; and apprise you as soon as there are any changers.

We will continue to send along information as we receive it; we will continue to engage with provincial leadership; we will continue to represent you and those in your home. Please connect with us as things transpire in your local area as this helps inform the discussions we are participating in.

Thanks
Vanessa

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Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

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

Letters and proposals

- ✿ Prepared a conference package for all Executive Directors and Resource supervisors. This package included a conference registration package, a cover letter for conference and a greeting from the board along with an update on the current head office and the current board of directors.
- ✿ Prepared a “talking points” document regarding access visits; that was distributed to foster parent leadership and posted on the FPSO website.

Meetings Attended:

- ✿ OACAS residential advisory committee that included designated representatives from all aspects within Child Welfare and those connected to Child Welfare – this advisory is meeting **every Tuesday** during the day. FPSO is represented by Elaine Pratt FPSO First Vice-President; acting President. Who has not only participated as a member of the main advisory group; but also participated in the sub-committee that put forward specific issues facing caregivers. The advisory is meeting electronically and is focused on COVID 19 related challenges and concerns.
- ✿ Foster parent advisory committee: Attended each **Tuesday evening** by Elaine Pratt, Vanessa Milley, Krista Ray-Caddick, we are also joined by some of our members Nancy B, Sarah F, and Kate M; as well as other foster parents from within Ontario. This foster parent advisory committee is doing our collective best to represent all of our members regarding details and experiences connected to the COVID 19 Pandemic and how it affects the foster family. If you have any perspectives related to the challenges facing foster families, please contact any of the committee delegates as we may be able to include your perspective as we meet each week. We are also interested to hear from you regarding things that have changed due to the pandemic. Things that you feel worked so well that they may be of benefit to carry forward into our new normal.

Pending meetings

- ✿ None at this time

Connections to our members

- ✿ April 18 – Month End reports sent out for the months of January, February, & March.
- ✿ April 21 – Email to all members to help support conversations in the local area regarding Access visits during COVID 19 pandemic circumstances
- ✿ April 29 – Forward information regarding OACAS Webinar/Training opportunity
- ✿ April 30 – Forward training opportunity with Sheila Burns
- ✿ April 30 – Forward with permission letter written by one local area that supported the conversations they were having with their CAS regarding Access during COVID 19 pandemic.

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Conference

- ✚ Mail out of all conference details sent to each member CAS this month.
- ✚ FPSO has confirmed with the facility that any and all conference registrations that come in will be fully refundable up to 30 days prior to conference – so there is no financial risk to register for conference.
- ✚ We are all collectively hoping we will be able to hold conference in August – if we cannot due to restrictions on gatherings we the board will move from out Plan “B” to a Plan “C”.
- ✚ We are remaining in regular contact with the facility for any circumstances or updates that we may need to know regarding holding conference in August.
- ✚ We are following all announcements by our Provincial and federal governments to ensure we are making decisions in line with current directives, recommendations and guidelines.

Charitable status

- ✚ The 2019 Yearend financials will be submitted with an application for the 2019 HST rebate. This work will be with the new FPSO accountant in the month of May.

Private Membership .

- ✚ The Mail out to private members that will include an invitation to membership and conference information will wait until June, in case FPSO chooses to move from conference Plan B to Conference Plan C.

Website

- ✚ The Conference package has been posted on the website and is now fillable
- ✚ The Board has approved paypal as the payment system for online payment and donations. The work to get this set up will be done in the next while.
- ✚ This month posted on the website is a document regarding “conversation points” pertaining to access visits.

Fundraisers

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

Contact

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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