



February 2019 Month End Report

This report covers the month of February.

As the 2019 year has begun, the officers of the FPSO are very aware of the changes and transitions within child welfare. There seems to be no area of the field that has not been effected. We are ever aware of tight fiscal restraint; but, are continuing to pursue the best interests of our foster parent members and the children and youth in their homes.

We value our members and the information and questions they are bring forward to us; as these provide the direction the board needs to be following.

Considering the volume of work that needs to be attended to, the meetings that are upcoming, and the administration of the board; we are organizing fundraising opportunities. We are very much counting on our members to support the fundraising efforts of the board.

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.





GRID Information.

 ATTACHED


Letters and proposals

 No new letters or proposals this month.




Meetings Attended:

-  No meetings were scheduled in the month of February.
-  We did have a tentative meeting scheduled with Irwin Elman Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth (PACY). Unfortunately with the current Government eliminating the Advocates office. Irwin and his staff are focused on meeting the needs of their current cases, and wrapping up the function of the Office.
-  FPSO has long valued the advocates office and Irwin Elman PACY lead, we are saddened by the elimination of the office; and concerned with the gap in advocacy for the young people served by the child welfare system.
-  FPSO extends many a Thank You to Irwin and his staff for the work they have done, the effect their work has had on the Ministry of Child Welfare. As well as the partnership and the support the PACY office and Irwin himself extended to FPSO, our members and the children in their homes.

Meetings where FPSO was represented

 None scheduled this month.

Pending meetings

-  Executive Officers and committee chairpersons meeting (March 18th)
-  CFSRB – contact has been initiated, a meeting has not yet been scheduled – the goal of this meeting will be to gather information regarding how the current changes within child welfare effect the foster families who will need to pursue a meeting with the CFSRB (Child and Family Services Review board) [CFSRB is included in the Advocacy Four syllabus].
-  Adopt4life (March 21) – The goal of this meeting is to develop a partnership/working relationship. The hope will be to support children and youth in light of current permanency practises.

- 🌳 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, ORCA) – We are currently working on confirming the date of this meeting between all parties. – The goal of this meeting is to discuss all of the child welfare changes and how they are similarly affecting the private sector Fostering community; to share our specific FPSO challenges and concerns. To learn from OARTY and ORCA what their current challenges and concerns are. The goal will be to work together on our common challenges. A single from the field perspective to the Ministry has a better chance to be heard. We will also be reviewing the opportunity for FPSO membership.
- 🌳 Child Welfare PAC – The goal of this meeting will be to connect regarding common concerns, how child welfare is changing and how it is affecting the in care youth community.

Connections to our members

- 🌳 February 5, article
- 🌳 February 6, article
- 🌳 February 6, support opportunity for family touched by fostering tragedy (previous article)
- 🌳 February 15, Human trafficking awareness day & toolkit

Conference

- 🌳 Conference 2019 is in the early stages of planning, if you have any workshop recommendations please contact Conference Chairperson Elaine Pratt elaine_pratt@me.com

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 is seeking 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

- 🌳 We have received back a response letter from the CRA, this letter is much briefer than the previous ones, yet there remain a few details they need. The response from FPSO will be delivered back to the CRA by Early March. We continue to pursue the return of our charitable status, and are encouraged by the most recent brief response.

Private membership

- 🌳 FPSO continues to pursue members in the private sector.

- ✿ The mail out to private associations will be mailed immediately following the meeting that is in process of scheduling with OARTY and ORCA.

Website

- ✿ The website should be ready for viewing by Mid March.
- ✿ In the month of February, even with the temporary unavailability of the website; FPSO has received over 16 inquiries, many regarding interest in the courses we have available, or inquiries about specifics of the website and its pending availability. Some of the emails are regarding child welfare and requests for support.

FPSO Business plan

- ✿ The FPSO business plan was passed at the 2018 AGM. The features of the plan will be integrated into FPSO function and operation.

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.
- ✿ **If interested please contact Vanessa Milley at Milley17@sympatico.ca.**

Upcoming Meetings Events

- ✿ Spring session of zonal meetings
- ✿ April 6th, Eastern Zone
- ✿ April 13th, Central Zone
- ✿ April 27th, South West Zone

Fundraisers

- ✿ Fundscrip fundraiser is in the planning stages, details will be distributed shortly.
- ✿ ***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.
- ✿ 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,

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