



March 2019 Month End Report

This report covers the month of March.

The month of March was very busy with many calls to set up meetings and connect with other leaders in the child welfare field.

The month was also very busy with many, many calls and emails from our member foster parents, foster parent leadership and foster parents from the private sector.

There are currently a great number of challenges and questions regarding child welfare and what the future will reveal.

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

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.

Letters and proposals

- ✦ No new letters or proposals this month.

Meetings Attended:

- ✦ Two meetings were set for the month of March, unfortunately due to specific circumstances both had to be rescheduled to April.

Meetings where FPSO was represented

- ✦ None scheduled this month.

Pending meetings

- ✦ Executive Officers and committee chairpersons meeting (April 13, 2019)
- ✦ CFSRB – contact has been initiated, dates for this meeting have yet to be confirmed
- ✦ Adopt4life (April) – 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 practices.
- ✦ 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) This will not be a joint meeting, pursuant to discussions and scheduling this will now be two separate meetings for the month of April.
- ✦ Child Welfare PAC – Due to PAC leadership being temporarily out of the country this meeting will be scheduled following May 5th when Jane K is back in the Country.

Connections to our members

- ✦ March 5, article
- ✦ March 13 – corrected 2017 financials
- ✦ March 13 – January 2019 Month end report
- ✦ March 13 – February 2019 Month end report
- ✦ March 19 – Value Village Fundraising opportunity – call for participation
- ✦ March 19 – Article

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

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 immediately following the meeting that is in process of scheduling with OARTY and ORCA.

Website

- ✚ The website should be ready soon

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

- 🕒 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 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,

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