



November 2018 FPSO Month End Corporate Update

Hello foster friends;

This month end report covers the month of November 2018.

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects (*Items noted with an asterisk are features of other items within the update*)

- ✿ 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. FPSO will be publishing the GRID information as received in January.

Letters written

- ✿ The 2018 foster parent report will be distributed as soon as all of the input gathered at conference is integrated.

Meetings Attended:

- 👤 November 22, Meeting with Irwin Elman Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. The New Ontario government has announced the elimination of the PACY Office.
- 👤 Cecile B, Elaine P, & Vanessa M, met with Irwin to discuss the status of the office. Some of the items discussed were:
 - The new lack of Crown Ward status for children in care
 - The current adoption practises and trends, and our concerns
 - Current kin finding practises and the parameters of “kin”
 - Why non related members of the child’s community can be deemed to be kin but the foster family cannot be considered
 - Our interest in adoptions and any other permanency planning be a case by case agenda based on the individual child, rather than a “one size fits all” approach
 - Adoption breakdowns and disruptions – there is a lack of data available, valid data could inform practises in the best interest of the child
 - A lack of tracking adopted children who return to care in order to either track the number of placements/adoptions they have had; or to perhaps seek reunification with biological siblings
 - SAFE – we understand there are adjustments to the SAFE for the first nation’s child welfare participants; we would like to be aware of what these adjustments are as some or perhaps all of them might be ideal for non-native foster families as well.
 - We are interested in how the child death data is documented, with the increasing numbers of children and youth who are involved with the CAS but not in foster care. For those who unfortunately lose their life, it would be good to know not only if the child or youth was in foster care but also to know if the CAS was involved at all.
 - We discussed the anticipated coming amalgamations.
 - Discussed the boundaries and policies around in care youth drug use and how it often negatively impacts the best interest of the child.

Connections to our members

- 👤 November 1, Eastern Zone Meeting date correction
- 👤 November 6, Zone meeting reminder South West Zone Meeting
- 👤 November 11, SAMKO toy warehouse fundraising package
- 👤 November 12, Central Zone Meeting date change
- 👤 November 14, Cluster group question field responses
- 👤 November 14, Question to the field regarding FPA budgets
- 👤 November 30, Participation request regarding the elimination of the Provincial Advocates Office
- 👤 November 30, Reminder SAMKO fundraiser

Advocacy

- 🔥 During Conference 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.

Update on last months documented New Projects

- 🔥 Charitable status – During the month of November FPSO received a response letter from the CRA. FPSO will be responding to this letter with more information. The CRA is no longer questioning whether or not the FPSO is a “political” organization. The CRA however, is requiring other areas of the FPSO’s work to be further explained. A response package is being prepared and will be submitted within the CRA prescribed timeframes.
- 🔥 A second letter will be prepared for the private operators in the new year to support membership opportunities.
- 🔥 Website update – the revised website should be available in January.
- 🔥 Meeting with the Provincial advocate was attended, details documented above.

New projects

- 🔥 FPSO is interested in expanding the fundraising activities of the board.
- 🔥 During the month of November and December the SAMKO fundraiser was run, we will learn the outcome in January.

Upcoming Meetings Events

- 🔥 Winter session of zonal meetings, dates will be confirmed by email.
- 🔥 Upcoming meeting with PAC slated in February

Announcements

 New Fundscrip fundraiser is in the planning stages, look for details in January.

Conference – 2019 – The 2019 conference is in the early stages of organization, if you have any recommendations or suggestions please contact the FPSO Conference Chairperson Elaine Pratt @ elaine_pratt@me.com.

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