

AFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SERVICES AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 26, 2023
5:00 pm
Microsoft Teams – Virtual



ATTENDANCE

- AFS Board of Directors:** Patricia R. Lofstrom (Chair) Sean Halliday Lucia O'Connor
 William Johnson
- AFS Staff:** Obianuju Fadjo, Executive Assistant Brenda Clarke, Manager of Community Services and Strategic Initiatives Stephanie Fetherston, Director of Services
- Youth Representatives:**
- Regrets:** Dania Kuzbari Ali Juma, CEO

MINUTES

1.0 Quorum Established.

2.0 Call to Order

Patricia Lofstrom calls the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

3.0 Review of Agenda

MOTION BIRT the Committee reviews and approves the October 26, 2023, agenda as presented.

Moved by: Sean Halliday
Seconded by: William Johnson All in favour. CARRIED.

4.0 Review Previous Minutes

MOTION BIRT the committee approves the September 28, 2023, meeting minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Lucia O'Connor
Seconded by: Patricia Lofstrom Ricard All in favour. CARRIED.

5.0 New Business

a. CMHO Conference

The conference will take place at the end of November. To raise the item at the next Board meeting and encourage other board members who wish to attend the conference.

b. New Vacancies/New Service Advocacy Board Members

To bring it up at the Board meeting on November 1, 2023, to discuss appointing new board members to join the committee.

6.0 Standing Items

a. Awesome Team

i. *Service Demand Report*

Stephanie Fetherston provides the service demand report as presented.

- a. One of the clinical supervisors is on medical leave, and an acting supervisor has been recruited to fill that vacancy.
- b. There is still a waitlist for VAW (Violence Against Women), which is concerning considering the tragic incident involving intimate partner violence in the community.
- c. A new psychologist was recruited for a one-year contract under supervised practice.
- d. Tele-mental health services are in high demand as they recorded the most referrals for tele-mental health in the third quarter ending September 30th, 2023.

ii. *Community Services Update*

Brenda Clarke provides the community services report as presented.

- a) Sold more EBC (Early Breakfast Counts) tickets than last year. Will push to sell more on Saturday, October 28, 2023.
- b) Will be receiving partial funding to support the Youth Hub for addictions/mental health
- c) The traffic at the Youth Hub in Dennis Street is expected to have less traffic than the counterpart in Sudbury. The Youth Hub in Sudbury is located in a YMCA building.
- d) The Youth Hub has not yet opened as it needs to be cleaned. There is still large construction waste on the premises.
- e) The Youth Wellness Hub Coordinator opening has been posted on the website.
- f) New Northern Mentality (NNM) are working on a new podcast
- g) AFS will be participating in the festival of trees

a. Extraordinary Service

i. *Live-in Treatment*

- a. Recruiting for the Counselor position.
- b. New base funding, Step Up and Step-Down Program – To run the Live-in Treatment
- c. To confirm from Ali, if Live-In Treatment should be removed from the agenda or would be presented by Ali.

ii. *Privacy/Incident/Serious Occurrence/Complaints*

a. *Privacy*

- Two active cases are ongoing - contentious cases involving parents who want access to information.

c. Busting Barriers

i. New Funding and Initiatives/Partnership Updates

- b. MCCSS has provided a one-time \$85,000 grant for the Student Nutrition Program – awaiting feedback for any restrictions or instructions on how to expend the funds.
- c. New base funding from Ontario Autism Society (OAS) has been submitted – working with Garden River Centre. AFS staff will be presenting at the CMHO conference.

ii. French Language Service/Culture Linguistics

- a. Training for one-time interpretation clients – will be sending two or three bilingual staff
- b. Recruiting Administrative Assistants for Live-In Treatment North Algoma (Wawa) and Elliot Lake – may have three new bilingual Administrative Assistants.
- c. Will be submitting a grant application for period poverty for youth - Providing period supplies and underwear for young girls and boys.

d. Inspiring Outreach

i. Lead Agency

- Ali and Stephanie attended a combined Lead agency and community of practice meeting in Toronto – focused on client and family feedback on agency’s services, assessments, and strategic plan.

ii. Accreditation - no update

ii. Youth and Family Engagement

- Four parents agreed to meet on the last Wednesday of every month

7.0 Ongoing Business

- a. **Review Terms of Reference** – meetings & operations
Deferred

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourns at 5:54 pm.

MOTION BIRT the Committee adjourns the meeting at 5:54 pm.

Moved by: Sean Halliday

Seconded by: William Johnson All in favour. CARRIED.