

# AFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SERVICES AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18th, 2024  
5:00 pm  
Microsoft Teams – Virtual



## ATTENDANCE

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

## MINUTES

### 1.0 Quorum Established.

### 2.0 Call to Order

Patricia R. Lofstrom calls the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

### 3.0 Review of Agenda

MOTION BIRT the Committee reviews and approves the January 18, 2024, agenda as presented.

Moved by: Rick Hamilton  
Seconded by: Dania Kuzbari All in favour. CARRIED.

### 4.0 Review Previous Minutes

MOTION BIRT the committee approves the November 23, 2023, meeting minutes, as amended.

Moved by: Lucia O'Connor

## 5.0 New Business

## 6.0 Standing Items

### a. **Awesome Team**

#### i. ***Service Demand Report***

Stephanie Fetherston provides the November and December 2023 service demand reports as presented. Highlights of the report include:

Single Therapy Session (STS) is usually the first service option to clients and is meant to be low barrier. The intake waitlist is low while the STS remains the same. This may be attributable to the following reasons: clients may choose not to receive further services if they believe that their needs are met; clinicians are encouraging clients to return for more STS sessions: or cases are not being closed.

Counselling and therapy long waitlist has persisted, however, the team is looking at innovative ways to address this ongoing issue such as running groups at the Youth Hub to help alleviate the issue. Currently considering other brief services other than STS in order to meet the clients' needs. Furthermore, the team is advocating for clients to enroll for group therapy sessions to reduce wait times and

Group therapy sessions are usually better than single therapy sessions because it improves clients' access to the services that they need. We are advocating for more clients to utilize group counselling. This also enables. The VAW waitlist is being addressed in different ways, such as through the extension of contracts to staff to cover the individual VAW counselling. Additionally, the agency received base funding to support the VAW services.

#### ii. ***Community Services Update***

Emily provides the Community Services Update

A new coordinator for the Youth Hub was hired on December 18, 2023, and launched the youth hub on the same week. Since the launch, about 55 youth have received services at the Hub - some are new and returning clients.

There was a grand opening with Minister Tibollo on January 8, and about 80 people were in attendance. A youth grand opening will be held on January 31. The youth Hub will maintain statistics on the youth demography. The Hub also runs virtual services as part of a pilot program so that youth can access it from anywhere. There is no wait time for the virtual services.

Councilor Sandra Hollingsworth made a 5,000 donation to the youth hub.

The youth hub will be data on the attendees to generate report about their demographic.

### b. **Extraordinary Service**

#### i. ***Privacy/Incident/Serious Occurrence/Complaints***

##### a. ***Incident***

One notable incident occurred involving a staff, whereby, the staff tripped and fell but did not sustain injury or require medical attention.

##### b. ***Serious Occurrence***

There are about twenty-three (23) serious occurrences relating to the Live-in Treatment involve youth. Two of these youth were charged for separate offences – One of them was charged for breaking a mirror in the community and threatening other youth in the program – the other youth was charged for assaulting a staff. Some of these occurrence involve youth leaving the facility without staff approval; police involvement; and contraband in the home.

**c. Busting Barriers**

**i. New Funding and Initiatives/Partnership Updates**

The agency received \$24,000 funding for VAW services. AFS is a successful recipient of the Slight Family foundation funding, which provides funds that support youth hub transition worker position. The new position will start on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ii. French Language Service/Culture Linguistics**

No update

**d. Inspiring Outreach**

**i. Lead Agency**

Working on the next phase of planning, which includes OPOC (Ontario Perception of Care) tool – This tool will be provided to clients to fill. It focuses on ensuring that we are meeting the clients’ needs. The CHIME – assessment of needs – we no longer have a trainer. Looking at remote areas to offer quality of services to clients who live in these areas. However, these tools are quite cumbersome, as such, the turn out is low.

**ii. Accreditation**

AFS completed and submitted the documentation for the amended two-year amended extension of the CAPC/CPNP funding agreement. This is a program that supports youth, infants (0-6 age groups). AFS is the collaborating partner, which fills the funding to other community partners.

**ii. Youth and Family Engagement**

The New Northern Mentality (NNM) continues to meet weekly and are currently utilizing the hub space for the meetings. They are also planning a fundraiser event in February and continue to record their monthly podcast, which is uploaded on YouTube.

**7.0 Ongoing Business**

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

Deferred

**8.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourns at 6:21 pm.

MOTION

BIRT the Committee adjourns the meeting at 6:21 pm.

Moved by: Rick Hamilton

Seconded by: Lucia O'Connor

All in favour. CARRIED.