

AFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SERVICES AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 22nd, 2024
5:00 pm
Microsoft Teams – Virtual



ATTENDANCE

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

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 February 22, 2024, agenda as presented.

Moved by: Rick Hamilton
 Seconded by: Jane Omollo All in favour. CARRIED.

4.0 Review Previous Minutes

MOTION BIRT the committee approves the January 18, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Lucia O'Connor

Seconded by: Jane Omollo

All in favour. CARRIED.

5.0 New Business

No new business. However, Stephanie used the opportunity to introduce the second Senior Director of Services, Brian Kelly.

6.0 Standing Items

a. Awesome Team

i. *Service Demand Report*

Stephanie provides the January 2024 demand report. Highlighting:

- The discrepancy in the VAW waiting time presented at the previous meeting has been corrected.
- January is usually a busy month for referrals – with increased demand for intake services, single therapy sessions (STS) and counseling services. Staff have received training on STSs.
- Counseling and therapy wait times are approximately a year. Staff were offered nine more hours to reduce the wait list.
- One of the two vacancies for the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy services has been filled.
- The LIT is undergoing a licensing review and the team met the deadline.
- The Walk-in counselling session is in collaboration with Canadian Mental Health, John Howard Society, and Sault Area Hospital. It operates every Tuesday. However, the services are virtual due to the pandemic, and have been unable to find a space to house it.

ii. *Community Services Update*

Brenda provides the community services update. Highlighting the following:

- There are different activities and events taking place at the Youth Hub. The youth have established Thursdays as neuro-divergent night – a night for the LGBTQ2+.
- We have had partnerships arise in support of the Hub such as Sault College, John Howard, OCAS, etc.
- The Supervised Access Program has been full of a short wait list. However, we are dealing with more complex clients.

b. Extraordinary Service

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

a. *Incident*

b. *Serious Occurrence* – There were ten serious occurrences some of which include AWOL and the use of contraband.

c. *Complaint* – received one complaint regarding Supervised Access.

c. Busting Barriers

i. *New Funding and Initiatives/Partnership Updates*

- The agency received communication from United Way that AFS was approved for \$16,000 for youth cooking skills program that was presented to them as a proposal. This fund will run

until March 31, 2025. The fund will cover the cost of food and logistics of operating the program.

- Brenda is working on a trillium grant to cover capital improvements at the Youth Hub.
- AFS was notified that the Non-Attendance program run by Northern Youth Services (NYS) will be divested. It is a \$330,000 program. It is designed for youth in probation to obtain the services that they need. We have expressed interest to the Ministry to take on the program because we have a similar youth justice program.
- AFS is considering the potential of amalgamating with the Counselling Centre of East Algoma because they have clinical supervision staff onsite. Therefore, this will be an opportunity to provide support to the East Algoma community.

li. French Language Service/Culture Linguistics

No update

d. Inspiring Outreach

i. Lead Agency

- The Ontario Intensive Treatment Program – a multimillion-dollar project that will standardize live-in treatment across the province of Ontario. An executive coordinator/director has been assigned to lead this initiative to standardize the treatment modalities.
- The board of Algoma Public Health has rejected the amalgamation with Sudbury Public Health. However, since the amalgamation was driven by the government, they may still push it forward even without the consent of the boards. AFS has connection to APH through the CAPC and SNP programs, therefore, an amalgamation may have an impact on our services.

ii. Accreditation

Brenda said she has been working on the licensing at the live-in treatment due to the licensing review by the Ministry – there are certain standards that need to be attained. The review process has been completed and submitted to the Ministry.

ii. Youth and Family Engagement

- The youth engagement is strong because of the active participation by the Youth Advisory Council and NNM through the podcasts and events.
- Proactively working on engaging parents of current and former clients

7.0 Ongoing Business

a. Review Terms of Reference

- The meeting and operations section of the terms of reference was reviewed.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourns at 5:58 pm.

MOTION

BIRT the Committee adjourns the meeting at 5:58 pm.

Moved by: Lucia O'Connor

Seconded by: Jane Omollo

All in favour. CARRIED.