

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

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



## ATTENDANCE

<b>AFS Board of Directors:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patricia R. Lofstrom (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Omollo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lucia O'Connor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Hamilton
<b>AFS Staff:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ali Juma, CEO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Kelly, Director of Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obianuju Fadjo, Executive Assistant
<b>Youth Representatives:</b>			
<b>Regrets:</b>	Dania Kuzbari Stephanie Fetherston	William Johnson	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 April 18, 2024, agenda as presented.

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

### 4.0 Review Previous Minutes

MOTION          BIRT the committee approves the March 21, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented.

Moved by:          Rick Hamilton

## 5.0 New Business

### a. Non-Residential Attendance Centre

On April 1st, AFS took over the NRAC program and the two staff formerly employed by NYS. There is legislation that protects the rights of unionized employees that are taken over by another unionized organization. This means that they can transfer their seniority and benefits. In the interim, the NRAC staff are receiving pay and benefits that they received under Northern Youth Services. Additionally, they will transfer their seniority and benefits to AFS.

Brian is the operational manager of the NRAC program. The youth participate in the educational component in the morning and leave after lunch. They also have breakfast, lunch, and take showers.

### b. Counselling Centre of East Algoma

They have not responded to our offer to explore amalgamate. They have hired an executive director. Their interim clinical manager is Stephanie Fetherston. She works 9 hours per week to provide support to the new executive director and clinical team for the next six months.

## 6.0 Standing Items

### a. Awesome Team

#### i. *Service Demand Report*

Ali provides the service demand report. Highlighting the following:

Intake is lower because there is lower demand for services. Things are levelling out. The birth to 6 Counselling and Therapy referrals increased by six over the previous month but overall, the numbers are not significant despite the fact the not all counselling vacancies have been filled.

Tele-Mental health has seen a double-digit increase because AFS acts as a broker in this service as we have coverage up to the Manitoba border, where referrals can come in to connect families with psychiatrists at Sick Kids or at Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

Community Support Team is an area because there is a decline in referrals although we have received just under a hundred thousand dollars in funding. We are concerned that the Ministry may claw back the funding, but we are looking at spreading the demand such that if the Counselors have room, they can pick cases from other high demand areas, such as VAW.

Rebound North has a volunteer appreciation banquet scheduled for May 29th. The Virtual Walk-In Counselling Session is challenging because the demand has declined due to some clients wanting to talk to a counsellor in person. We have the potential for a physical location for a single session service but are still working on the logistics before it is launched next month.

#### ii. *Community Services Update*

Ali provides the community services update. The Highlights include:

In March 338 youth visited the Hub - 258 are returning youth. There are more youth coming to the Hub for the first time. Other partners attending the Youth Hub are SOYA, John Howard, Ontario Works, and Employment Solutions.

We have started wrapping up for Every Breakfast Counts. This program is delivered in the summer in recognition that children in schools still need access to food when schools are closed for the summer. The program depends on donations to run. The Student Nutrition Program team are involved with logistical aspect of selecting the foods and Harvest Algoma is the depot where

the foods are packaged and then the team will pick up and deliver the food to various hubs. Next week, the Nurse Practitioner will start providing services at the Youth Hub.

**b. Extraordinary Service**

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

**a. Incidents**

- There are incidents of youth going AWOL, display of violent behaviour.

**b. Serious Occurrence**

No serious occurrence

**c. Complaint**

- We recorded a complaint regarding one of our youths at the LIT – the youth went to the neighbors and told them that they were being harmed by the LIT staff.
- Our Joint Health and Safety Committee filed a complaint to the Ministry of Labour because they had requested to have the front doors locked. We declined that request because there was insufficient data to support that decision.
- The Ministry of Labour conducted their assessment and provided their report
- We acknowledge the fear and are working on providing training and other safety mechanisms to support the staff.

**c. Busting Barriers**

*i. New Funding and Initiatives/Partnership Updates*

The Youth Hub will receive an additional funding of \$650,000. This will help us take care of operational expenses. We first planned to attend to the costs of running the Youth Hub by accepting the NRAC program, which has \$330,000 of annual funding.

*ii. French Language Service/Culture Linguistics*

No update

**d. Inspiring Outreach**

*i. Lead Agency*

The Ontario Intensive Treatment Program will work to centralize the Live-In Treatment such that referrals can go directly to the OITP and then we would receive the request from OITP for a bed space.

In regards to Bill 124, the health and education sector has received funding to attend to Bill 124 but our sector is yet to receive funding. AFS has a grievance that is outstanding with the Union around Bill 124 that would likely go to arbitration.

*ii. Accreditation*

We have a date confirmed. November 11 to 13, 2025 is the site visit to AFS.

*iii. Youth and Family Engagement*

No update

*iv. Ontario Health Team*

There was \$7500 that was allocated to purchase health kits. Some of the money went to the Youth Hub and some to the Community Resource Centre.

## 7.0 Ongoing Business

### a. Review Terms of Reference

## 8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourns at 6:02 pm.

MOTION            BIRT the Committee adjourns the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Moved by:        Rick Hamilton

Seconded by:    Jane Omollo                    All in favour.        CARRIED.