

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

Thursday, June 19th, 2025  
5:00 pm  
Microsoft Teams – Virtual



## ATTENDANCE

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AFS Board of Directors:</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patricia R. Lofstrom<br>(Chair)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Geenen                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dania Kuzbari<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Omollo<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Hamilton<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lucia O'Connor |
| <b>AFS Staff:</b>              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ali Juma, Chief Executive Officer<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Fetherston, Senior Director of Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brenda Clarke, Director Community Services & Strategic Initiatives                                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obianuju Fadijo, Executive Assistant                                |

**Youth Representatives:**

**Regrets:**

## MINUTES

### 1.0 Quorum Established.

### 2.0 Call to Order

Patricia R. Lofstrom calls the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

### 3.0 Review of Agenda

**MOTION** BIRT the Committee reviews and approves the June 19, 2025, agenda as presented.

Moved by: Rick Hamilton

Seconded by: Dania Kuzbari

### 4.0 Review Previous Minutes

**MOTION** BIRT the committee approves the May 22, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented.

Moved by: Jane Omollo  
Seconded by: Rick Hamilton

## 5.0 New Business

No new business

## 6.0 Standing Items

### a. Investing in our Awesome Team (formerly Awesome Team)

#### i. *Service Demand Report*

The service demand report was not readily available. However, Stephanie provides her Director's Report highlighting the following:

- Staff are seeing a significant increase in complex caseloads and as such, are feeling stretched. She added that at the Leadership Team meeting, they discussed promoting self-care through compassionate fatigue workshops to ensure that staff are mindful of their wellness.
- In regard to Greenspace, plans are underway to integrate it into the intensive treatment services and East District.
- We are moving forward with recruiting a second Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Counsellor.
- Women in Crisis (WIC) have contracted AFS to provide fourteen (14) hours of service to support men. This is an early prevention counseling service. Rick mentioned that there is an active men shelter service called Larry's Place that AFS can liaise with for resources. The place has been in operation for a long time and is run by the Elliot Lake Women's Group.
- The Violence Against Women (VAW) waitlist is back to pre-pandemic levels.
- We have a new series of groups that will roll-out in September that we anticipate will provide benefits for families.
- We had a Duty to Report training this month facilitated by Children's Aid Society (CAS) and planning to have another session in September 2025.

#### ii. *Community Services Update*

Brenda provides a summary of the Community Services report. Highlights include:

- The Youth Hub does not have a schedule for elevator construction. In regard to the kitchen, a meeting has been scheduled with the architect to review and revise the design so that it can be sent out for tender.
- The Student Nutrition Program received \$121,500 under the school infrastructure fund. This federal fund will be utilized for the purchase of pallets, and a big cargo van to deliver food. AFS will partner with Harvest Algoma – the van will be owned by AFS and parked at Harvest Algoma.

### b. Finding a Better Way (Extraordinary Service)

#### i. *Privacy/Incident/Complaint*

No update

#### *Serious Occurrence*

Stephanie stated that there have been ten serious occurrences related to the LIT and one related to McNabb. Brenda stated that a gun clip with live bullets was found by a seven-year-old boy at the McNabb premises.

#### ii. *Lead Agency*

Stephanie stated that she sits on the Community of Practice for Lead Agencies and the Steering Committee for the Community of Practice. Meetings have been reconvened after a long hiatus. There will be another big meeting next week in which we will discuss how to be more effective.

Ali added that the Lead Agency Consortium in-person meeting is ongoing in Toronto. The event was scheduled for Wednesday, June 18 through today. The focus is on DEI work. For some time, they have been working on centralizing the live-in treatment centers in Ontario and also managing it in a way that is more equitable. Additionally, they have been advocating for increased funding to close the wage gap in the For Us For You campaign.

**iii. Accreditation**

Brenda noted that most of the Board Policy work has been completed and will be working on minor items.

**iv. Ontario Health Team (OHT)**

Ali reported that there has not been any major update as it pertains to children and youth. He noted that the two groups that they intend to service are the frail and the elderly. There are two Hubs – Indigenous and non-Indigenous Hart Hub. There was a vote to have a separate operational governance body made up of twelve members. A copy of the OHT plan will be added to the Board meeting folder.

Ali mentioned that June is a men's mental health month. We are seeking opportunities to support men's mental health as we do not receive specific funding to support men. Rick suggested the agency liaise with Elliot Lake's Men's Crisis Centre.

**c. Connecting the Dots, Closing the Gaps (Busting Barriers)**

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

Brenda stated that she had put in a Trillium grant proposal for \$200,000 to fund extra things related to the elevator. We anticipate receiving a response from them in July.

**d. Level Setting**

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

Brenda mentioned that we have been providing French education for our Administrative Assistants. We received approximately \$11,900 from Ontario Health to fix the AFS website, but we have yet to receive the funds. We will update the French side of the Board web page. The quality improvement reports were submitted to MCCSS and the Ministry of Health. The Ontario Health Report will be submitted next week. We will be applying for our French designation by next year as we work on meeting all the requirements.

**ii. Youth and Family Engagement**

Brenda stated that the youths will be attending the Disable the Label next month and Rotary Fest. They also participated in three recruitments.

**iii. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Updates**

Stephanie mentioned that we had our first DEI Leadership training, and the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**e. Reconciling our Truth**

Stephanie noted that at the Town Hall, Stephanie Hayes along with the working group (a knowledge keeper, people from Garden River First Nation and AFS staff) provided a presentation on "they sit together". The project centered on the cultural context and teachings and data that they gathered towards the assessment of autism.

## **7.0 Ongoing Business**

### **a. Review Terms of Reference**

Deferred

## **8.0 Other Business**

## **9.0 Adjournment**

**MOTION** BIRT the Committee moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:00pm.

Moved by: Rick Hamilton

Seconded by: Jennifer Geenen