

**Durham Children's Aid Society Board of Directors
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 22, 2010**

Attendance

Present:

**Paul Martin (Chair)
Ted Aldridge
Heather Boissain
Jocelyne Boissonneault
Rory Brush
Jodi Hewett
Ruth McCurdy
Valerie McIntyre
Catherine Mack
Esrick Quintyn
Bob Roche
Lisa Sarsfield
Peter Spratt
David Wade**

Regrets:

**George Gadjovich
Audra Mihaly
Graeme Turrell**

Staff Present:

**Wanda Secord, Executive Director
Marna Shecter, Director of Human Resources
Martin Smith, Director of Finance & Administration
Chris MacPhee, Director of Residential Services
Barb Gracey, Director of Family Services
Shane Vieira, Manager of Communications and Fund Development
Maggie Reber, Manager of Quality Assurance
Susan McNeil, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director**

Also present:

**Gigi Goary, President, CUPE Local 3223
Dave Humphries, Society Member, Finance & Operations Committee**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Martin, President and Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION 2010-54

MOVED by Lisa Sarsfield, seconded by Ted Aldridge, to approve the agenda as circulated. CARRIED.

III. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 2010-55

MOVED by Lisa Sarsfield, seconded by Rory Brush, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2010, including in-camera minutes for the meeting. CARRIED.

Action Registry

The Action Registry, which tracks significant decisions and actions of the Board for the current term, was included in the agenda. The following was noted:

- Item #22, re: management compensation has been deferred pending clarification of impact of new provincial legislation to freeze non-bargaining unit wages. The Executive Director will be bringing a legal opinion to the next Board Officers meeting, with a recommendation to the full Board in May.

V. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Service Directors Chris MacPhee and Barb Gracey presented information regarding the Society's community partners, which enhance the services provided in Intake, Family, Child and Youth and Residential Services. A copy of the presentation is on file with the agenda for this meeting.

Following the presentation, staff were asked to consider ways of estimating how much money is saved in providing services through these partnerships; this information could be used to further our advocacy efforts outside of the organization.

Staff also noted, in response to an inquiry, that the agency does provide training on the agency's mandate for staff at community based sports organizations, when requested.

VI. IN-CAMERA MATTERS

MOTION 2010-56

MOVED by Ted Aldridge, seconded by Ruth McCurdy, to meet in-camera to consider the following items: a presentation regarding a contentious matter; an update on the staff reduction process; and an update on the judicial review application. CARRIED.

Guests were excused from the room for these items as noted in the in-camera minutes.

VII. DECISION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meeting with the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare

In her report to the Board, the Executive Director advised that the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare has committed to meeting with all children's aid societies individually to learn more about each CAS and its unique circumstances. Some of the areas for discussion will include our model of service, foster care, OPR usage, collaboration with community partners and special service populations. They would like to meet with senior staff, a Board representative, and other stakeholders such as key community partners, foster parents, union or staff representative, and former Crown Wards.

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The Executive Director advised the Board that the date for Durham CAS's meeting with the Commission is June 15, and the meeting is expected to run between 4-6 hours. Wanda Secord will be speaking with Commissioner Barry Lewis to set the agenda for the day.

In the March Board package, there was a hand-out of the Commission's update at the OACAS Consultation in March. In that hand out, they articulate their learning about child welfare issues to date. Also, they identify their priorities for their work in 2010 /11 in the change agenda of: administrative/paperwork burden, in-care services, system performance indicators, system integration/reconfiguration, permanency and the funding approach. The first wave of the priorities which are under discussion with the Minister are: reduction of and duplication of Ministry information demands, revisions of Serious Occurrence reporting requirements, tracking of abuse cases, and defer Integrated File Review roll-out.

The Executive Director asked Board members for their input into issues that should be raised with the Commission. The following was noted from the discussion:

- Provide the Commission with a "corporate brochure" which gives them a sense of who we are and what we do. Discuss the results we are seeing in the programs/services we provide and through the community partners that we work with.
- Educate the Commission on growth in child welfare vs. other sectors, and the spectrum of our services.
- Show the costs of children in care relative to other sectors, including mental health programs, teens in custodial care.
- Reinforce the common messages from the field, but also identify Durham's uniqueness. Ask for clarification of the Ministry's definition of "core services" which we are mandated to provide, and present what we are providing as part of our "core services".
- Invite individuals who we provide service to, or community partners, to be part of a panel at the meeting.
- Show the actual costs to the agency if we couldn't rely on community partners or volunteers.
- Ask the Commission to look at the provincial financial situation. Show the financial burden of compliance with Ministry standards on the organization by activity.
- Raise the issue of Board indemnification and the lack of responsiveness by the Ministry on this issue.

The Executive Director thanked the Board members for their suggestions, which will be incorporated into the planning for the meeting with the Commissioner.

VIII. REPORTS

1. President's Report

- Report of the Executive Committee (Board Officers, April 7, 2010)

The President, Paul Martin, presented Report No. 7 of the Executive Committee, dated April 7, 2010, including an in-camera report for the meeting. There were no recommendations contained in the report for consideration by the Board.

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- Meeting with Ministry Regional Director, April 1, 2010

The President also provided a brief update on the meeting with the Ministry Regional Director on April 1. The meeting had been requested primarily to discuss the Ministry's response to the agency's Section 14 Review. A full summary of the meeting is also contained in the Executive Director's report to the Board for this meeting.

MOTION 2010-58

MOTION by Ted Aldridge, seconded by David Wade, to receive the President's report, including Report No. 7 of the Executive Committee. CARRIED.

2. Secretary's Report (Board Attendance Report)

MOTION 2010-59

MOVED by Lisa Sarsfield, seconded by Jodi Hewett, to confirm the information contained in the Board Secretary's report, concerning attendance at Board and committee meetings up to and including April 12, 2010. CARRIED.

3. Report of the Executive Director

The full report of the Executive Director was contained in the agenda package. The following issues were highlighted at the meeting:

- National Volunteer Recognition Week, April 18-24, 2010 – the Executive Director thanked Board members for their work and support throughout the year. She noted that a celebration of volunteer recognition is being postponed until June, given the staff reduction process that is currently taking place at the agency.
- Nominating Committee – To date, the agency has received inquiries from 20 individuals who are interested in the Board of Directors recruitment process. This does not include the four incumbents whose terms are expiring and may consider running for re-election.
- Child Welfare Lobby Day, May 17, 2010, Queen's Park – The Executive Director and Board President will be attending this special event and are scheduling meetings with local MPP's that day to raise awareness of the crisis in child welfare funding, and specifically the agency's financial situation.
- 2009 Client feedback survey – the Executive Director noted that the positive results in this year's survey are heartening, especially during a time when we were experiencing increased volumes and practicing cost containment.

MOTION 2010-60

MOVED by Ruth McCurdy, seconded by Esrick Quinty, to receive the report of the Executive Director. CARRIED.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, David Wade, presented the following report:

- The Finance and Operations Committee met just before the Board meeting. The committee was advised that the Ministry has agreed to the agency's request for a cash advance on half of the April 2011 payment. This will allow the agency to cash manage through the balance of the current fiscal year.

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- The Finance Committee received a written response from the insurer to some of the questions members posed during the presentation at the last meeting, regarding the renewal of the premium for this fiscal year. This information will also be provided to the Board of Directors.
- The Society's auditors will attend the May Finance and Operations Committee meeting to present the draft year end financial statements, which will be approved in June.
- Report No. 6 of the Finance and Operations Committee, dated March 25, 2010, was included in the Board agenda for information.

MOTION 2010-61

MOVED by Ruth McCurdy, seconded by Catherine Mack, to receive the report of the Board Treasurer, including report No. 6 of the Finance and Operations Committee, dated March 25, 2010. CARRIED.

5. Report of the Child Welfare Advocacy Committee

Lisa Sarsfield, Chair of the Child Welfare Advocacy Committee, presented Report No. 6 of that Committee, dated April 12, 2010. She highlighted the following initiatives:

- The Child Welfare Advocacy Committee can provide support to the Executive Director and Board President in preparation for Child Welfare Lobby Day at Queen's Park. She suggested there be a focused discussion on this event at the next committee meeting. The Executive Director indicated that her office will be contacting individual MPP's to schedule meetings that day, and communications staff are developing key messages for use in the meetings. It would be helpful if the Child Welfare Advocacy Committee could review the key messages at its next meeting.
- At the last Board meeting, there had been discussion about developing a "road map" for communications connected with advocacy initiatives; this information was put together by communications staff and can be shared with all Board members.

MOTION 2010-62

MOVED by Lisa Sarsfield, seconded by Esrick Quintyn, to receive the report of the Committee chair, including Report No. 6 of the Child Welfare Advocacy Committee, dated April 12, 2010. CARRIED.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION 2010-63

MOVED by Jodi Hewett, seconded by Ruth McCurdy, to receive correspondence contained in the agenda and additional items distributed at the meeting. CARRIED.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2010-64

MOVED by Ted Aldridge, seconded by Valerie McIntyre, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. CARRIED.