

**Durham Children's Aid Society Board of Directors
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2009**

Attendance

Present: Rob MacFadden (Chair)
Ted Aldridge (*appointment to Board confirmed at this meeting*)
Heather Boissoin
Jocelyne Boissonneault
Susan Butson-Lewis
George Gadjovich
Ruth McCurdy
Valerie McIntyre
Esrick Quintyn
Bob Roche
Lisa Sarsfield
Graeme Turrell
David Wade

Regrets: Cathy MacDonald
Paul Martin
Audra Mihaly
Imran Syed

Staff Present: Wanda Secord, Executive Director
Brian Prousky, Director of Services
Marna Shecter, Director of Human Resources
Martin Smith, Director of Finance & Administration
Barb Gracey, Director of Family Services
Brad Bain, Director of Children's Services
Shane Vieira, Manager of Communications and Fund Development
Susan McNeil, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

The President of the Board, Rob MacFadden, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION 2009-001

MOVED by Bob Roche, seconded by Jocelyne Boissonneault, to approve the agenda with an amendment to the order, so that the following items are considered next: the resignation of a Board member, and a recommendation to fill to resulting vacancy.
CARRIED.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board Officers, in their report dated January 7, 2009, advised that Maret Sadem-Thompson has tendered her resignation from the Board of Directors. In her letter to the Board Maret noted that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the Durham CAS Board, but that she felt after almost 10 years on the Board that it was time to move on.

MOTION 2009-002

MOVED by Rob MacFadden, seconded by Lisa Sarsfield, to accept Maret Sadem-Thompson's resignation with deep regret, and with sincere appreciation for the very significant contributions Maret has made to the Durham Children's Aid Society, including staff, Board, children and the families in Durham Region. **THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY ON THE BOARD

At their meeting on January 7, 2009, the Board Officers considered the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Maret Sadem-Thompson. They recommended that unelected candidates from the last AGM be considered for appointment to this position, beginning with the individual receiving the next highest number of votes and in order thereafter until an appointment can be made. The Executive Director confirmed that candidate Ted Aldridge has accepted the invitation to serve on the Board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

MOTION 2009-003

MOVED by Rob MacFadden, seconded by Ruth McCurdy, to appoint Ted Aldridge to fill the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Maret Sadem-Thompson, such term to expire on September 10, 2009. **CARRIED.**

V. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Results of the 2008 Crown Ward Review

Children's Services Director Brad Bain presented the results of the 2008 Crown Ward Review. A copy of the presentation is on file with the agenda in the Office of the Executive Assistant.

A recommendation to thank staff involved in this review will be considered later in the meeting as part of the Board Officers report.

2008 Holiday Hope Program

Shane Vieira, Manager of Communications and Fund Development, and Dawn Karstulovich, Coordinator of the Holiday Hope Program, presented the results of the 2008 program. This year, 659 families were served, including 142 youth on ECM, 1006 children, and 395 caregivers.

On behalf of the Board, the President thanked Shane and Dawn, as well as staff and volunteers, for their work on this program.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 2009-004

MOVED by Jocelyne Boissonneault, seconded by Susan Butson-Lewis, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 27, 2008. **CARRIED.**

VIII. IN-CAMERA MATTERS

MOTION 2009-005

MOVED by Ruth McCurdy, seconded by Valerie McIntyre, to approve the in-camera minutes of the meeting held on November 27, 2008. CARRIED.

IX. REPORTS

1. President's Report

The President updated Board Members on a conversation he had recently with the Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies regarding child welfare funding issues. He noted that he will continue to have these discussions and will update the Board on a regular basis.

Board Officers Reports

The Board considered Report Nos. 3 and 4 of the Board Officers, dated December 8, 2008, and January 7, 2009, respectively. There were no recommendations contained in Report No. 3 of the Board Officers. One recommendation contained in Report No. 4 of the Board Officers was addressed earlier in the meeting (concerning filling the vacancy on the Board), and one remained (concerning reviews that the agency has undergone recently).

MOTION 2009-006

MOVED by Bob Roche, seconded by Ruth McCurdy, to approve a recommendation of the Board Officers that the Director of Children's Services, Brad Bain, and the Director of Residential Services, Chris MacPhee, be commended for the agency's results in the Crown Ward and the Foster Care Licensing Reviews, as well as in the Quality of Care Review conducted by the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth for Ontario, and that the Board President send a letter to all staff involved to thank them for their work which led to this successful result. CARRIED.

2. Secretary's Report (Board Attendance Report)

MOTION 2009-007

MOVED by Esrick Quintyn, seconded by Bob Roche, to confirm the information contained in the Secretary's report, concerning attendance at Board and committee meetings up to and including January 8, 2009. CARRIED.

3. Report of the Executive Director

The report of the Executive Director was included in the agenda. The following items were highlighted at the meeting:

- Board in-service presentations – Board members were polled about topics they would like to see presented at upcoming Board meetings. The Executive Director will tabulate the results and schedule these presentations through May (the budget presentation will be made in June).
- In her report, the Executive Director addressed the current economic situation, financial environment, and the impact on local initiatives. Several related reports were included with the Board agenda package, including *Greater Trouble in Greater Toronto: Child Poverty in*

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the GTA (Children's Aid Society of Toronto); *Assessing the Gap ... in Provincial Annual Operating Funding for Social Services between GTA/905 Regions and the Rest of Ontario* (PriceWaterhouseCoopers); and *Pre-Budget Consultation Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs* (OACAS). The Executive Director advised that she is anticipating the agency will experience the impact of the economic downturn on service demands within six months. The Executive Director and the Regional Commissioner of Social Services have brought together a group of community leaders in social services to discuss the impact on services and plan for the future. She will keep the Board apprised of developments in this regard.

MOTION 2009-008

MOVED by Susan Butson-Lewis, seconded by Jocelyne Boissonneault, to receive the report of the Executive Director. CARRIED.

4. Services Committee Report

MOTION 2009-009

MOVED by David Wade, seconded by Ruth McCurdy, to receive Report No. 2 of the Services Committee, dated January 8, 2009. CARRIED.

Note: there were no recommendations contained in the report for approval.

In-Camera report of the Services Committee

MOTION 2009-010

MOVED by David Wade, seconded by Ruth McCurdy, to receive an in-camera report relating to the same meeting. CARRIED.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Board Treasurer, David Wade, presented the Treasurer's report, as follows:

- Financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2008, were included in the agenda package. The agency's deficit is projected at \$3.5 million, and the Director of Finance expects cash flow to last until the summer, as the agency received some advance funding from the Ministry.
- The Finance and Operations Committee held its meeting just prior to the Board meeting (the report from this meeting will be available next month). The Director of Finance has been asked to follow up on issues relating to the new Ministry requirement for an investment in RESP's for crown wards.
- The Finance and Operations Committee approved revisions to its Terms of Reference, which will come forward to the Board next month for approval.

MOTION 2009-011

MOVED by Bob Roche, seconded by Esrick Quintyn, to receive the report of the Board Treasurer, including Report No. 3 of the Finance and Operations Committee, dated November 27, 2008. CARRIED.

Note: there were no recommendations contained in Report No. 3 of the Finance and Operations Committee.

6. Report of the Policy Review Committee

Rob MacFadden, who has been appointed Chair of the Board Policy Review Committee, reported verbally on the deliberations of this committee:

- New Board member Graeme Turrell has joined the committee.
- The committee is continuing its review of Board policies; its next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2009. It is hoped the process will be completed by that meeting or the next one. The deadline for completion of this process is March 31, 2009.
- The committee will examine how to accomplish the next phase of the review, comprising committee terms of reference, Board orientation manual, and By-laws.

MOTION 2009-012

MOVED by Ruth McCurdy, seconded by Valerie McIntyre, to receive the Committee Chair's report regarding the Board policy review process. CARRIED.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

- *Hearts of Durham Gala* – Shane Vieira advised that tickets for this event, proceeds from which will support the work of the Society, go on sale February 1.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter from Dawn Karstulovich, Coordinator of the 2008 Holiday Hope Program, was included with the agenda, to thank Board members for their participation in the program.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2009-013

MOVED by Susan Butson-Lewis, seconded by Esrick Quintyn, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. CARRIED.