

MINUTES OF THE LEDUC COUNTY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018 IN ROOM 530 OF THE COUNTY CENTRE BUILDING, NISKU, ALBERTA.

Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 by Chairperson, Nathan Raymond, Thorsby Representative, with committee members Rick Smith (Leduc County), Ray Scobie (Leduc County), Lin Rehn, Calmar Representative, Tina Smith, Warburg Representative, Missy Chehayeb, Rural (East) Representative and Giselle Messer, Rural (West) Representative in attendance.

Also present were Laurel Fitzsimonds, Leduc County FCSS Director, Sara Russell, Leduc County FCSS Community Support Coordinator and Corrie Richer, Leduc County FCSS Administrative Assistant.

Introductions

Roundtable introductions occurred.

Agenda Adoption

04 - 18 Representative Raymond -- that the Agenda for the February 21, 2018 FCSS Advisory Committee Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

**Previous Minutes
Regular Meeting – January 17, 2018**

05 - 18 Representative Tina Smith -- that the January 17, 2018 FCSS Advisory Committee Organizational Meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

5. General Business

Guest Speaker – Sara Russell, Leduc County FCSS Community Support Coordinator

Sara advised the committee members that Laurel had requested she speak to the committee members regarding Family Day Unplugged. Sara said that Family Day Unplugged is an initiative that encourages people to be mindful of the time they spend using technology, and to be open to opportunities to disconnect from their devices to spend quality time with their friends, family, or even themselves.

Sara said that the initiative is about being aware of our habits. Technology is essential in today's world, but we should reflect on whether it enhances our social connections or works to isolate us. Sara said that it is important to recognize both the advantages and disadvantages of technology, and to be purposeful about our time using it or taking time away from it.

Leduc County FCSS hosted a contest for Family Day Unplugged. Entry ballots were distributed to the rural elementary schools, libraries and Parent Link Centres (PLC). Sara said that she did presentations at New Humble School, Calmar Elementary and Warburg School. Patti Adams (Thorsby FCSS Community Coordinator) presented at Thorsby Elementary, Lucille Erickson (New Sarepta FCSS Community Coordinator) presented at New Sarepta Elementary and Alicia Martel (Leduc County FCSS Family Support and Youth Services) presented at Graminia School. The presentations focused on the importance of spending time with family, as well as the benefits of disconnecting from technology.

Sara said that families were asked to complete a family activity together. On the back of the ballot there was a very simple activity that was created to spark a conversation. Once the family completed the activity, the ballot was returned to their school, library or PLC.

The contest ran from February 1st – 14th. One winner was drawn from each school and one was drawn from the community entries. Prizes were distributed before Family Day, hoping that the prize pack would help them celebrate the day. Included in the prize pack is a family day pass to the LRC, a family board game and two family activity books. This year Sara created a window decal as a promotional item. It was distributed to the schools, libraries and PLC sites to be given to families who entered the contest. The decal is not tied directly to February 19th, but it sends a message of disconnecting as a means to improve relationships and inspire quality experiences. We hope that this inspires people to take time to disconnect year round. The decal will be used as a promotional item throughout the year and Sara invited all the FCSS Advisory Committee members to put one on their vehicle window or to share it with someone who will.

Participants:

135 families participated in total. Last year there were 76 families.

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|--------------|----|-------------|----|-----------|---|
| Calmar | 10 | Warburg | 8 | Community | 8 |
| New Humble | 9 | New Sarepta | 37 | | |
| Thorsby Elem | 23 | Graminia | 40 | | |

**On the survey, families were asked the following question:
 After participating in this activity, my family feels closer to one another.**

128 out of 135 responded positively.

This question is tied to the FCSS outcome of healthy functioning within families and supports the development of positive family relationships.

Discussion ensued.

Sara left the room at 5:23 p.m.

6. Information Items

6.1 New FCSS Director

Laurel advised that Dean Ohnysty has been appointed the new Director of Leduc County FCSS. Laurel said that Dean is currently the Director of Leduc County Parks and Recreation (P&R), and will take on the role of FCSS Director in addition to his current position. Dean will be splitting his time between the P&R and FCSS departments evenly.

Representative Rick Smith said that managers will be appointed within those departments.

Laurel advised that Dean has 12 years with Leduc County and has good interest in FCSS. Laurel said that she thinks it will be a smooth transition for Dean and staff at both P&R and FCSS.

Representative Rehn asked Laurel when Dean will be taking over the position.

Laurel advised that Dean will move into the FCSS Director position on June 1, 2018. Laurel said that everything will pretty much be the same and that Dean will be working in both departments with the day to day responsibilities being run by department managers.

Representative Rehn asked who will be running the FCSS Advisory meetings.

Laurel advised that Dean will be, but there is still some things to being worked out.

Representative Raymond asked if this would affect the Leduc County budget.

Representative Scobie said that management is looking at a streamlining and running departments as efficient as possible.

Representative Rick Smith said that it is important to have FCSS function properly (as with all departments) and that this is seen as an opportunity.

Laurel said that some P&R programs align with FCSS, and that they are both about quality of life.

Discussion ensued.

6.2 FCSSAA – January 2018 Board Meeting Highlights

Representative Raymond asked if Laurel had anything to add regarding the FCSSAA Board Meeting Highlights provided.

Laurel said that she did not.

Discussion ensued.

6.3 Affordable Housing

Laurel provided photos of the low income housing development building in Edmonton to the committee members. Laurel advised that the building was built out of sea containers. Laurel said that applications for funding has been sent to both Provincial (funding approved) and Federal (funding pending) governments.

Laurel advised that the commissioned reports have been completed and received. Laurel said that an initiative was going to be presented to Leduc County Council on February 27th. If the initiative is approved and the development is completed, Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) will transfer the operational management to Leduc Foundation.

Discussion ensued.

6.4 County Connect

Laurel said that in November ARDN applied for extra funding for the County Connect program. Laurel advised that they have not yet been notified if the extra funding has been approved.

Discussion ensued.

Missy left the room at 5:57

6.5 United Way – Regional Community Investment Committee

Laurel said that for the past two years the United Way has allocated a \$50K grant geared to the reduction of poverty in Leduc County and the City of Leduc. Laurel said that four applications were received last year and the committee awarded funding to parts of each of the applicants. Laurel noted that applicants must be a registered charity.

Discussion ensued.

7. Director's report

A copy of the Director's Monthly Report for January 2018 were provided in the Agenda package to the FCSS Advisory Committee members.

Representative Raymond asked Laurel if there was anything to add.

Laurel advised that she had nothing further to add to the Director's Monthly Report.

8. Community FCSS Reports

Copies of the Community FCSS Reports for January 2018 were provided in the Agenda package to the FCSS Advisory Committee members.

Laurel said that the Community FCSS reports are collated to produce the final report to the Province. Laurel advised that the community year end budget reports are also included in the report and that the community 80/20 split monies must be reported by the communities (funding dollars only – not the top-up money).

Discussion ensued.

9. Adjournment

06 - 18 Representative Raymond -- that the Organizational FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

Due to scheduling conflicts, the committee discussed when the next FCSS Advisory Committee meeting should take place.

The Organizational FCSS Advisory Committee meeting concluded at 6:18 p.m.

The next FCSS Advisory Committee meeting will take place on:

Wednesday, March 13, 2018
5:00 p.m.
Room 530, County Centre



Chairperson



Director of FCSS