
1. Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:28 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 by Kelly-Lynn Lewis (Leduc County) as Chair with committee members Ray Scobie (Leduc County), Michele Mielnik (West) and Erin Williams (East) present.

Johnathan Miller (Thorsby) attended the meeting virtually.

Rick Hart (Warburg) and Jaime McKeag-Reber (Calmar) were absent from the meeting.

Other attendees

- Dean Ohnysty, Director of Community Services
- Carol Tabone, Manager of Family Support Services
- Sara Russell, Manager of Community Support Services
- Corrie Richer, Administrative Assistant FCSS

2. Introductions

Round table introductions occurred.

3. Agenda adoption

Motion Representative Scobie – that the agenda for the Wednesday, April 20, 2022 FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. Adoption of previous minutes

Motion Representative Lewis – that the minutes from the Wednesday, February 16, 2022 FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with the following amendments:

1. Order and roll call
 - Amend Kelly Lewis to Kelly-Lynn Lewis;
 - Amend Jonathan Miller to Johnathan Miller; and
 - Add Ray Scobie to the attendees.
2. At the bottom of page three, amend Representative Kelly left the room at 6:30 p.m. to Representative Lewis left the room at 6:30 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

5. General business

5.1 Alberta supports update

Sara provided the following update.

- We received a message from one of our MLAs that AB Works offices were reopening to the public on April 1, 2022.
- In speaking with the staff, supervisor and manager of the Leduc office, we learned that while offices would be open, the preference is still telephone support. Appointments will need to be made by phone through the toll free number for the Leduc office and only for those with barriers to phone and technology. General process remains that people apply by phone, complete general intake and wait for return phone call assessment.
- Big changes to the job search resource centre. This is also an appointment-only service where people can use the computers, fax and phone for 30-60 minutes at a time.
- We spoke with the AB Works Regional Director. Leduc County has been chosen to participate in the pilot of an online application system. Our staff will receive training, be able to assist residents to apply online, have access to the system to determine the status of the client's application, and give feedback on the application until its release in June 2022.
- The goal of the new system is to reduce barriers and allow people to apply from the comfort of their own home, freeing up resources to support employment and sustainability. They expressed a willingness to improve communication and build stakeholder relationships.
- FCSS is still concerned about services to our most vulnerable residents and the downloading of services. We will monitor the situation and keep the Advisory Committee apprised.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Mielnik – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives as information.

5.2 Financial empowerment project

Sara provided the following information.

- FCSS services are focused on prevention.
- FCSS provides support to residents to navigate the crisis systems and promotes building skills.
- FCSS is a source for information and support to help residents improve their overall financial health.
- Leduc County FCSS is one of a select group of Canadian municipalities to partner with Prosper Canada on the Prosperity Gateways-Cities for Financial Empowerment project to improve the financial well-being of residents living on low income.
- Financial help includes, education, coaching/counselling, free tax clinics and help accessing income benefits.
- The Financial Empowerment Program allows participants to explore how they can pay their bills, manage debt, afford the basic necessities and get ahead.
- One to one sessions are available.
- FCSS offers information sessions and workshops on a variety of financial literacy topics. The sessions are recorded and can be viewed on the Leduc County website.



- Sara made note of a client success story.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Williams – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives as information.

5.3 Bridges program update

Carol provided the following update.

- There is a new FASD language guide with an updated definition and terminology.
- The Leduc County website will be updated.
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a diagnosis to describe impacts on the brain and body of individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol during pregnancy. FASD is a lifelong disability.
- Each individual with FASD is unique and has areas of both strengths and challenges. Although people with FASD experience complex challenges, they also possess resilience, strength and abilities, and offer valuable contributions to society.
- To reduce stigma, it is important to know:
 - Experts agree there is no safe amount of alcohol to drink when pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
 - Individuals with FASD, who are not supported, experience significant adverse outcomes and secondary disabilities.
 - Early identification, intervention and appropriate supports can make a positive impact and improved outcomes, for those with the disorder.
 - A diagnosis can help guide appropriate interventions and supports for success and provide needed information and resources for youth transitioning to adult systems and supports.
 - FASD can affect all ages, genders across cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Canadian researchers estimate that 4% of Canadians have FASD. As approximately 60% of pregnancies are unplanned, the risk of prenatal exposure to alcohol is significant.
- Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network will be contacting Black Gold and will do some training for professionals related to supporting students with FASD.
- The funding is from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, however we do not receive the funds directly through this source. Edmonton and Area Fetal Alcohol Network (EFAN) is part of the Cross Ministry FASD Service Network Program. EFAN receives the funds and administers the contracts and funding to all agencies within the Edmonton zone that are eligible for funding through this source.
- With new referrals, we help to get clients assessed.
- Our FASD Support Specialists work closely with the Glenrose during the assessment period and attend the three day assessment with participants on their caseload. They then go back in six weeks to get results.
- Bridges client support:
 - 50 visits each month.
 - 34 to 36 individuals per year.



- Every participant is unique and their needs vary. We work to ensure that the support we provide is client led, meaning “nothing about them without them” we include them in all aspects of service.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Miller – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives as information.

6. Reports

Dean, Carol and Sara reviewed the department activity reports with the committee members.

6.1 FCSS Activity Report – February – April 2022

6.2 FRN Activity Report – February – April 2022

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Scobie – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives as information.

Carried Unanimously

7. Information items

7.1 Leduc Regional Housing Foundation 2021 Annual Report

Dean advised that Margot Hagarty, Executive Director of Leduc Regional Housing Foundation, would be coming speak to Leduc County council. Dean informed members that he will ensure that Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg councils are also visited by Margot.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Mielnik – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives as information.

Carried Unanimously

8. Adjournment

Motion Representative Lewis – that the FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Carried Unanimously



Chairperson



Director of Community Services