



**FCSS Advisory Committee**  
**Regular meeting - Minutes**  
*Leduc County Centre, Nisku, AB – Room 530*  
**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

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**1. Order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, by Kelly-Lynn Lewis (Leduc County) as Chair, with committee members Ray Scobie (Leduc County), Carey Benson (Calmar), Rick Hart (Warburg) and Erin Williams (East) present.

Committee members Johnathan Miller (Thorsby) and Ledise Mason (West) were absent.

**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 Hart – that the agenda for the Wednesday, September 20, 2023, FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

**4. Adoption of previous minutes**

Motion Representative Williams – that the minutes from the April 19, 2023, FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

**5. General business**

a) 2024 business plan

Dean advised committee members that administration is finalizing the 2024 FCSS business plan and that it will be presented to Council in December for final approval.

Dean reviewed the following initiatives being considered for 2024:

- Healthy relationships
- Supporting seniors

- An evaluation of the first-year pilot of the Seniors Transportation Program will be conducted and the program will be fully implemented in 2024.
- With support from partnering communities, we will work to raise funds to support seniors programs in the region.
- A manual and resource tool kit will be available to all seniors and their families to help successfully navigate through ageing.
- Strategic plan review
  - It has been five years since the Social Framework was approved. A review of the plan will be done to evaluate the success and highlight priorities for the next five years. We need to stay current in services and look for areas where there are gaps. Discussion ensued.
- Volunteer development
  - Develop an improved program to allow for and encourage volunteers to support Leduc County programs and events. Create a program for volunteer/safety training. FCSS and Parks & Rec would partner in developing the volunteer program. Discussion ensued.

Motion      Representative Benson – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. a) 2024 business plan as information.

Carried unanimously

b) Counselling subsidy review

Sara advised committee members that access to the counselling subsidy is being reviewed. Sara listed the counselling services available, counselling partnerships, and the current qualifications required to receive the subsidy. Sara advised the costs, number of sessions, and timeline of use of the counselling sessions.

In January and February 2023, feedback was collected from FCSS offices across the province to determine how counselling clinics were being reimbursed. Concerns with the current subsidy were:

- Required a co-pay amount for participants creates a barrier.
- On average, the clinics receive less than half their regular rate.

By using the current budget allotment in a different way, Leduc County can offer a limited number of free sessions for low-income residents, while increasing the reimbursement to the counselling clinics.

Sara reviewed the recommendations with the committee members.

Discussion ensued.

Motion      Representative Scobie – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. b) Counselling subsidy review as information.

Carried unanimously

c) Seniors assisted transportation subsidy pilot program review

Sara advised committee members that transportation can be a barrier for many rural seniors. Leduc County now provides a subsidy to eligible older adults in partnership with Drive Happiness.



Sara reviewed the eligibility requirements for the subsidy, number of rides (stats) and the cost of membership.

Sara advised that a small number of volunteers have been recruited as drivers, and that Drive Happiness continues to recruit volunteers through community events and media promotion.

Sara stated that the success of the pilot program will be determined by the number of riders, rides, volunteers, and feedback from participants.

Discussion ensued.

Motion       Representative Williams – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. c) Seniors assisted transportation subsidy pilot program review as information.

Carried unanimously

## **6. Reports**

a) FCSS Advisory Report – June 2023 to September 2023

Sara reviewed the FCSS Advisory Report with the committee members.

Discussion ensued.

Motion       Representative Hart – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 6. a) FCSS Advisory Report as information.

Carried unanimously

b) FRN Advisory Report – June 2023 to September 2023

Carol reviewed the FRN Advisory Report with the committee members.

Discussion ensued.

Motion       Representative Benson – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 6. b) FRN Advisory Report as information.

Carried unanimously



## 7. Information Items

a) Leduc County wellness tool kit

Sara advised that Kristin Gitzel (FCSS Community Support Services Coordinator) created the Wellness tool kit document that will be used in workshops. People can use the document with their selfcare journey.

b) Leduc County FCSS fall programs

Sara reviewed the upcoming fall programs with committee members.

c) Leduc County Opioid relates stats

Sara reviewed the Leduc County opioid stats advising that the data includes Calmar, Thorsby, and Warburg.

Discussion ensued.

d) Riseup Society Alberta ad

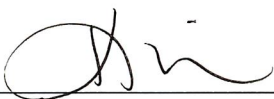
Dean advised that Riseup Society is looking for board members and asked committee members to please share with anyone that may be interested.

Motion            Representative Hart – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda items 7. a) through to 7. d) as information.

## 8. Adjournment

Motion            Representative Scobie – that the FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Carried unanimously



Chairperson



Director of Community Services

