



1) Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 4:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, by Kelly-Lynn Lewis (Leduc County) as Chair, with committee members Carey Benson (Calmar), Ray Scobie (Leduc County), Rick Hart (Warburg), Cory Gilbert (Thorsby) and Jolene Doig (East) present.

Absent from the meeting was committee member Ledise Mason (West).

Other attendees

- Dean Ohnysty, Director of Community Services
- Loretta Hannah, Supervisor, 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 February 19, 2025, regular FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

4) Adoption of previous minutes

Motion Representative Scobie– that the minutes from the November 20, 2024, FCSS Advisory Committee organizational meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

5) General business

a) 2025 Business Plan

Dean reviewed the 2025 Business Plan with committee members and asked that they turn to page three #4 Action Plan, noting the following highlights.

- An Early Childhood Resource Guide will be prepared and shared with families. This guide will inform, educate, and improve awareness of supports available to families in this region.
- Leduc County West Interagency meetings will be held with agencies and service providers that support Leduc County residents. The first meeting was very successful.

- In partnership with Leduc and District Food Bank, programs will be offered across Leduc County to support residents' knowledge and understanding of eating healthy on a limited budget. Six cooking programs will be offered across the County. Dates have been set, with hopes for at least one program to be run in each community. Funding for the program was provided through the Food Bank.
- Story boards will be developed to support residents in increasing knowledge and improving awareness of services and resources available. A story board will be created that supports seniors in learning and understanding the resources available and will also support the Aging Well in Leduc County Toolkit. A story board will be developed that increases resident awareness of living with FASD in Leduc County.

Dean commented that these are focus and priority areas for 2025.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Benson – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. a) 2025 Business Plan as information.

Carried unanimously

b) Early Childhood Resource Plan

Loretta reviewed the Early Childhood Development School Readiness Program report with committee members and provided the following information.

- The Social Framework action plan was updated in 2024, to identify key priorities for 2025 – 2029.
- Black Gold Regional School Division annually assesses the readiness of Leduc County children entering into the school system. In 2023, 46% of students between the ages of 4.5 and 6.5 years old in Leduc County experienced difficulty, while 18% experienced significant difficulty.
- Q4 of 2024, the Leduc County website was updated to include a resource directory for families with children 0-6 in the domains of Child Development, Parent Education, Childcare, and Childcare subsidy.
- In Q1 of 2025, a heart shaped keychain with a QR code on it was developed, linking families to the Early Childhood Resources page on the Leduc County website.
- Q2 2025, working in partnership, an Early Childhood Resource Fair will be held at the Thorsby Recreation Centre. The resource fair will include activities and resources to support development and include developmental screening.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Gilbert– that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. b) Early Childhood Resource Plan as information.

Carried unanimously

c) 2024 Christmas Elves program

Sara reviewed the Christmas Elves report with committee members and provided the following information.

- There are seven (five rural) Christmas Hamper programs that serve all municipalities within Leduc County.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of hamper requests in most communities.
- New Sarepta saw an increase of 6 hampers and 24 individuals from the previous year.

Sara reviewed the 2024 stats for each community.

Sara advised that programs that initiated new fundraising activities saw an increase in donations.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Doig – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. c) 2024 Christmas Elves program as information.

Carried unanimously

d) 2025 Seniors Grants

Sara reviewed the Seniors Grant Funding 2025 report with committee members and provided the following information.

- The Senior Grant funding for 2025 will be presented to Council next week.
- The objective of the grant program is to connect to the goals of FCSS provincial funding and the 2019 Social Framework.
- Through the 2024 grant program, Leduc County provided \$15K to support the success of 11 programs, projects, and events.
- During the 2025 grant submission period, FCSS received 11 proposed initiatives and \$39,962 in funding requests.

After administrative review, we are recommending seven grant requests for Council approval, totaling \$11,840. The remaining \$3,160 will be used to support local groups to provide senior-focused programming throughout the year.

Sara reviewed the 2025 Seniors Grant Summary with committee members.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Scobie – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. d) 2025 Seniors Grants as information.

Carried unanimously

e) Alberta Child Care Subsidy

Loretta provided the following information regarding the Alberta Child Care Subsidy.

- As of January 2024, the Government of Alberta has increased the Affordability Grant rates for full-time daycare and family day home spaces to reduce parent fees for eligible children to an average of \$15 per day.
- The monthly flat rate for full-time childcare is \$326 per child and the part-time rate is \$230 per child.
- This subsidy will be directed more towards help for low-income families.
- Additional costs (for families) for daycare are food, busing and any day trips.
- The subsidy is for government regulated daycares/dayhomes only and does not include any private care.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Hart – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. e) Alberta Child Care Subsidy as information.

Carried unanimously

6) Reports

a) FCSS Advisory Committee Report – November 2024 to February 2025

Sara reviewed the FCSS Advisory Committee Report with committee members.

Discussion ensued.

b) FRN Advisory Committee Report – November 2024 to February 2025

Loretta reviewed the FRN Advisory Committee Report with committee members.

Discussion ensued.

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

Carried unanimously

7) Information items

a) 2024 FRN Infographic

Loretta reviewed the 2024 FRN Infographic with committee members.

b) 2024 FCSS Infographic

Sara reviewed the 2024 FCSS Infographic with committee members.

c) 2024 FCSS Infographic – Seniors Assisted Transportation Subsidy

Sara reviewed the 2024 FCSS Infographic - Seniors Assisted Transportation Subsidy with committee members.

Discussion ensued.


Motion Representative Gilbert– that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 7. a) though to 7. c) as information.

Carried unanimously

8) Adjournment

Motion Representative Doig – that the FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Carried unanimously



Chairperson



Director of Community Services