



Family & Community Support Services Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Agenda

Community & Operations Centre, Nisku, AB – boardroom
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1. Order – 5:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Adoption of agenda

4. Adoption of previous minutes

- Wednesday, May 21, 2025

5. General business

a) FCSS Advisory Update		Dean Ohnysty
b) 2026 Business Planning	✓	Dean Ohnysty
c) Community Resource Updates	✓	Sara Russell
d) FASD Awareness Month	✓	Carol Tabone

6. Reports

a) FCSS Advisory Committee Report –May to September 2025	✓	Sara Russell
b) FRN Advisory Committee Report –May to September 2025	✓	Carol Tabone

7. Information items

N/A

8. Adjournment

✓ Attachment provided





1) Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, by Kelly-Lynn Lewis (Leduc County) as Chair, with committee members Jaime McKeag-Reber (Calmar), Ray Scobie (Leduc County), Cory Gilbert (Thorsby), Jolene Doig (East) and Ledise Mason (West) present.

Absent from the meeting was committee member Rick Hart (Warburg).

Other attendees

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

2) Introductions

No introductions occurred.

3) Agenda adoption

Dean requested that Seniors' resource list be added to the agenda as item 7. c).

Motion Representative Scobie – that the agenda for the May 21, 2025, regular FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include Seniors' resource list as item 7. c).

Carried unanimously

4) Adoption of previous minutes

Motion Representative Gilbert – that the minutes from the February 19, 2025, FCSS Advisory Committee regular meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

5) General business

a) Multi-Municipal Agreement

Dean reviewed the Multi-Municipal Agreement (MMA) with committee members and noted the following highlights.

- The Annual Funding Allocations are on page seven of the MMA.
- There is a clause in the agreement regarding reduced or increased provincial funding dollars.

- Roles and responsibilities of each party was added to the agreement under Schedule “B”.
- The new MMA clarifies how we report to the partners of the MMA.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Doig – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. a) Multi Municipal Agreement as information.

Carried unanimously

b) Building the Sector

Sara reviewed the Building the Sector report with committee members and provided the following information.

Leduc West Interagency

- At the beginning of this year, 40+ professionals from across the region were invited to opt-in to participate in a new interagency group.
- The first meeting was held on February 28th in Warburg with 28 in attendance. Rural issues and trends, successes and challenges and the benefits of having a rural focused gathering were discussed at the meeting.
- The second meeting was held on May 14th with 18 service providers attending. In this meeting priorities for collaboration and ways to improve connection and collaboration were discussed. The piloting of a mapping project showing the boundaries, supports and resources available in our region was also discussed.
- The next meeting will be held in October.

Leduc Regional Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Team

- A network of service providers has been created, who directly or indirectly work with seniors experiencing elder abuse, and have established a forum for case consultation.
- Leduc County FCSS assisted Riseup Society to apply for a grant from the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council.
- The funding available would allow for a part-time case worker position at Rise-up. The case worker would provide support to seniors experiencing elder abuse and help walk seniors through the process.
- This is a two-year project and is meant to help people in safer ways.
- Leduc Regional Housing Foundation has committed shelter space to temporarily accommodate seniors who need it as they receive support from the support worker.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Mason – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. b) Building the Sector as information.

Carried unanimously

c) Early Childhood Development School Readiness Program

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

- There is a five-year focus to support Black Gold to increase numbers for school readiness.
- The FCSS social framework report has some stats with respect to Leduc County children school readiness.

Carol reviewed some of the activities to support the initiative with the committee, noting the following highlights.

- 2024 – Q4 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 subsidy.
- 2025 – Q1 a heart shaped keychain was developed with a QR code linking families to Early Childhood Resources on the Leduc County website Children 0 – 18. A communication plan and distribution plan was also developed.
- 2025 – Q2 working in partnership, three Early Childhood Resource fairs were held throughout the County including, Thorsby (over 100 participants) , Warburg (14 people attended – *Black Gold teaches preschool*) and Rolly View (to be held on June 2nd).
- 2025 – Q2 and Q3 in partnership with Alberta Health Services, offer four online school readiness sessions for parents and caregivers.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Scobie – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 5. c) Early Childhood Development School Readiness Program as information.

Carried unanimously

6) Reports

a) FCSS Advisory Committee Report – February to May 2025

Sara reviewed the FCSS Advisory Committee Report with committee members.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative McKeag-Reber – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 6. a) FCSS Advisory Committee Report – February to May 2025 as information.

Carried unanimously

b) FRN Advisory Committee Report – February to May 2025

Carol reviewed the FRN Advisory Committee Report with committee members.

Discussion ensued.

Motion Representative Gilbert – that the FCSS Advisory Committee receives agenda item 6. b) FRN Advisory Committee Report – February to May 2025 as information.

Carried unanimously

7) Information items

a) Riseup Society Alberta – Leduc County presentation

Dean reviewed the Riseup Society Alberta PowerPoint presentation with committee members noting the following points.

- On May 6th Leduc County council received a presentation from Riseup Society Alberta.
- Leduc County supports Riseup Society through its grants program.
- Riseup Society provides import services for our region.

Discussion ensued.

b) Early Childhood Resource Fair poster

Carol shared information about the Early Childhood Resource Fair with committee members and asked them to let her know if they would like the poster to be displayed somewhere in their community.

Discussion ensued.

c) Senior resource list

Sara reviewed the Senior resource list with committee members and highlighted the following points.

- The Aging Well Toolkit was the first component to the Aging Well in Leduc County toolkits.
- The Senior resource list is a stand-alone resource and also a companion tool to the workbook in the Aging Well Toolkit.
- There is a condensed Senior resource list on the Leduc County website.
- Seniors like printed/paper versions; it also has a bigger font so it's easier for them to read.
- The Senior resource list will be distributed throughout the communities and at events.

Discussion ensued.

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

Carried unanimously

8) Adjournment

Motion Representative Doig – that the FCSS Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Carried unanimously

Chairperson

Director of Community Services

REPORT NAME

2026 Business Planning

RECOMMENDATION

That the FCSS Advisory Committee receive the 2026 business planning report as information.

BACKGROUND

Administration is preparing and finalizing the 2026 FCSS business plan for submission to the executive leadership and Council. Once the executive leadership approves, it is presented to Council in December for final approval.

The following are initiatives being considered for 2026:

Business Plan**1. Child and Youth Development**

- Year two of the school readiness initiative will be implemented to support families. This will include the continuation of two family awareness events hosted for families with children 0-6.
- A partnership is being developed with Alberta Health Services to support early years learning for parents of infants and toddlers. Four workshops will be held in 2026.

2. Regional Leadership

- Regional meetings will be held with elected officials in Warburg, Thorsby and Calmar. Two meetings will be held in 2026 to share information about programs and services and to discuss priorities and needs within the community.
- We will continue to host Interagency West meetings, which were initiated in 2025.

3. Enhance youth knowledge and skills

- Six workshops and learning events will be hosted to improve youth skill and knowledge development. Examples include job readiness, financial literacy and youth leadership volunteering.

4. Social Isolation

- An awareness campaign will be launched to support residents that are dealing with social isolation.
- Four programs and two events will be held to enhance social connections for all ages.
- Social isolation will be identified as a key focus area for 2026 seniors funding grants.

REPORT NAME

Community Resource Updates

RECOMMENDATION

That the FCSS Advisory Committee receive the Community Resource Updates report as information.

BACKGROUND**Changes to Social Housing Accommodation Regulation:**

- Rent will be based on 30% of total household income, whether that income comes from employment, AISH, Income Support, or other sources.
- This replaces previous formulas that excluded certain types of income.
- All sources of income will be treated the same, including:
 - Employment income.
 - AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped).
 - Income Support (formerly Alberta Works).
 - RRSP or RRIF withdrawals (for seniors).
 - Most taxable income listed on line 15000 of tax return.
- Some income sources that were previously not counted will now be included, such as:
 - \$735/month from AISH.
 - \$1,200/year for households with dependent children.
- Minimum rent, which is the amount of rent charged to households that report zero income, will now be \$182 per month (based on government guidelines).
- This change is part of a province-wide effort to create a fair, consistent rent system.

Changes to AISH and introduction of ADAP

The new Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) is considered non-exempt income in Alberta for AISH recipients. Any amount received from CDB will lead to a corresponding reduction in AISH payments. AISH recipients are expected to apply for the CDB regardless of eligibility. They must update AISH on their application status or risk suspension of benefits.

Starting in July 2026, the new Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) is expected to become operational and disability income assistance applicants will be assessed for both the new program and AISH. Eligible applicants will be placed in the program best suited to their unique situation. If deemed eligible for AISH or ADAP, applicants will receive the difference in benefits retroactively to the date that their complete application was submitted.

The monthly benefit for ADAP is expected to be \$200 less than what is currently provided through AISH.

Income Support

- Ready to work: New Thrive program is for those ready to work who have stable housing.
- Expected to work: Those who need a little extra support. Acknowledging barriers and addressing issues before supporting to find employment.
- Clients are receiving letters, phone calls and emails. They are provided with dedicated phone numbers to ensure they are keeping in contact.

Tools for School

United Way is no longer funding the Tools for School program due to lack of donations. As a designated collection/distribution centre for this program for many years, the Leduc & District Food Bank has decided to continue to offer this program with the support of local community and business donations. The year there were over 500 children registered for this program.

CHALLENGES**Barriers**

- Limited income
- Lack of doctors, cost of reports
- Transportation
- Technology
- Comprehension, support

Possible outcomes

- Rent increases of up to \$200 per month
- AISH reduction of \$200 per month due to CDB
- ADAP reduction of another \$200 per month
- Increased costs of time and money for doctor's reports
- Potential suspensions or losses of regular income
- Increased stress, impacts to housing security

REPORT NAME

FASD Awareness Month

RECOMMENDATION

That the FCSS Advisory Committee receive the FASD Awareness Month report as information.

BACKGROUND

Alberta's FASD Strategy focuses on developing and delivering community-based solutions, making it easier for people affected by FASD to get the help they need, at any point during their life. FASD-related initiatives across Alberta continue to help build awareness, promote prevention, increase access to FASD assessment and diagnosis clinics, conduct new research and provide supports and services for people with FASD, their families and caregivers.

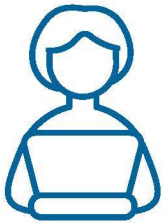
Our Leduc County Bridges program aligns with goals and outcomes identified in the provincial FASD strategic plan focussing on reducing the social determinents of health for individuals diagnosed and individuals requiring diagnostic assessment.

The attached infographic demonstrates the supports Leduc Countys Bridges program has completed to increase positive outcomes and create awareness and prevention.



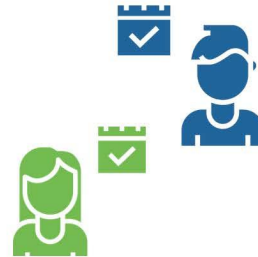
Leduc County Bridges FASD Program

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) statistics, April 2024 – March 2025



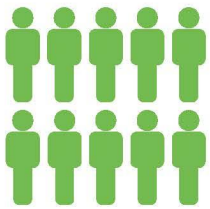
STAFFING

Full-time FASD Support Specialists: **2**
Part-time Administrative Support: **.2**



CLIENTS SERVED

Female: **24**
Male: **18**



IN-HOME & COMMUNITY VISITS

Visits completed: **1,197**



INFORMATION REFERRALS

Supported: **600**



FASD COMMUNITY AWARENESS SESSIONS

Facilitated: **5**



GROUP SESSIONS

Facilitated: **18**



PARTICIPANTS RESIDE IN

Leduc: 26	Devon: 2
Leduc County: 8	Other: 3
Beaumont: 3	

FCSS

Subsidies & Financial Supports

Housekeeping Subsidy

- ▶ The subsidy program has 48 households registered so far in 2025 and used 951 hours of housekeeping.

Counselling Subsidy

- ▶ So far in 2025, 40 individuals, two families and three couples have been registered for this subsidy program, and 135 sessions have been provided.

Seniors Assisted Transportation Subsidy

- ▶ So far in 2025, 34 roundtrip rides were provided by 14 volunteers.

Community Awareness

We were invited to attend Meet-the-Teacher events in New Sarepta, Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg. We provided resource bags to families.

We provided resource bags to attendees at both Leduc County Days events at Sunnybrook and New Sarepta.

We ordered sidewalk signs and had posters created to promote World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). We advertised the availability of resources in Calmar, New Sarepta, Thorsby and Warburg.

Client Supports Current Issues and Trends

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ▶ Caregiver supports | ▶ Subsidized housing applications |
| ▶ Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) applications | ▶ Future planning |
| ▶ Mental health/grief counselling | ▶ Navigating government services |

In-Person Events

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| ▶ Seniors Week | New Sarepta | 70 participants |
| ▶ Home Alone: Parent & Child | Warburg | 14 participants |
| ▶ Service Canada drop-in | Calmar | 7 participants |
| ▶ Open House | New Sarepta | 50 participants |

Virtual Events

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ▶ D-Stress | 15 participants |
| ▶ Two-Spirit & Indigiqueer pasts, presents and futures | 14 participants |
| ▶ Your Rights as a Tenant | 11 participants |

Success Stories

- ▶ A client was couch surfing and looking for housing in Edmonton for over six months. They were running into barriers finding a rental due to lack of rental history, low credit score, limited income, and a large pet. The client did the work to find a building and landlord that would accept them, and the FCSS worker was able to support the client in getting their damage deposit and movers covered by AISH and setting up utilities.

- ▶ A resident reached out looking for information on casual employment and she was referred to Selections Career Support Services. This was our first time connecting with this new agency.
- ▶ Supported a senior with multiple requests. At initial contact, the senior was very skeptical about what services FCSS provides after having a less positive experience years ago. After four separate phone call discussions regarding navigating his monthly seniors benefits, discussing specific programs that could provide funds for his rural snow clearing and lawn care needs, locating several potential options for local companies that could assist him with these services, and supporting him through the proper steps to acquire a blue sign address/physical blue sign for his property (which he has never had), he advised he was “very thankful for FCSS and the valuable work that we do for rural folks and making people feel comfortable to ask questions”.
- ▶ We received feedback from an adult child of a senior who just had her initial intake for subsidized housekeeping services: “I went to see my mom on Friday and the housekeeping agency had been out the day before. She was so happy! The difference that I could see in her was amazing. I haven’t seen her like that for years. She was thrilled that someone would be coming to help her and she really liked the worker. I really appreciate your assistance with this as you have made a big difference in her life.”

Upcoming Sessions

Home Alone: Parent & Child

Do you think your child is ready to start staying home alone occasionally for short periods of time? Does your child have some experience being home alone? No matter what your situation, this workshop will enhance your child’s skill and confidence to stay home alone while giving you the knowledge about what your child needs in order to be ready.

This workshop focuses on home alone skills and readiness, as well as emergencies, back up plans and scenario practices.

Children must be a minimum of nine years old to attend. A parent or caregiver must be in attendance.

Date: Tuesday, September 23

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Calmar program centre

Living with schizophrenia: A personal perspective

There are many myths and misconceptions about schizophrenia, which lead to unnecessary fear and stigma around this illness. The Schizophrenia Society of Alberta’s Community Education Presentation educates our community on the disorder, its symptoms, impact of psychosis, and what those living with it experience. Community Education Presentations are unique in that the program presenters are living with schizophrenia themselves. They share their personal experiences in order to combat the stigma around this illness, with the goal of creating a more inclusive and educated society.

Date: Thursday, October 2

Time: 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Location: Online

Making friends in the adult world

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the unique challenges of making and keeping close friends as an adult? You're not alone! Many of us find that nurturing friendships becomes more complex after childhood. Join us as we discuss the key elements needed to forge long-lasting and meaningful friendships in the adult world.

This session will be facilitated by Kim Silverthorn, BA, RPC, MPCC, CT from Tacit Knowledge.

Date: Tuesday, October 14

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Online

Leading beyond bias: practical inclusive leadership skills

Organizational culture isn't built by HR policies - it's created through daily leadership choices. In this session we will learn to recognize unconscious bias in team dynamics and hidden patterns that impact team performance.

Whether you lead a team of employees, volunteers, or folks in your community, participants will come away with practical strategies that lead to stronger relationships, better mental health, and higher performing teams.

This session is presented by Next Gen Men Equity Leaders.

Date: Friday, October 17

Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online

Creating Change: Domestic violence awareness in the workplace

In recognition of Family Violence Prevention Month, join us as we explore the intersections of domestic violence within the workplace. This free event is open to all including community members, professionals, and those in the business community. The event will include the following sessions:

Domestic Violence and Your Workplace, presented by Alberta Council of Women's Shelters.

Gain a better understanding of the realities of domestic violence, how the COVID pandemic changed the landscape for survivors and those who support them, how domestic violence relates to work and the workplace, and how they can be part of the solution.

Leading Change, presented by Camrose Women's Shelter.

Become a leader in your community against gender-based violence by learning about healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships, how to recognize warning signs, and how to help those effected

Date: Friday, November 7

Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rig Hand Distillery

Ending the financial feud

Does it seem like you and your loved one are constantly arguing about money? Do you find it hard to get on the same page with your finances without it turning into a fight? Your loved one isn't trying to make your financial life difficult; they likely just think about money differently.

This workshop will provide the education you need to support yourself and your loved one to understand each other's relationship with money and create an achievable plan to reach your collective financial goals.

This workshop will show you how to:

- Identify your money histories- how money was handled in your households growing up.
- Identify your relationship to money.
- Set joint goals that meet each of your values and needs.
- Implement a household money management plan.

This workshop is presented by Credit Counselling Society.

Date: Friday, November 21

Time: 12 to 1 p.m.

Location: Online

Family Support Services – Regional Contracts

Provincial Family Resource Networks are currently awaiting announcements to determine the future of FRNs past the current six-year contracts. Initially, members from Prevention, Early Intervention & Youth and Preventive Family Services Division with the Ministry of Children and Family Services Government of Alberta, informed program representatives that they would make announcements in June 2025, however, to date we have not received an update.

With the increase in needs and complexities with families, we are seeing several challenges and gaps in service, and the hope is within new announcements and funding agreements, we will see additional supports to support the challenges.

These challenges include:

- Lack of supports for families with children with disabilities. Approximately 70% of children on our caseloads either have a diagnosis or are waiting for assessment.
- Financial barriers to meet the needs of their families.
- Housing availability with low income.
- Children and youth school absenteeism.
- Families on waitlists.

To reduce some of these barriers for families, we encourage them to come to our drop-in programs and receive support navigating systems and receive referrals etc.

Leduc County's FRN facility locations and hours are as follows:

Devon: 5 Jasper Court in the Old Robina Baker School

- Open Mondays from 2 to 8 p.m.
- Low attendance - eight participants

Thorsby: 4711 48 Avenue in the modular building across from Arctic Spas Recreation Complex

- Open Tuesdays from 2 to 8 p.m.
- Open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 164 participants

Upcoming/Current programs

- ▶ Infant Massage – offered at Thorsby Stay and Play
- ▶ Ribbon Skirt sewing – Thorsby drop in
- ▶ Food Rescue – Thorsby drop in
- ▶ Early Childhood Fair/National Childs Day – New Sarepta
- ▶ Child Development activities – Warburg parent and tot program
- ▶ Circle of Security – online
- ▶ Youth Life Skills in partnership with Devon FCSS
- ▶ TRC in partnership – Chamber luncheon
- ▶ Walk for Wenjack– Warburg Cultural Centre
- ▶ Halloween Safety – Connect 39 and Thorsby drop in
- ▶ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (see Poster)

- ▶ Cooking in the County – New Sarepta, Calmar, Warburg
- ▶ TRC and orange shirt activities – Calmar and Thorsby library

Program Success

- ▶ Early Childhood Resource Fairs – Seventeen family members attended in Rolly View in June to participate in child development activities and receive resources.
- ▶ Alberta Health School Readiness webinars – attendance was low with six participants for this three session series. We will offer this in 2026 and partner with some of our local playgroups.
- ▶ Emotional regulation – Kimochi program in partnership with Moms and Tots, had 33 children and caregivers attend in Thorsby.
- ▶ Cultural Camp – in partnership with Creating Hope Society, City of Leduc FRN, Sturgeon County FRN and YWCA Edmonton FRN, we hosted 27 family members at Rundles Mission who were attending a four-night culture camp filled with activities and ceremonies.
- ▶ Community Awareness Events – over 600 family members attended various awareness opportunities throughout the County.

Home Visitation 0-18

In-home support continues to be very active with families requiring individual supports and services based on unique needs related to parenting, child development, and family wellness. We are currently serving 47 families and have provided 197 in-home and community visits this reporting period in the following areas:

- ▶ Beaumont – 18
- ▶ Devon – 9
- ▶ Leduc County – 21

Referrals received from:

- ▶ Self-referrals
- ▶ Black Gold School Division
- ▶ Alberta Health Services

Primary service needs at intake:

- ▶ Inquiries for parenting support.
- ▶ Support to strengthen family relationships.

Bridges FASD

Bridges Program continues to support 36 Individuals and has provided 215 in-home and community visits to support individuals living a stable life.

Upcoming Programs

- ▶ FASD Client Conference
- ▶ Plants as medicine and tea making
- ▶ Learning to make soap
- ▶ Making jam
- ▶ Christmas crafts and activities