

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, January 09, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Gloricel Cavago	Public at Large
Aaron Hoyte	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

None

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 6:54 pm.

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

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BUSINESS

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Member Thomas put her name forward for the Chair position, which was accepted, and was acclaimed for the next term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Member Thomas put Member Brown's name forward for the Vice Chair position, which was accepted, and was acclaimed for the next term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes of November 14th, 2024

Councillor Dennis moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from November 14th, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2025 Approved FCSS Budget

Manager Hick reviewed some of the changes made to the 2025 budget:

Revenues:

- Other Revenue increased from \$500 to \$1500
- Local Govt & Conditional Grants is new this year (transfer from 851 Lacombe County Cost Share Agreement \$5000)
-

Expenses:

- Salaries decreased by 8.93% from \$113,331 to \$103,212
- Overtime increased from \$3500 to \$9000
- Hourly wages decreased by 2.78% from \$209,033 to 203,221
- Employer contributions decreased by 16.15% from \$93,266 to \$78, 208
- Printing decreased from \$5000 to \$4000
- Contracted general services increased from \$11,950 to \$16,000 to provide more support towards seniors programming through contracted services.
- Program expenses increased from \$44,300 to \$47,350 to provide a budget line for seniors' week to be in line with youth week having its own budget line. Senior's programming was also increased. As well as other programming to provide FCSS with an opportunity to expand programming as needed while also addressing the needs within the Social Needs Assessment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- In past years the Municipal contribution to FCSS has been:

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	Budgeted	Actual
- 2022	210,172	208,693
- 2021	254,028	186,334
- 2022	244,346	242,008
- 2023	233,980	251,773
- 2024	269,468	in progress

Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award Nomination Form Criteria

Manager Hick presented the background for the establishment of this new award.

The criteria has been determined and a nomination form prepared for our 2025 Volunteer Recognition. The recipient of the award will be chosen through a selection process facilitated by an FCSS Board Representative, a family friend, and a past award recipient. This year the family friend will be Tyson Sather who spearheaded this award and Gary's son Trent Kroetsch will sit as the past recipient. We are looking for a board representative to assist with the selection process.

The "Family" have the finances to cover the cost of the volunteer recognition plaque for two more years and the Volunteer Programmer has the budget to cover future years costs.

The FCSS Board recommends this selection process for the Volun-Told Award as it is a similar process used for the Gloria House Mentor Award and Outstanding Group Awards which have an FCSS Board Member Representative, and Member Burrell assist with the selection process for this award.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
 - Submitted application for Lacombe County FCSS for additional project funding for 2025 in support of seniors programming. This is in addition to the support we receive for Seniors Walking Club, seniors gentle exercise and More Than a Movie and we were notified that we will be receiving the requested amount of \$4000.
 - Golden Circle is providing supports to seniors of Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:30 pm in our office. We hope their hours and support increase with the hiring of a new support person.
 - Youth programs have started back up and we have seen an increase in participants.
 - Attended the LREMP Tabletop Exercise on November 27th which is in preparation for the live exercise in 2025. The FCSS Manager is responsible for managing the Reception Centre at either the Community Centre or Abbey Centre.

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Volunteer Programmer Report

- Volunteer Programmer filled volunteer shifts for several special events during the months of November and December.
- Snow Angel Program has 19 residents paired with a Snow Angel and 7 more on the waiting list. The decline in community volunteers has led to the launch of a NEW Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program. Participants receive a sign to display in their front window or door, indicating their involvement in the program. We are asking residents to be involved by looking for the sign and shoveling their front walks and driveway to "Spread the Kindness".
- Participated in the LREMP Tabletop Exercise on November 27th.
- Volunteer Christmas Open House held on December 2nd had a total of 63 in attendance.
- Business Christmas Challenge gathered an amazing 268lbs of food and \$720 for the Blackfalds Food Bank.
- The Volunteer Programmer attended the Stars of Alberta Awards on December 6th where our volunteer Robyn Devine received the prestigious award in the Breaking Barriers, fighting gender discrimination category.

2024 Volunteer Recap:

- 1789 volunteer hours were recorded in 2024
- 305 volunteer positions were held by Blackfalds residents in support of Town/FCSS initiatives and events.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Jim Hurley Free Skate – Sunday's
- Snow Angel Program – winter months

Community Engagement Programmer Report

- There are 945 Facebook followers and 132 on Instagram.
- Thank you letters sent to all Winter Wear Fundraiser donors.
- The November 6th Interagency luncheon had 27 individuals in attendance representing 19 organizations.
- Received, screened and approved or rejected Christmas Bureau applications.
 - A total of 432 people were approved through the program which consisted of 254 children, 122 women and 56 men. A total of 126 hampers were picked up of which 103 went to families and 23 to singles or seniors.

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Youth Programmer

- BYC started back up and had a total of 53 participants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 10 registrants.
- Youth Cooking Club had 9 registrants

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

for _____
- Original Signed=
Dena Thomas, Chair

- Original Signed_
Sue Penner, Admin Staff