

AGM Motions 2006

01/AGM/06:MSC: (Jan Chapman) **The BCFFPA Board of Directors develop a Foster Parents Bill of Rights and legislate those rights. Carried**

This has been done

02/AGM/06: MSC: **The BCFFPA Board of Directors consider the (13) thirteen resolutions submitted by the Greater Kamloops Local of the BCFFPA as circulated. Carried**

- i. We the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate for two weeks of vacation pay per year in addition to the 3 days per month of relief currently received.

As foster parents are private contractors and not employees, this would be outside of MCFD responsibility. It was decided not to go forward with this motion

- ii. We the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate for cost of living adjustment yearly for the maintenance portion of pay for children in care.

As MCFD has recently increased the maintenance payment over the next 25 months, this is put off for the time being

- iii. We the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate for service payment increase yearly to be tied to years of service and cost of living.

As MCFD has recently increased the service payment over the next 25 months, this is put off for the time being

- iv. We the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate for Foster Parents to be exempt from Provincial Sales Tax for all purchases.

A letter was sent to the Hon Carol Taylor who denied our request

- v. We the BCFFPA resolve to recruit and hire a Professional negotiator to work full time for the BCFFPA. This will enable time for the negotiator to become familiar and expert with Ministry and BCFFPA policies and financial systems and head a negotiation team for the BCFFPA for the next five years.

Due to financial considerations, this is not possible.

- vi. We the BCFFPA resolve to establish that the Ministry of Children and Families recognize and conduct themselves with the belief that children need competent, kind, empowering, long term parenting in all cases; that MCFD and BCFFPA work together to establish and maintain foster parenting for children.

The BCFFPA consistently supports and advocates fostering and adoption home

- vii. We the BCFFPA resolve that children should only be placed in Group Home type settings, short term (under 3 months) and as a last resort only.

The BCFFPA will write a letter to MCFD with this request

- viii. We the BCFFPA resolve that MCFD change the current bed specific contracts to be in effect for the duration of the contract without modification or adjustment unless the intention is never to fill the bed again or both parties agree to dissolve or decrease the number of beds within the contract.

Bed specific contracts are used to ensure that the beds remain open for use of MCFD whether there is a child placed or not. MCFD would not keep the bed open for an indeterminate amount of time due to fiscal restraint.

- ix. We the BCFFPA resolve that MCFD use child specific contracts for periods of 3 years or less and bed specific contracts for periods of more than three years.

This request has been made to MCFD with no resolution

- x. We the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate with MCFD for a pension plan for foster parents with a vestment of 5 years.

There are ongoing discussions regarding this motion.

- xi. We the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate with MCFD for a more inclusive medical and dental plan for foster families.

This issue is being worked on with MCFD.

- xii. We the BCFFPA resolve to develop a response system using a positive approach to establish a “response action” for those instances when contractual obligations are not being met. Example: what can we expect to have happen when Protocol investigations are running longer than the stated 30 days?

This is discussed with MCFD HQ on a case by case basis if unable to resolve it at the regional level.

- xiii. We the BCFFPA resolve to develop formalized advocacy for foster parents who want advocacy during a Protocol.

There are no funds currently available to develop this.

03/AGM/06: MSC: (Heather Bayes) **Provincial Board of the BCFFPA grant funds as based on budgetary considerations. Carried**

Discussion: In view of the limited funding the provincial organization has it was questioned how the provincial will fund this.

It was clarified that it will be based on budget considerations so is simply a request

04/AGM/06: MSC: (Helen Hofer) **Move that BCFFPA lobby the ministry so that when children in care are placed on the adoption list, foster parents are allowed to actively seek adoptive parents in conjunction with the ministry for their children in care and that confidentiality issues are reexamined in regards to letting people know that the children are up for adoption. This will speed the process and move children towards permanency. Carried**

Discussion: It is clarified that the process for getting children adopted is too long partially due to workers not always being available to pursue the issue. Children continue to languish in care for far too long. The process should move forward even when workers are away sick or on vacation for long periods of time.

Due to privacy issues MCFD has rejected this motion.

05/AGM/06:MSC: (Lorraine Daley) **BCFFPA take the necessary steps to ensure that no smoking be allowed in foster homes or in vehicles that transport foster children. Carried**

There are currently standards which address this issue. This was worked on jointly by BCFFPA, FAFP, and MCFD

06/AGM/06: MSD: (Kula Zervos) **The Board of Directors revisit the election procedures to have the mail in ballots returned to a 3rd part to be counted (i.e. Accountant). Defeated**

Discussion: This would require a revision to the Bylaws

07/AGM/06: MSC: (Wendy Sutherland) **BCFFPA approach MCFD to institute a confidential annual review for foster parents to evaluate MCFD staff on a yearly basis. Carried**

Discussion: Although it was clarified that most social workers are meeting the needs of their clients, it was suggested that an annual review may be the first step into resolving the issue. This needs to be developed provincially. One individual felt that any member of the public was able to take an issue forward regarding a social worker, however the members felt that they are not the general public and deserve the same input into evaluations that all social workers are allowed in evaluation of foster parents.

This has been developed

08/AGM/06: MSC: (Marcy Perron) **BCFFPA explore ways and means so that all newborns will have a plan to return to parents or adoption by the age of one year. Carried**

This is currently the intent of MCFD, however there may be reasons why this is not possible in some instances.

09/AGM/06: MSC: (Sheila Davis) **Whereas Social Workers in BC are asked to prepare an evaluation on the quality of service in foster homes, we ask that the BCFFPA assure that the foster parents receive a copy of this placement feedback and are allowed to respond to it. Carried**

This issue has been addressed, however no solution has been reached

10/AGM/06: MSC: (Patricia Youson) **Move that the Financial Statements be part of the AGM package and handed out to members the day before the AGM. Carried**

These are given out on the Friday for those that attend that day.

11/AGM/06: MSD: (Bonnie Thompson) **I move that BCFFPA explore ways and means to have mixed level contracts be allowed for all foster parents in BC to allow for consistency and fairness to all. Defeated**

Discussion: The reason for this motion is that the levels system has strayed from the original intent.

12/AGM/06: MSC: (Jan Chapman) **The BCFFPA Board of Directors begin discussions with MCFD regarding full participation in the redevelopment of the Foster Parent Education Program. Carried**

Discussion: Annette Harding supported the motion and reiterated that the Federation can expect to be a full participant in the redevelopment program, as per the working group model set out at the Caregiver Support Framework partnership table.

This has been implemented however it is currently on hold.

13/AGM/06: MSC: (Sheila Davis) **BCFFPA prepare an information form for foster parents to give feedback to the child's social worker on the quality of service received. Carried**

This is available on the BCFFPA web site

14/AGM/06: MSC: (Jan Chapman) **The BCFFPA Board of Directors begin discussion with MCFD with regard to the reinstatement of the Support Worker and Advocacy Program and reinstatement of the full funding required to deliver the services provincially.**

This is being discussed, however there is currently no funding to accomplish this