

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, March 13, 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
Aaron Hoyte	Public at Large

ATTENDING

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

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Gloricel Cavago	Public at Large
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WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Member Johnson 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

BUSINESS

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Approval of Minutes of February 13th, 2025

Member Burrell moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from February 13th, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Leaders of Tomorrow Adjudicator

- The current process for the Leaders of Tomorrow Adjudicator is that the Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and one FCSS Board Representative will review and adjudicate the Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Award.
- This year there are 61 nominations in the Leaders of Tomorrow recognition program:
 - Elementary – 9 nominees
 - Junior High – 25 nominees
 - High School – 27 nominees

The FCSS Board appointed Member Johnson to the Youth Awards Adjudication Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
 - Completed working on the FCSS Annual Report.
 - Working with the Volunteer Programmer on **Emergency Social Services (ESS)** training. A two-day course is scheduled for June 10th and 11th for staff in charge of Emergency Management to include ESS Facilities Management Training and ESS Coordinator Training. The course would include ESS Basics, Registration and Reception Centre Program and My Alberta Emergency Registration System. A one-day live Reception Event will be scheduled for the fall for staff and volunteers. Once dates have been finalized Volunteer Programmer will start recruiting volunteers to be added to a list we can call in case a reception center is activated.
 - Only one FCSS grant application has been received and it is hoped that more will be submitted before the March 21st, 2025, deadline.
 - Have been requested to attend a meeting with the Blackfalds Hub regarding youth services.

Volunteer Programmer Report

- Volunteer Programmer continues planning for National Volunteer Week taking place on April 27 – May 3, 2025.
- Best of Blackfalds will take place April 17th and is an 18+ event and the evening includes local businesses supplying a variety of appetizers, live music, cash bar and beer tasting along with award presentations.

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- Youth Recognition Nights is an Oscar themed youth event and includes Red Carpet, appetizers, small performances for the IRJC school band, youth dancers and award presentations.
- Sponsorship/Grants: Volunteer Programmer has secured sponsorship from MEGlobal and has applied for the National Volunteer Week Grant. The Town of Blackfalds Economic Development Officer is helping to secure food vendors for the Best of Blackfalds event as well as door prizes to be used at both events.
- **Seniors Master Contact List:** Volunteer Programmer and FCSS Admin Assistant have been diligently working to update the contact listing, and we now have 200 addresses on file, and they aim to have this list finalized by mid-March. This significant increase in our contact list, coupled with the rise in inquiries regarding **Seniors Housing and Home Care Services**, indicates a growing demand in our community. Considering this, hopefully the board can discuss how to encourage and collaborate with Lacombe Foundation to distribute a new survey. This survey could help assess the current and near-future interest in seniors housing, as well as identify how many individuals are currently in need of housing. This information will be invaluable for securing grant funding and addressing the housing needs in Blackfalds.
- **Seniors Information Sessions:** FCSS put the call out to businesses and skilled individuals to partner with us. This could include music therapy, art classes, dance workshops, or other specialty skills. We've received positive feedback and have made connections to be able to offer unique programming and activities. March senior sessions will include:
 - **(Mar 18) Transitioning to Your Next Chapter: Selling your Home** 'Expert Tips from a Real Estate Agent: Learn essential strategies for successfully selling your home, including pricing, staging, and marketing your property to attract buyers. As well as insights from the Lacombe Foundation: Discover resources and support available to help you during this transition, ensuring a smooth and stress-free experience.'
 - **(Mar 25) Wills & Estate Planning Session** 'Expert Tips from Servus Credit Union: Learn essential strategies for creating a Will, understanding Estate Planning, and ensuring your wishes are honored.'
- Additional springs sessions will include Medication & Supplements: What Every Senior Needs to Know, Tenant Rights & Responsibilities, Empowering Seniors: A Session on Elder Abuse Awareness

Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:

- Feb 17: Winterfest (6 Volunteers, totaling 26.5 volunteer hours)
- Jim Hurley Free Skate on Sunday's (3 volunteers, rotating Sunday's)
- Snow Angel Program
 - 28 volunteers are supporting 18 locations
 - 5 residents participating in the Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program
 - 4 on the waitlist

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ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. **Monthly FCSS Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In February, the newsletter was emailed to 291 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 46%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Snow Angel Program – Winter months
 - b. Family Easter Event – April 12

Community Engagement Programmer Report

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- o Received approval to be a host site in 2025
- o Received approval for 2005 Efile numbers and passwords
- o Received approval for 2025 COIN number
- o A dedicated computer, printer, and office space has been set up
- o Attended CVITP Webinars
 - What's new this filling season – CVITP
 - What's new this filling season – Tax return
 - Interview Setup and Specific Situations
- o Hosted Volunteer meeting
- o Loaded new 2024 Tax software
- o Updated intake processes
- o Updated drop off & pick up system tracking

More than a Movie:

- o We hosted a delightful gathering for our community seniors, where we enjoyed watching the movie *Legends of the Fall*. At the end of the film, we introduced a fun activity where guests "critiqued" the movie by giving it a thumbs up, two thumbs up, or a thumbs down. It was wonderful to see everyone engaging in lively conversations as they shared their thoughts and decided on their ratings. The variety of responses added to the excitement of the discussion. This activity fostered meaningful connections, encouraged seniors to reflect on their personal experiences, and celebrated the unique voices of each guest!

18 guests attended

- 17 from the Town of Blackfalds
- 0 City of Lacombe
- 1 County of Lacombe

50+ Walking Club:

- o This program remains very popular!
- o Average number of 29 walkers per Tuesday.
 - o 71% of the Walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - o 12% are from the City of Lacombe

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- 17% are from the County of Lacombe

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 987 followers at the close of January

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 162 followers at the close of January

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **2 applications were screened:**
 - 1 adult, two children approved
 - **1 application disqualified** -The resident did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Outer duties:

- 1 Support application was screened and approved, for the 2025 Back to School program, Winter Coat program and 2025 Christmas Bureau Program.
- Continue to Explore the fridge magnet/ emergency responder fridge magnet initiative
- The Camp Curious Champion application is ready to go in March
- Connected with the Abbey Centre to have a celebration PIZZA PARTY for staff to collect the most food for the TOB Christmas/Reindeer Games Food drive.

Youth Programmer

- BYC had a total of 73 participants.
- Inspiring Virtues had 7 registrants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 15 registrants.
- Youth Cooking Club had 6 registrants.

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

- Arranged for new TOB employees to receive Pink Shirts for Pink Shirt Day. A local business was able to produce these shirts.
- All TOB staff who wore pink shirts were entered into a draw for a gift card to BP by uploading their photo onto Motivosity.
- Collaborated with Trish Pfeifer, the social worker at Iron Ridge Secondary, to incentivize students to wear pink shirts by offering them free hot chocolate during their flex period. This was made possible through the generosity of Starbucks Blackfalds, while FCSS provided whipped cream and sprinkles. I also had the opportunity to meet with their student leadership team, which allowed me to establish further connections with older youth in our community!

Child Safe Canada: Internet Safety

- Obtained Internet Safety facilitation training

Continuing Initiatives

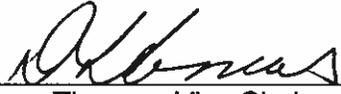
- Facilitating the Spring Easter Event
- Organizing Youth Week in May
- Creating Life Literacy Camp programs for July and August

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Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for February

- 239 email sends with an open rate of 74% and 52 are mailed for a total of 291.

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:50 p.m.



Dena Thomas, Vice Chair



Sue Penner, Admin Staff