



**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**  
**Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board**  
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.  
**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Sheila Giffin	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Cliff Soper	County of Lacombe Resident

**ATTENDING**

Rick Kreklewich	Town of Blackfalds Director of Community Services
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

N/A

**REGRETS**

Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Annette Bugutsky	Public at Large

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Giffin welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:00 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**

**Approval of Minutes from February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Member Soper moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**New Award – Volun-Told Award**

Cara Kroetsch is our FCSS Volunteer Programmer and on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, her husband Gary passed away quite unexpectedly. Cara and Gary had a large friend group who like to refer to themselves as the “Family”. Last fall Manager Bornn was approached by a couple of Family members who asked if they could establish a new award to be presented this year along with the other awards at the Best of Blackfalds event. Their group is prepared to cover the cost to set up this award.

The intent of this award is:

**Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award**

**Honours an individual who selflessly answers the call to volunteer without seeking recognition or anything in return. This award is dedicated to someone who is consistently reliable and hardworking, even when asked to volunteer without the option of saying “no”.**

Gary assisted with many Town related events for years as well as a Snow Angel Program and often mentioned there should be a Volun-Told Award. The Volun-Told Award will be presented to Gary’s sons Taylor and Trent on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Best of Blackfalds Volunteer event.

Criteria details will be worked on this summer for next year’s recipient.

**2024 FCSS Grant Requests – Grant Funding Allocation**

FCSS received four grant requests and information was included in the agenda package on past year’s funding allocations. Requests were as follows:

- Iron Ridge Elementary: \$8,750.00 to equal .1 FTE and \$34,000 to add .4 to equal at full time position. These positions support families in crisis.
- St. Gregory: \$3,500 to support the Rainbows Program which is grief and loss program for youth and their families.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters: \$15,500 which is a program that provides mentoring relationships.

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- Beyond Food Community Hub: \$27,711.25 to address three pillars of need. Seniors Cooking Together, Bridging Diversity and Collective Kitchen Program.

The Board asked Director Kreklewich to investigate any funding that Beyond Food Community Hub is currently receiving from the Town and bring this information to the May meeting.

### **FCSS Managers Update**

- Our new FCSS Manager is Sawyer Hick who will start on May 6th, 2024. Sawyer lives in Blackfalds and comes to us from Alberta Health Services in Red Deer. Sawyer has experience working as an Addictions Counsellor, Foster Care Support Worker and Child and Youth Care Counsellor and has an extensive educational background including a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Youth Care and a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Clinical Study of Addiction. She is currently working on attaining her Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology
- Director Kreklewich handed out the latest copy of the Social Needs Assessment from Moorhouse Consulting. Board members are asked to proof this latest copy and bring any changes to the May meeting. Please note this is a confidential document.

### **Volunteer Programmer Report**

The Drop-in 50+ Walking Club had 67 people attend during the month of March.

It's More Than Just a Movie (monthly event) – the March event showcased 'Moneyball' and had 24 participants.

Board members were reminded that National Volunteer Week is April 16-22, 2024, with the Best of Blackfalds 18+ event taking place on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Members were asked if there were any members attending that we had not heard from. Planning for Youth Recognition Night on May 2<sup>nd</sup> continues.

### **Community Engagement Programmer Report**

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program started on March 1st and has been extremely successful so far with approximately 48 tax related appointments made and with clients returning to pick up their information this is actually 96 visitors!

The Free Family Easter Event was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 2:00 pm at the Community Centre with 213 people in attendance.

FCSS Facebook Page had 695 followers at the close of March.

### **Youth Programmer**

BYC continues to see an increase in participants. Continuing programs are Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety, Youth cooking Club, Mission Impossible.

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Vice Chair Giffin adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:56 p.m.



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Sheila Giffin, Vice Chair



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Sue Penner, Admin Staff