

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**  
**Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board**  
Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.  
**MINUTES**

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**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
Gloricel Cayago	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large

**ATTENDING**

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

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

**REGRETS**

Aaron Hoyte	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 7:00 pm.

Councillor Dennis moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approve the agenda with the addition of Item 4.11 Seniors Housing.

**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 of April 10th, 2025**

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **FCSS Board Terms of Reference Review**

- Council approved the FCSS Terms of Reference at their May 20<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting.

### **FCSS 20205 Grant Requests**

- Council approved FCSS Grant funding to organizations at their May 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting based on the FCSS Board recommendations:
  - o The amount of \$5,775 to Iron Ridge Elementary Campus
  - o The amount of \$9,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters
  - o The amount of \$9,000 to BGC of Wolf Creek Blackfalds

### **Combining Volunteer Appreciation Events**

- Historically the Best of Blackfalds Event and Youth Recognition Night have taken place on separate nights to honor the unique contributions that each demographic of volunteers bring to our community. This year both events had a combined cost of \$12,500 supported by generous contributions of \$3,000 from MEGLocal and \$1,200 from a Volunteer AB Grant. These big events occurring within two weeks of one another put a lot of pressure on staff.
- Next year, FCSS is proposing combining both events into a single, large gathering which will streamline costs while continuing to celebrate our dedicated volunteers.
- The Board is in support of combining these events on a trial basis for a year. The only concern is that the event may be too long.

### **West Central Spring Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup> Verbal Update**

- Member Brown attended and updated the Board with the following comments:
  - o It was a good event that provided the opportunity to learn about what is going on in other communities. Attendees played Information Bingo as a way to meet other FCSS representatives. They also had a tour of the Lacombe FCSS Office which included seeing where volunteers were preparing a community meal for 300-400 people, a very popular event.

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### **FCSS Managers Verbal Update**

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
  - Looking at the FCSS agendas for the September and October meetings in 2024 they did not include any major items so it is proposed that the September and October 2025 meetings will be cancelled unless something comes up that requires a meeting. Members requested that the information reports be sent out at the end of each month to keep the Board informed.
  - Our regular programs will break through the summer, except for the Life Literacy Program that will run during July and August.
  - Manager Hick is part of a Service Level Inventory Review which is done to ensure our services are aligned with community needs and that there is not any duplication of services.
  - Manager Hick and the Volunteer Programmer participated in ESS Reception Centre training this week.
  - The Planet Youth proposal is being presented to Council for direction. This is a very expensive program: \$56,000 USD for the first year and \$58,000 for each subsequent year and the Town would be locked in for 5 years.

### **Volunteer Programmer Report**

- Transitioned to regular event season so assigned volunteer shifts for the Blackfalds Bike Rodeo and Blackfalds Days.
- Volunteer Recognition – the final report for the National Volunteer Work Grant with Volunteer Alberta has been successfully completed. Additionally, an extensive event report, including recommendations for 2026 has been finalized.
- Volunteer Programmers reached out to award recipients regarding nominating them for the Stars of Alberta Awards, deadline to submit is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Participated in ESS training for June 20<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. During the summer the recruitment process will start to find Reception Centre volunteers who have expressed interest in being on the call list.

### **Seniors Information Session:**

- May 6<sup>th</sup> Tenant Rights & Responsibilities – the Community Legal Clinic were able to help attendees gain a clearer understanding of their rights as a tenant, including lease agreements. **Attendees 11**
- **May 7, 14, & 21 Eat Well, Live Well: Nutritional Sessions** – Alberta Health Services offered 3 weekly sessions where participants worked with a dietitian to explore easy and effective strategies for boosting their health, energy and well-being all while making delicious food. **Attendees 12**

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

- CVITP (3 volunteers totaling 35 hours)
- Clean Up Blackfalds (156 volunteers totaling approximately 14 hours)
- Youth Week (3 volunteers totaling 8 hours)

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**ONGOING INITIATIVES:**

1. **Monthly FCSS Volunteer Newsletter**
  - a. In February, the newsletter was emailed to 292 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 54%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
  - a. Youth Bike Rodeo on May 26th
  - b. Blackfalds Days – June 12-15

**Community Engagement Programmer Report**

**Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**

- Completed end-of-session summary for CRA and the VRACVIPT coordinator summary.
- Applied for funding for next year.

**More than a Movie:**

- A lively bunch of community members had a blast watching "Twisters".  
**20 guests attended**
  - 15 from the Town of Blackfalds
  - 5 City of Lacombe
  - 0 County of Lacombe

**50+ Walking Club:**

- This program remains very popular!
- Average number of 20 walkers per Tuesday.
  - 69% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
  - 6% are from the City of Lacombe
  - 25% are from the County of Lacombe

**Seniors Week:**

- MLA Jennifer Johnson attended Seniors Club Open House.
- Promoted Seniors Week using social media.

**Outer duties:**

- Participated in the Community Animator Network Engagement Survey and Intergenerational Workplace Training.
- Worked with Cosmos Bottle Depot to be the "charity" of the month for May.
- Supported Blackfalds Youth Recognition night.

**Youth Programmer**

- BYC had a total of 60 participants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 11 registrants.
- Child Sage Canada Internet Safety had 4 registrants.
- 5024 Skateboarding has 9 registrants.

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**Continuing Initiatives**

- Positive Ticketing Program
- Youth Interagency Meetings
- Blackfalds Days Youth Night Out on June 13 carnival themed
- Creating Life Literacy Camp programs for July and August
- Surveying community members for feedback regarding BYC program in the fall
- Working on fall youth programs

**Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for May**

- 254 emails sent with an open rate of 65% and 56 were mailed for a total of 310.

**Seniors Housing**

Chair Thomas recently met with people from the Lacombe Foundation regarding seniors housing needs in Blackfalds. In 2019 a housing survey was conducted but the results from the survey were for an Expression of Interest based on a 55+ housing project and not specifically seniors' low-income housing. The Town of Blackfalds has committed a parcel of land for the project which is still available.

At this recent meeting Member Thomas was advised that the starting point for a low-income housing project is to complete a Housing Needs Assessment. The information gathered from this survey is then entered into a government portal which will show any funding that is available.

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends that Council asks Administration to being the process for the Seniors Housing Needs Assessment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 8:01 p.m.



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Dena Thomas, Chair



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Cara Kroetsch, Admin Staff