



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, April 10, 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
Gloricel Cavago	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	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

Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large

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.

Member Parsons 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 of March 13th, 2025

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Board Terms of Reference Review

- The Board reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Family & Community Support Services Board and had discussion on the following:
 - o Purpose/Mandate:
 - Members discussed the relevance of the FCSS mandate and would like to continue the discussion at the next meeting.
 - o Membership:
 - Member Dennis questioned that the document states a maximum of seven (7) members, and we have 8 members so does this need to be changed?
 - Clarification on Lacombe County members as it states a maximum of three (3) Lacombe County residents, and we do not currently have a representative.
 - o Meetings:
 - The addition of a minimum of six (6) meetings per year excluding July and August.
 - o Member At Large Appointments
 - 6.1 states Annually in September, those Members at Large Terms are set to expire, and it should state October.

FCSS 20205 Grant Requests

- Members discussed each of the 5 grant submissions.
 - o **Mind Body Bliss, Collective Therapies \$10,000** to run cultural awareness and sensitivity workshops.
 - Unable to accept this application as these programs do not fall under the FCSS mandate.
 - o **Iron Ridge Junior Campus \$10,000** for two presentations by presenters that have had impactful life experiences.
 - The board feels there are local speakers that could provide impactful presentations at a more reasonable cost.
 - o **Iron Ridge Elementary Campus \$8,000** – to facilitate the Connection Club.
 - The board feels that this program aligns well with the FCSS mandate.

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- **Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District \$16,325** in support of their program.
 - **BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds \$15,000** in support of their program.

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family and Community Support Services Board recommend to Council that grant funding in the amount of \$5,775 be allocated to Iron Ridge Elementary Campus, the amount of \$9,000 be allocated to Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District and \$9,000 be allocated to BGC of Wolf Creek Blackfalds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- **Manager Hick reported on the following:**
 - Updated on HUB meeting - this is where organizations bring forth client files that present as at risk and organizations have exhausted all their resources and require additional support to meet the needs of the family. HUB works collaboratively to come up with appropriate solutions/referrals.
 - Completed Child Care Need Assessment Survey for the municipality and will be attending a focus group.
 - Met with BGC to discuss youth programs and to ensure no duplications of services.
 - Will be attending monthly CRESS meetings (Central Region Emergency Social Services).
 - Will be attending a round table meeting with stakeholders to discuss the Alberta Governments plan to establish Assisted Living Alberta (ALA) – provincial agency responsible for continuing care, home care and community supports. The purpose of this round table is to discuss how ALA will meet the needs within our communities.

Volunteer Programmer Report

- National Volunteer Week taking place on April 27 – May 3, 2025.
- Best of Blackfalds will take place April 17th and is an 18+ event.
- Youth Recognition Night will take place on May 2nd.
- National Volunteer Week & Youth Coloring Contest April 27th – May 7th.
- Snow Angel Program ended with 28 snow angels (including individuals and family members) paired with one of the 18 residents – there were 5 residents on the waiting list.
- New initiative “Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program” – this initiative aims to enhance community support and interactions among residents. There were 5 residents who participated in this program and who received a sign to display in their front window or door, indicating they are approved for this program and required assistance shoveling their sidewalks.
- **Seniors Information Sessions:**
 - **March 18 Transitioning to your Next Chapter - Selling your Home** session had 7 attendees
 - **March 25 Wills & Estate Planning** - session had 17 attendees

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

- Jim Hurley Free Skate on Sunday's (3 volunteers, rotating Sunday's)

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. Monthly FCSS Volunteer Newsletter

- a. In February, the newsletter was emailed to 292 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 48%

2. Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- a. Family Easter Event – April 12
- b. Blackfalds Days – June 12-15

Community Engagement Programmer Report

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Up and running with 3 dedicated volunteers who prepare the tax returns on behalf of the FCSS Tax CVITP Program.

More than a Movie:

- We hosted a delightful gathering for our community seniors, where we enjoyed watching the movie, *Morning Glory*.

20 guests attended

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

50+ Walking Club:

- This program remains very popular!
- Average number of 32 walkers per Tuesday.
 - 59% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 18% are from the City of Lacombe
 - 22% are from the County of Lacombe

Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program:

- Three applications were screened with 4 adults and 3 children approved.

Interagency Meeting:

- 25 people attended with 19 organizations represented.

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 1017 followers at the close of January

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 162 followers at the close of January

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Outer duties:

- The Camp Curious Champion program is up and running – we have had 2 families apply for assistance, with 4 Blackfalds children thus far.
- Connected with people at Dow Canada requesting financial assistance with the Back to School Program for our community. It sounds very positive; we have a few tasks to complete, but they seemed impressed and supportive of the request we presented.
- Started securing activities for the 2025 Seniors Week!
- Participated in the webinar Creating Community Connections hosted by the Rural Mental Health Network.

Youth Programmer

- BYC had a total of 82 participants.
- Inspiring Virtues had 15 registrants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 13 registrants.
- Youth Cooking Club had 10 registrants.

Continuing Initiatives

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

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for February

- 255 email sends with an open rate of 57% and 54 are mailed for a total of 309.

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 8:40 p.m.



Dena Thomas, Chair



Sue Penner, Admin Staff

