Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Plan

Strategic Priorities
1. Ensuring Service Excellence
2. Enhancing Our Community Profile
3. Financing and Promoting Shared Services
4. Promoting Organizational Cohesion & Cultural Renewal
5. Strengthening Partnerships with Aboriginal Communities
6. Reaffirming the Renewal of Agency Infrastructure

Board of Directors

President: Rogers, Joe
Vice-President: Walk, Leah
Secretary: Schmidt, Joanne
Treasurer: Barker, Bonnie

Directors:
Belfisette, Cathy
Cameron, Heather
Long, Jason
Stopper, John
Vanderlee, Darlene
We are Children’s Aid Society Nipissing & Parry Sound

**Kinship**

Kinship services is an alternative to foster care and occurs when the CAS determines the children can no longer remain in their home. These children are placed in a “kin setting” with extended family or with individuals known to them.

Kinship service is a temporary plan put into place to allow parents to attempt to overcome their challenges. If returning to the parents is not possible, legal custody of the child by the kin caregiver is a permanent option that may be pursued for children.

To be eligible, a kin provider can be a relative or a community member that has a meaningful and beneficial relationship to the child. The individual(s) complete background checks and a worker is assigned to assess to ensure specific safety criteria are met. Kin Service families are eligible to receive temporary care allowance through Ontario Works, and the Child Tax benefit and they are supported by the Society.

Currently the Society has 51 children placed in 27 Kinship Service Homes with many assessments underway. Of these, more than 90% of the care providers are relatives of the children.

**Adoption**

One day, three cats, supportive families, a great house in a great community in the city we love, secure jobs and a future of what ifs. We were ready and decided that adopting through the Children’s Aid Society best fit our values. Twice we visited the Adoption Resource Exchange (A.R.E.) in that busy room of shoes and pictures, we narrowly escaped interest in several children. So did others. Our journey was a roller coaster ride as we experienced the ups of possibilities and the downs of not being selected. How quickly the mind creates a forever story! But to our surprise, several months after this A.R.E., our worker Mary called. Our conversation with Susan of the Nipissing and Parry Sound CAS was memorable, and her team felt we were a good fit for “little guy” D. Would we like to learn more? We would, we did, we proceeded, we were approved and on a blue sky day we drove to meet him in the home of his living foster family. The following months were more fulfiling by another drive north to meet and bring home his brother, “P” one year later. Our home is now louder, full of laughter and books, clurries, happy feet and two very grateful mommies.

**Customary Care**

The underlying principle of Customary Care is that the care and safety of children is a collective responsibility that extends beyond the immediate and extended family to the First Nations community as a whole. We recognize the inherent right and the benefits of Customary Care for First Nations children, their families and communities and consider this option to be a temporary option for children wherever possible.

We recognize the central role of the First Nations community in all matters related to children and families. Supporting and promoting a positive cultural identity is paramount.

We know that when children live with caregivers in their First Nation communities, they develop and maintain strong linkages to their extended family systems, their community and their culture.

We share in the belief that a child is a sacred gift from the Creator.

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**Youth In Care**

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

The Youth Advisory Committee was created to provide opportunity for interested youth who are currently in care or formerly in care to have a voice by advocating, advising in policy development, and putting forth recommendations for Management and the Board of Directors of the agency, public officials, Ministries, and other consultants. The 4 main pillars of advocacy focus on:

1. Emotional Support
2. Educational Support
3. Community Support
4. Policy Changes

The committee largely focuses on the culture, support and outcomes for children and for the youth “in care” or those close to ageing out.

Mentorship is a primary focus of the YAC and developing a formal mentorship program is well on its way and will result in youth being able to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of older youth in order to navigate their futures with increased awareness, confidence and security.

We are so very proud of the leadership demonstrated by our youth everyday as they strive to improve the lives of children and youth in care.

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23 ADOPTIONS COMPLETED
93 Adoption Disclosure REQUESTS

We have an URGENT need for

eight families receiving adoption subsidies

531 Telephone Responses by Emergency After Hours Service

35 Kinship Service Families
(Out of care, Monthly average)

Foster Families willing to CARE FOR TEENS

parnipcas.org