

**TOWN OF OKOTOKS
UNADOPTED MINUTES
FOR THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025
IN THE OKOTOKS MUNICIPAL CENTRE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Dan Proctor, Chair
PRESENT Councillor Heemeryck
Brandon Bailey
Heather Brown
Peter Burrell
Jasmine Song
Smriti Thiruchitrambalam

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Angela Barber
ABSENT Chase Giroux

STAFF PRESENT Community & Social Development Team Leader Sian Anderson
Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun
Community & Social Development Administrator Nikki Hamilton
Community & Social Development Administrator Bethany Pizani

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Proctor called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and provided a traditional land acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: By P. Burrell that the agenda for the January 15, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

None

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Parenting Through Connection - Transform your Parenting

Megan Lachance, Parenting Coach, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$23,000.00.

Transform your Parenting is a 12-week program that combines education with coaching and support to help parents with key concepts such as attachment, values, boundaries, emotional intelligence, nervous system regulation, mindset, playful parenting, anger and aggression, and communication skills. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding will be used to support staffing costs to provide this program at no cost to participants.

Heather Brown arrived 5:38pm

Smriti Thiruchitrambalam arrived at 5:41pm

4.2 Rowan House Society - Preventative Education Program

Haleigh Williams, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Linette Soldan, Rowan House Society Executive Director, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$18,000.00.

The Preventative Education Program is an evidence-based approach designed to provide education and awareness regarding domestic violence and abuse helping the participants recognize the signs of an unhealthy relationship and empower them to make choices that lead to lives free from violence and abuse for themselves, or those they care about. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

4.3 Solace Grief Support Society - Group Counselling

Deb Gardiner, Vice President, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$2,520.00

Solace Grief Support Society Group counselling provide a safe place to develop the strategies and skills to cope with participants' grief. Counsellors guide participants, teaching them coping skills that support resilience. Sessions are drop-in and open to all members of the community. FCSS funding will be used support staffing and program expenses.

4.4 Wellspring Alberta - Comprehensive Cancer Support

Gina Chavez, Strategic Partnerships Director, and Stephanie Durante, Foundation and Government Relations Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$20,000.00.

Wellspring Alberta offers free programs, support services, and resources that address the emotional, social, and practical needs of individuals living with any type of cancer. People diagnosed with cancer, caregivers, and children across Alberta can access programs and services online, in-person and by phone. FCSS funding will support program expenses.

4.5 Wild Rose Community Connections - DadConnexx

Keeley McLeod, Program Coordinator, presented the organization's 2025 funding request of \$27,248.00.

The DadConnexx Program builds capacity for Dads and other positive, influential males in a child's life, by providing education on parenting and connecting families to meaningful community resources. Monthly events bring male caregivers and their children together to build relationships, memories and parenting skills, and outreach is provided for individualized supports to promote positive parenting. In addition, social events that include the whole family to further strengthen relationships and support networks, and learning opportunities are provided. FCSS funding will be used to support staffing and program expenses.

5. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: By J. Song that the meeting go into Closed Session as the matters to be discussed during this portion of the meeting are within one of the exceptions to disclosure in Division 2 of Part I of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act.* at 7:01.

Carried Unanimously

5.1 Funding Discussion (*FOIP s.23(1) and 24(1)(g)*)

In Attendance

Committee members Dan Proctor, Councillor Heemeryck, Brandon Bailey, Heather Brown, Peter Burrell, Jasmine Song, Smriti Thiruchitrambalam
Community & Social Development Team Leader Sian Anderson
Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun
Community & Social Development Administrator Nikki Hamilton
Community & Social Development Administrator Bethany Pizani

MOTION: By H. Brown that the meeting come out of Closed Session at 9:08 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

6. MOTION(S) ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

6.1 Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - The Connections Program

MOTION: By S. Thiruchitrambalam that Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - The Connections Program be funded \$20,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.2 Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - Family School Liaison Program

MOTION: By H. Brown that Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools - Family School Liaison Program be funded \$40,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.3 Dusty Boots Ranch - Equine-Assisted Learning & Nature Program

MOTION: By J. Song that Dusty Boots Ranch - Equine-Assisted Learning & Nature Program not be funded.

Carried Unanimously

6.4 Eunoia Equine Connection - Equine-Assisted Learning and Wellness Program

MOTION: By B. Bailey that Eunoia Equine Connection - Equine-Assisted Learning and Wellness Program not be funded.

Carried Unanimously

6.5 Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services

MOTION: By P. Burrell that Calgary Catholic Immigration Society - Foothills Community Immigrant Services be funded \$1,650.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.6 Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program

MOTION: By Councillor Heemeryck that Foothills Country Hospice Society - Volunteer Services Program be funded \$19,700.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.7 Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program

MOTION: By S. Thiruchitrambalam that Foothills School Division - Family School Liaison Counsellor Program be funded \$50,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.8 Inclusion Foothills - Family Support Program

MOTION: By H. Brown that Inclusion Foothills - Family Support Program be funded \$18,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.9 Junior Achievement Southern Alberta Foothills Region - JA Programming for Okotoks Youth

MOTION: By J. Song that Junior Achievement Southern Alberta Foothills Region - JA Programming for Okotoks Youth be funded \$5,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.10 Okotoks & District Seniors Club - Program Facilitator

MOTION: By B. Bailey that Okotoks & District Seniors Club - Program Facilitator be funded \$10,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.11 Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation and Container Fund

MOTION: By P. Burrell that Okotoks Meals on Wheels Society - Volunteer Appreciation and Container Fund be funded \$4,600.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.12 Parenting Through Connection - Transform Your Parenting

MOTION: By Councillor Heemeryck that Parenting Through Connection - Transform Your Parenting not be funded.

Carried Unanimously

6.13 Rowan House Society - Preventative Education Program

MOTION: By S. Thiruchitrambalam that Rowan House Society - Preventative Education Program be funded \$18,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.14 Solace Grief Support Society - Group Counselling

MOTION: By H. Brown that Solace Grief Support Society - Group Counselling be funded \$2,500.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.15 Wellspring Alberta - Comprehensive Cancer Support

MOTION: By J. Song that Wellspring Alberta - Comprehensive Cancer Support be funded \$5,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

6.16 Wild Rose Community Connections - DadConnexx

MOTION: By B. Bailey that Wild Rose Community Connections - DadConnexx be funded \$20,000.00.

Carried Unanimously

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Family and Community Support Services Committee is March 5, 2025.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By P. Burrell that the January 15, 2025 Family and Community Support Services Committee meeting adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

Carried Unanimously