



Income Assistance Administrators Regional Quarter Meeting

September 19, 2019

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

10 Glen Road, Crossmount, Saskatoon, SK

Chair: Shelley Thomas-Prokop, SFNFCI Program Director

Co-Chair: Jocelyn Kakakaway, SFNFCI Program Consultant

Present:

ISC Representatives:

- Joanne Harper, ISC—Prince Albert
- Stacey Venna, ISC—Fort Qu'Appelle
- Della Chicoose, ISC - SBC
- Alan Leader, ISC—Prince Albert

IA Workers and Admins:

- Elsie Keshane- Keeseekoosie
- Charlene Bear- Little Pine
- Elaine Moosomin - BATC
- Vera Wasacase - Kahkewistahaw
- Charlene Lumberjack- Kinistin
- Kylie Bobb – Kahkewistahaw
- Sheila Knife - BATC
- Jeanette Moberly- Birch Narrows
- Ronald M. Bear-Muskoday
- Tracey Benjamin- Buffalo River
- Vanessa Dawatsare- English River
- Jennifer Gamble- Makwa Sahgaiehcan
- Nathan Merasty - PBCN
- Jacqueline Agecoutay – Zagime Anishinabek
- Patricia Joyea -White Bear
- Harriette Thomas - Pelican Lake
- Carma Jimmy- Thunderchild
- Godfrey Bear – Shoal Lake
- Shirley Badger- Little Red River
- Angela Shingoosie – One Arrow
- Brenda Sutherland – One Arrow
- Sylvia Bekattla – Buffalo River
- Adrienne Joseyanen – Hatchett Lake
- Kayla Constant – James Smith
- Mary Ramstead – Ochapowace
- Timothy Standingready – Oceanman
- Cheryl Vermette-Wahpeton
- Grace Keepness- Pasqua
- Judy Constant- James Smith
- Gloria Genaille –Keeseekoosie
- Billy Longjohn – Sturgeon Lake FN
- Lori Buffalo-Delaronde- Whitecap Dakota
- Rosalie Kailther- Hatchet Lake
- Beverly Dreaver – Big River First Nation
- Joan Catarat- Buffalo River
- Jessica McIntyre- English River
- Janelle Chief- Ministikwan Lake
- Stephanie Bouvier- Waterhen Lake
- Donna Mantee- Piapot
- Cynthia Cook- Lac La Ronge
- Barbara Paddy-Moyah - Thunderchild
- Lorraine Cameron- Beardsy's and Okemasis
- Patricia Daniels-Mistawasis Nehiyawak
- Cheyenne Matchup. One Arrow
- Alyssa Arcand- Muskeg Lake
- Mary ShaQulle – Wollaston
- Cheryl Whitehead – James Smith
- Edwina Kennedy – Pheasant Rump
- Candace Morningchild - MSFN

SFNFCI Staff and Elder: Shelley Thomas Prokop - Program Director, Jocelyn Kakakaway - Program Consultant, Melanie Sunchild- Program Assistant, Elder Ernestine Starr

Regrets: Jason Yew, ISC—Regina

9:00 am – Opening Prayer – Elder Ernestine Starr, Moosomin First Nation

Welcome and opening remarks

Review of June 20, 2019 Meeting Notes - **FINALIZED**

Review of Terms of Reference – **AMENDED *Please refer to attachment IAQM Terms of Reference**

- Change of meetings from 5 meetings to 6 meetings 2- 1 day meetings and 2- 2 day meetings

10:00am-10:15am – Refreshment Break

10:15am-10:45am – Ron Bear – SaskPower Working Group Updates and Questions

- Ron gave 2 Handouts for meeting packages. ** See attachments; SaskPower & FNIA Working Group Meeting Notes, Copy of email from Nadine Goldstone, SaskPower Indigenous Customer Care Program Manager*
- Commonality with huge cost of bills from SaskPower – First Nations are in deficit and it's getting worse as time goes by. First Nations need to resolve these issues of paying huge bills, overpayments and ridiculous amounts for hookup fees. (E.g. Little Pine ends up covering cost of bills for Band members and non-Band members.)
- Where are the cut off notices? First Nations always end up paying these bills. Where are they sent? To the band or the client? – Refer to local band procedures on incoming bills
- How do we create some tools to talk about paying the bills, overpayments and hookup fees?
 - SaskPower willing to come out and work with communities. It is the band/IA Responsibility to establish this with SaskPower.
 - Housing and appliances (e.g. furnaces are the older or cheap models) is it possible for ISC to increase Income Assistance funding dollars to help with these areas?
- Housing is root cause for the high cost in bills due to the poor quality of the windows, furnace and doors. FSO's working with funding agreements – not directly with First Nations for items like furnace and water heaters. There are Capital Environmental Officers that inspect the FN's houses – possibly have the band contact them.
- SaskPower to draft a set of documents to distribute and micro workshops to be presented in communities – this is the responsibility of the band department to establish this presentation with Sask Power
- Who is this SaskPower Working Group benefiting?
 - Open for those who express interest and want to attend these working groups.
- First Nations feel SaskPower should take the onus to approach the First Nation communities (especially in the North).
- No per-diems or mileage for Sask Power Working Group
 - this allows for discussion and action on first hand issues
 - policies at First Nation (themselves) and how bills are paid
 - Cleaner Energy Projects
 - Housing Issues – ISC – better quality energy efficient appliances (water heaters and furnaces) and housing budgets need to increase which mean ISC needs to attend all meetings
- SaskPower invited ISC to the September 9, 2019, no response was received and no ISC representative attended

Action: SFNFCI can send out an Invitation to SaskPower Indigenous Working Group Customer Care to attend an IA Quarter Meeting to address SaskPower issues for IA on reserve.

- It was mentioned to Section out the First Nations communities by Tribal Council and include Housing Coordinators in the SaskPower Working Groups. Having only IA Representatives attend is putting too much work on one representative when there should be other band representatives present like the housing manager.
- Working Groups for Tribal Councils should be made.
- First Nation Reps had previously attended a SaskPower meeting and were not included on the Meeting Notes/Minutes or attendance list.
 - o Topics of discussions based on Security Deposit and hookup fees for IA Clients. Nothing has been addressed and it seems these discussions are going in circles with SaskPower and FN Reps
- Difficulty establishing frequent communication and notices on updates from SaskPower such as new forms, processes can create delays causing increased payments or late fees.

10:45am – 12 noon – Shelley Thomas-Prokop -Youth Transition Resources presentation *Transition Resources available at <http://www.sfnfci.ca/pages/transition-planning.html>

- PowerPoint presentation by SFNFCI.
- Presentation completed on Transition Resources
- BINGO APP – IA group spent time working through the APP to find the answers for the BINGO cards. One table won their choice of prize between a Tote bag and Red Leather Notebook.
- Idea of alteration of the Youth APP to be customized to the IA program
- Youth APP presentation is free for communities and comes with a pizza party and tablet give away
- Reviewed the Money Management resource tool in main meeting package
- Scenario Activity – Participants are to use their Money Management Booklets. Scenario - requesting Participants to role play with the Money Management handout and complete the Money Management Assessment Guide.
- Tablet and Youth Transitions Resource Binder giveaway

12 noon – 1:00 – Lunch Break

1:00pm-1:30pm – IA DCI Changes & FSO's and Q&A

Joanne Harper, ISC – DCI Updates and Requirements

- Formal DCI notification is being received and it will be shared with each IA worker
- Decision was made to change the DCI – October 2- Q1 and Q2 to be submitted at the same time
- December 2018 – published reporting guide massive document- Instructions on how to use PDF fillable reporting template
- Correspondence for October 30/19- Q1 and Q2 are same format.

Policy

- Status Quo on policy
- File Closure form – please continue use of this form in your IA Program.
- Budget & Decision – pro-rate the client so their eligible. There should be a pro-rate calculation that is used. Refer to Manual

Questions for ISC:

1. Earned Income Calculation – *no changes, may change but uncertain, and everything being reviewed by ISC.*
2. Why province rates are higher than On-Reserve rates? *Basic needs manual, Diet, Phone \$30.00 (make sure there is a contract). Special needs phone – note from Doctor for basic phone and fees. Once they see FN's increase will they increase, ISC had started giving an increase 2 yrs. ago for cell phones.*
3. Advances? *It's left up to the community ISC has nothing to do with that.*
4. Advances are given for necessities/repairs – *ISC isn't responsible for these.*
5. Landlines? *Run it through your FSO*
6. Ask for extra funding from ISC?
Speak to FSO regarding funding. Would need to be specific requests. E.g. Beds. ISC suggests to budget it out but if you have extra expenditures and access future budgeted money. First Nation IA should be able to have a conversation with their FSO to request these funds or access funds, which may then have an emphasis on the IA funding received.
7. Communication - *\$30 phone allowance, allows for text messaging under some plans*
8. Service Canada/Revenue Agency came to SFNFCI and they would like to come out to communities and do a presentation.

ACTION: SFNFCI to invite Service Canada and Revenue Canada to present at next meeting.

1:30pm-2:15pm – **Challenges and Solutions group activity** – Groups to discuss challenges and provide solutions.

Challenges:	Solutions:
Clients not having IDs	<i>Letter of Registry should be honored since it utilized when crossing the border. Policy gives 60 days to obtain the proper ID needed</i>
Singles/Couples No telling the truth – E.g. 2 people apply along	<i>Mom with kids and Dad applies alone. If kid is ill, IA can support the Mother but not the Father because he's applied as single. E.g. Administrator is receiving complaints about who living where – IA Workers can only do their due diligence.</i>
Water not mainline & water delivered, can this be treated as an expense (\$50 a load) and looked as a Utility.	<i>Joanne ISC – the budget is there already. (This would be a band issue)</i>
CCTB Tax Assessment & access and is it mandatory to have this document in their file?	<i>This document is a requirement for their files.</i>
Number of Clients – Ratio?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Hire extra workers/admin.</i> 2. <i>Outside funding e.g. Tribal Councils.</i> 3. <i>18-24 Initiative program 6mth to 1 year contract.</i>

	<p>4. Pre-employment and work experience.</p> <p>5. Scheduled appointments.</p> <p>6. Mini intake.</p> <p>7. 2 client days and 3 admin days.</p>
Stress Management	<p>take “me” days</p> <p>Learn to Cope Workshops etc.</p>
Sask Energy	<p>Credited the band power bill instead of the IA program or client house. Have First Nation’s finance personnel credit the IA program when cheque/reimbursement is received.</p> <p>This is a band issue.</p>
SaskPower/SaskEnergy – Clients with bill owing	<p>Shared costs can be done with those clients living in the house, working person pays bill and IA will pay then they get a reimbursement.</p> <p>This is stated in the policy</p>
People not bringing in Bills	<p>Release Cheque after bills are brought in</p> <p>Create online band billing</p> <p>Create My SaskPower Account: no late fees</p>
Home Visits – people not home or answering door	<p>Make them mandatory and track/document visits. Leave a note on the door/take a pic of the door and send it to them.</p>
Policy the does not support the culture needs (Up North), funerals, sick family member – who do they speak with to advocate for the north?	<p>Have Chief and Council call ISC FSO’s to advocate on behalf of IA Client/Band.</p>

2:15pm-2:30pm – Refreshment Break

2:30pm-3:15pm – Challenges and Solutions group activity continued:

Not enough pay for IA Admins	Delivery Funding Agreement. There is a funding amount that is based on the clients to worker ratio. FSO’s are responsible to manage
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	<i>agreement between FN. They need to spend what they receive. \$57k per 170 clients. If there is a surplus the FSOs will tell the band to spend the money.</i>
Service Canada – Why can't they email or fax back – wait time, response delay.	<i>Wait until December meeting to ask them.</i>
No support from Leadership. As well as pressure from leadership to use funding dollars for non-eligible expense.	Educate them more.
Political Interference	Explain the policy and the costs current in policy. With decisions as workers, give chief and council policy manual, meet with chief n council to learn the boundaries they are breaking and following policy.
Prepping Youth/Young Adults – educate regarding policies.	Educate in High School, career Fair and bring people into community to complete presentations.
Budgeting, skill building with clients and workers.	Monthly budget workshops/classes and menu planning.

3:30pm-3:45pm – Rachel Melymick – Motivational Interviewing presentation

- PowerPoint Presentation ****Please refer to attachment. Motivational Interviewing (MI) IA***
 - Purpose and goal is a four tier processes – for success they've created skills - OARS, EPE and DARN CAT.
 - MI – have you been utilizing this and has it made an improvement? Yes, by understanding where the clients are coming from, move them along and off SA. Employment or Training, acquire skills to help themselves.
 - RACHEL- encouragement to make change.

3:45pm-4pm – Next Meeting date: December 10th and 11th 2019

- December 12th is a SaskPower meeting, Contact Ron Bear

Shelley Prokop- Thomas, Director of Programs - gave closing remarks, 57 individuals attended today.

If you are wanting to purchase a Transition Planning Binder speak with Melanie Sunchild, Programs Assistant.

An updated contact list for IA Workers will be posted to the www.sfnfci.ca webpage. The contact list is reviewed and updated each quarter meeting by the IA Workers in attendance.

3:50pm – closing prayer – Elder Ernestine Starr