

Executive Director's Report
Reporting Period: April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013
Annual General Meeting
June 17, 2013

Catholic Family Services provided professional counselling, in home support services, short and long term planning for children in need of protection and group programming to 1,595 individuals in the fiscal year of 2012-2013. We have experienced a significant decrease in Employee Assistance referrals which we anticipated with the loss of the contract with the Health Region. We separated counselling clients and those having received counselling that is program specific. Examples include the Family Violence Outreach and Children Exposed To Violence Programs. We have noted a slight decrease in numbers served in School Plus and Family Preservation Programs. Although we see a decrease in the Family Support Services Program, this is due to the separation of contract renewals which you will see in the statistical report on closure. We have however seen a significant increase in Transition Skills Training. The numbers of clients served in the Family Conferencing Program has remained very consistent. Our numbers in the area of group programming show a decrease. In the Children Exposed To Violence Program the number of therapeutic groups were higher and the educationally based groups were lower. This affects numbers because therapeutic groups must be run with limited participants, where as educational groups can have much larger attendance.

Our partnership with the Ministry of Social Services continues to support the provision of services to families through the following programs: Family Support Services, Transition Skills Training, Family Conferencing and Family Preservation. On December 17, 2012, the Honourable June Draude, Minister of Social Services announced additional resources to assist in the recruitment and retention of front line workers. These dollars are targeted for salary increases, benefits and relief for direct care staff. We value our long standing partnership with the Ministry and look forward to continued collaboration in support of the families in the Battlefords and area. I would like to note that we received an overall increase of 1% to the contracts we carry with both the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General.

The Ministry of Justice continues to assist in funding the Family Violence Outreach and Children Exposed To Violence Programs. Even with the above noted 1% increase we will maintain a deficit in the Ministry of Justice funded programs. The area most significantly underfunded is in salaries.

For two and a half years, we have attempted to provide service in the School Plus Program with only one full time counsellor. Efforts to meet the need under these circumstances, has not been possible. The availability of counselling has been limited and therapeutic groups have been eliminated all together. In January of 2013, we reintroduced a second full time counselling position, with funds from the Catholic community redirected for this purpose. The Catholic community includes the Diocese of Prince Albert, the Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation, local K of C councils, the CWL and parishes of the Diocese.

This need for increased services was identified last year based on overall community need and the availability of resources. We are pleased to have been able to increase services to the children in the School Plus Program.

In this reporting period we have made a conscious effort to strengthen the infrastructure of the agency. In this regard, we have added a part time Program Director, and have upgraded the Clinical Supervisors position to that of Clinical Director. These positions will allow us to build capacity within the agency and better enable succession planning. I believe these changes are essential to the long term viability of the agency.

Staffing changes for the year are as follows:

- a) Promotions
 - Bryce Young Program Director
 - Florence Mudzongo Clinical Director

- b) Resignations
 - Margo Young Brewster
 - Shari Wisner
 - Sabrina Studney
 - Jennifer Slezak
 - Ryan Sharp
 - Darryl Hnatiw
 - Jennifer Roy
 - Rhonda Selinger
 - Kristen Sorenson

- c) New Employees
 - Laura Hicks Family Preservation/Counselling
 - Renee Whyte (Returning) Family Conferencing
 - Theresa Howrie Family Support Services
 - Ann Reed Family Preservation
 - Tina Hugo School Plus

- d) Practicum Students
 - Lisa Chapman Faculty of Social Work
(University of Regina)

Staff years of service recognized in this reporting period include : Shari Wisner (5 years) and Gisele L'Heureux (15 years).

For the first time in twenty years I was able to attend the Family Service Canada Executive Leadership Summit. I want to extend my thanks to the Board for this opportunity.

As a participating member of Family Service Saskatchewan, we have made specific efforts to increase our membership. This year we have two new members, Envision Counselling and Support Centre (Weyburn) and Fresh Start (Swift Current). FSS has continued to support the Saskatchewan Network of Non Profit Organizations. An RFP is ready for distribution. The RFP includes hiring a group or individual for a period of 12-18 months. Their task would then be to create a business plan for the concept of a non profit network in our province. Strategic Planning is in progress and will be our main focus in the upcoming year.

Catholic Family Services maintains a number of partnerships with regard to both funding and service provision. We appreciate these relationships as they allow us to better meet the needs of the Families we serve and make more efficient use of community resources. On behalf of the agency, I extend thanks to the Ministries of Social Services and Justice, the Catholic community, BATC Community Development Corporation, Battlefords United Way, Mr. Brett Wilson and family, the businesses of the Battlefords and area, as well as, individual donors and the community at large.

I would like to acknowledge that our staff have come through a period of significant change. I appreciate your commitment to a professional and supportive work environment. I want to thank each of you for the work you do. In a caring and confidential manner, you touch the lives of many.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for your guidance. In my role as Executive Director, I know I can rely on you to provide strong and consistent support. In closing, I would like to note that as an agency, we have worked very hard to create stability for the services we provide. The support of the community to help us stay strong is vital.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Richard B.A., B.S.W., R.S.W. (SK)
Executive Director