



**Minutes of
Fostering Kids New Zealand Annual General Meeting 2015
Te Papa Museum, Wellington
Held on 22nd September 2016 4.40pm**

Present: As per signatory list at meeting

Apologies: Julian Darby, Na Pura, Rev. Va'aelua, Judy Deeming

Apologies accepted

Moved: Bruce Joyce	Seconded: Janice Purchase	Passed: Unanimously
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Minutes from Previous AGM held on 21 September 2015

These were handed to attendees and accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Judith Hall	Seconded: Billie Galloway	Passed: Unanimously
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Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

No matters arose from the previous minutes.

Adoption of Annual Report

Moved: Colin Hardgrave	Seconded: Dallas Pickering	Passed: Unanimously
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Finance/Audited Accounts

Moved: Diana Halsted	Seconded: Judith Hall	Passed: Unanimously
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Confirmation of Patrons

Confirmation of our current patron Sir David Carruthers.

Moved: Colin Hardgrave	Seconded: Graeme Swinney	Passed: Unanimously
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Appointment of Auditor

Re-appointment of our current auditors – Dent and Heath.

Moved: Colin Hardgrave	Seconded: Bruce Joyce	Passed: Unanimously
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1.	<p>The Southland Association requests that Fostering Kids NZ lobbies for changes to the existing support for Whanau Carers. Whanau Carers whose children have not come through the CYFS system are currently not entitled to the same financial and other PCSS (Permanent Caregiver Support Service) as others. There is an anomaly in the system leading to inequity that disadvantages these children. We request that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fostering Kids lobby The Ministry of Social Development to establish a pathway that enables Whanau Carers who have not come into CYF care to have the same support as those who have. 2. That Fostering Kids develops an information sheet that outlines the rights of “non-CYFs” Whanau carers and gives advice about the best way forward. <p>Rationale: Whanau Carers whose young people did not come through the CYFS system are not entitled to any financial support and other support PCSS. They can access the Unsupported Child Benefit through Winz but this is not always granted if birth parents object. (In some circumstances birth parents are claiming a benefit for a child that lives with their grandparents). Grandparents not receiving support can also access a School and Year Start Up payment through Winz at the beginning of each year mainly for school uniforms and school equipment and can also access an Extraordinary One Off Grant through Winz for special situations. They do not receive any assistance for clothing, counselling, respite care, doctor, orthodontist, out of school activities or holiday camps.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: The Board accepts this remit and recommends the membership support FKNZ to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. advocate for improved support pathways for non-CYF Caregiver and 2. develops an information sheet to advise of rights and advocates for this to be provided prior to agreement for placement.
<p>The Board’s recommendation was passed with a majority vote.</p>	
2.	<p>Caregiver’s rights in relation to information – we believe all the information listed below should be incorporated into the child’s care plan for caregivers as of entitlement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A full medical, including bones x-rays for littlies. b. Allergies and labels. c. Behavioral triggers and management regimes. d. Multiple placement history, eg. Where allegations against caregivers one of the factors? <p>Rationale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Littlies have come into care who apparently have had fractures that have healed, but never been recorded. b. Uninformed caregivers have exposed a child to a substance that they have had an allergy to. c. Knowing behavioural triggers, and management regimes, makes for a better prepared caregiver, enabling them to manage the situation in the event of the issue arising. d. With more specific information, especially in the case of multiple placements, caregivers will know when intense vigilance is necessary, thus protecting the safety of other children.

	<p>e. If the caregiver is informed of past or pending accusation's they will know to better document incidents – thus protecting themselves and the child from further harm. The knowledge will also help in identifying potentially harmful behaviours.</p> <p>When everyone with responsibility for the care of these children shares information, the likelihood of supporting each other's decisions is high – and the possibility of making even a small difference is increased.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: The Board believes this is largely already written into CYF Policy and should represent best practice. It is recommended that Associations lobby for this at a local level and FKNZ advocates for increased information and transparency in a child's care plan especially in relation to the areas raised in this remit.</p>
<p>The Board's recommendation was passed with a majority vote.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>We ask that Fostering Kids NZ lobby that this be accepted.</p> <p>Children's rights and responsibilities – as an Association (FCAA) of first and foremost caregivers; we believe children in our care need to be introduced to the concept of responsibility – which is the other side of the rights and entitlements coin. Rights and responsibility are the Yin and Yang of integration i.e. the capability to function 'out there' without us hovering.</p> <p>Rationale: Whatever we hope to do for these kids – it must involve social integration. Incorporated into social integration is the concept of responsibility and integrity. The goal of inspiring children to act responsibly and with integrity 'out there, without us hovering', is the rationale behind everything we do after safety and physical needs. We don't have definitive answers or processes for introducing young people to the concept of taking responsibility; but would appreciate collaborative conversations with co-workers. We may create and seize opportunities where decisions can be made and a responsible outcome experienced.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: The Board agrees with the concept of responsibility but like the authors of this remit don't have any definitive answers as to how this might be achieved. The Board supports the suggestion that collaborative conversations should take place at Association level, at trainings and with individual CYF workers responsible for children.</p>
<p>The Board's recommendation was passed with a majority vote.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>That Fostering Kids advocate with MSD for this policy.</p> <p>Caregiver's rights in relation to allegations – Caregivers to be immediately directed by site to Fostering Kids Allegation Support Co-ordinator, 0800 693 278. All investigation interviews with caregivers who are under allegation, to be audio/video recorded. However, we need to have absolute confidence that those investigating know correct procedure and timeframes. Critical in these situations is a timely and robust investigation.</p> <p>Rationale: Audio/visual would alleviate any conflicting reports. Caregivers are left in limbo and stress. Children are affected as well. Wherever possible always avoid a knee jerk reaction.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: The Board supports this Remit and recommends FKNZ</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocates for all caregivers interviews during a caregiver investigation be recorded and

	2. Continues to advocate for immediate referral to the FKNZ Allegation Support Service.
	The Board's recommendation was passed with a majority vote.
5.	<p>A temporary amendment to clause 13.12 of the constitution; to enable a board member to be eligible to stand for re-election for one further three year term, should they wish to. This would apply to the election in 2017, which currently includes the following Board Regional Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colin Hardgrave (Chair) – Central Region - Liz Tere Tai – Upper North <p>Rationale: As you may be aware Fostering Kids developed a significant business proposal which was submitted to the panel tasked with a complete review and overhaul of Child, Youth and Family. The feedback was very positive as our proposal seems to have dovetailed with the climate of change that the government sees as being essential for children in care.</p> <p>The focus that the Ministry of Social Development is taking, is for boards to play a larger role in the governance and reporting requirements. In the future ministry contracts will be established on a “results-based contracting and outcome focused reporting”.</p> <p>The membership is asked to support this remit so that as a board we can manage the significant amount of work required in governing our involvement in this new direction. This will ensure the board have continuity and consolidate the significant training and development undertaken.</p> <p>This temporary extension of term will enable our board to provide stability during the next 2-3 years of much anticipated change in our sector.</p> <p>It is important to note the final decision remains with the membership in their right to vote for Regional candidates.</p> <p>This Remit has been submitted by the Board</p>
	The members voted this remit be passed with a majority vote. Please see note below.
6.	<p>That Fostering Kids advocate with MSD for this policy. Caregiver's Insurance Policy – This needs to be dissected.</p> <p>Rationale: There are too many ambiguous statements for the policy to be uniformly misunderstood.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: The Board supports this remit and recommends FKNZ advocates for review of the Caregiver Insurance Policy.</p>
	The Board's recommendation was passed with a majority vote.

IMPORTANT: The following two remits, the Board recommended changes. Voting was done on the Association remit and the Board recommended changes.

7.	<p>That Fostering Kids advocate with MSD for this policy. House Rules – Prospective caregiver's home rules, and consequences for non-compliance, to be addressed by caregiver, social worker and child (age appropriate). If unacceptable to child or social worker, no placement to take place.</p>
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	<p>Rationale: This will avoid any future conflict between the caregiver and social worker, should the child feign ignorance, thus the preservation of a healthy relationship between the caregiver and social worker. Ultimately the good of the child.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: Ultimately caregivers have the right to decline a placement if there are any concerns for compatibility and House rules should be part of the overall consideration. The Board does not believe this should be policy but good practice when considering a placement. Therefore, the Board recommends that FKNZ advocates for this remit as good practice rather than policy.</p>
	<p>The Board's recommendation was passed with a majority vote.</p>
8.	<p>That Fostering Kids advocate with MSD for this policy.</p> <p>Child's Property – To be CYFS process that on exiting a placement, child's property to be inventoried, checked and signed off by the person doing the uplifting.</p> <p>Rationale: Young people in particular are prone to "losing" property, and have become adept at getting their social workers to replace what they have "lost". Caregivers are stewards of the child's clothing allowance and want no suggestion of misappropriation of these funds.</p> <p>Board Recommendation: The Board considers detailed inventory to be difficult in practice. However, we agree better systems need to be established in protecting children's property. The Board recommends FKNZ advocates for system improvement in this area.</p>
	<p>The Board's recommendation was passed with a majority vote.</p>

There being no further general business the meeting closed at 5.52pm

Note from Chairperson Concerning Remit 5

At the AGM an amendment to the constitution was included with remits. This amendment proposed to alter the board term for two current board members, extending the term for a third three-year term. This amendment would be a once only extension.

The amendment was challenged as being unconstitutional on account of being included in the remits.

As board chairperson I have contacted a lawyer who has advised the following:

- The paper sent to caregivers was a voting form.
- The form clearly stated the proposal was an amendment to the constitution.
- The constitution does not define the process or the structure to be used for an amendment.

Colin Hardgrave – Board Chairperson