

KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA 2019—2020 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Semi-annual service report for the Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba
as set out in our service purchase agreement.

REPORTING PERIOD

October 1, 2019 to
March 31, 2020



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

The Network provides kinship and foster parents with training, guidance, and assistance to enhance and strengthen capacities, knowledge and skills for supporting quality care.

Who Are We?

The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba (The Network) is a non-profit charitable organization funded by the province of Manitoba. The Network's Board membership is fully comprised of kinship and foster parents. The Network promotes the participation of kinship and foster parents in co-facilitating education programs and responding to peer support calls for guidance. The Network belongs to the Canadian Foster Family Association and is a member of the Child Welfare League of Canada.

Mission Statement

To encourage, promote, assist, and educate kinship and foster homes to enhance the quality of life for children in care.

Organizational Beliefs and Services

At The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba we believe:

Children in Kinship and Foster Care are best served when the Principle of Addition is followed:

- ✦ The birth family always remains at the center of the circle.
- ✦ Adding people always expands the circle of support.
- ✦ Always add rather than subtract people from a child's life.
- ✦ A kinship or foster family, though not in the center of the circle, is a valuable, temporary, complementary addition to the birth family.

Empowering Kinship and Foster Parents to be respected members of the professional team is fundamental.

- ✦ To achieve this goal, Network staff create and facilitate culturally relevant, trauma informed, capacity building training to enhance kinship and foster care skill development.
- ✦ This training is co-facilitated by staff and kinship/foster parents whenever possible.

A Support system which includes trained peers is invaluable.

- ✦ The Network provides a Peer Support Program which is managed by staff and trained volunteer kinship/foster parents who provide a broad range of supports to other caregivers navigating difficult situations related to fostering.

Kinship and foster families need planned opportunities to share their collective wisdom and experience.

- ✦ Annually, the Network hosts several Forums province wide to facilitate discussion and gather salient information on topics relevant to the role of Kinship and Foster parents in the system and for promoting quality care. This information is used to inform better practice.

Kinship/Foster Parent Services Overview

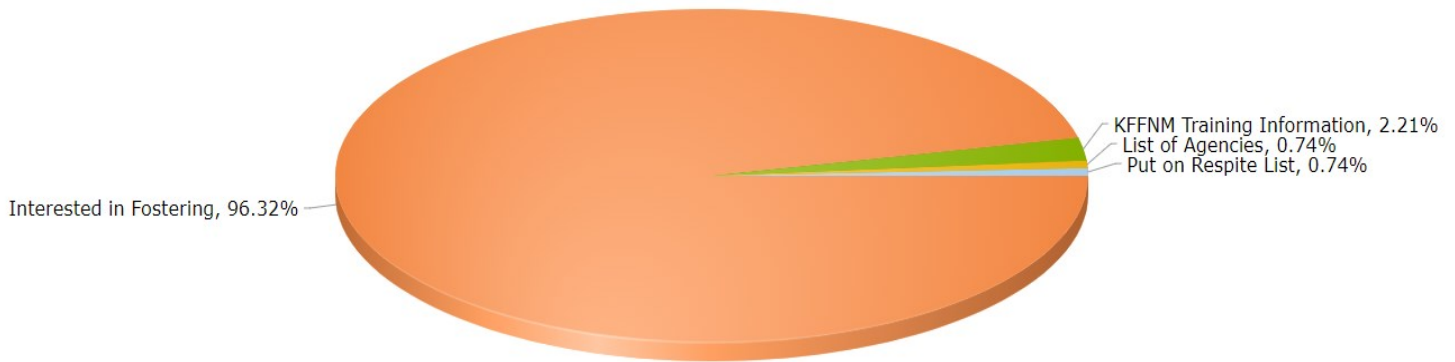
Community of Care	KFFNM responds to the Community of Care phone line on behalf of the province and Authorities. Information packages are sent to interested callers. KFFNM Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care sessions are offered.	Page # 2
Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care	Historical understanding and awareness of care expectations, legislation, the structure of the family services system and standard licensing process.	Page # 3
Peer Support Program	Trained volunteer kinship and foster parents provide phone support and education to kinship/foster parents on best practices and systems information.	Page # 4
Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development Series	Level 1 sessions: understanding of kinship/foster parenting skills and knowledge. Level 2 sessions: parenting strategies, tools and skills to enhance competencies. Facilitator Training: skill development for co-facilitating group training sessions offered through KFFNM.	Page # 6
Information Sessions	Understanding the Child Removal Appeal Process Understanding legislation, standards and policies. Historical perspectives for Fostering Reconciliation KFFNM Service Overview	Page # 8
Focus Forums	Three forums, per year, are facilitated province wide on issues identified by kinship and foster parents and the KFFNM Board.	Page # 9
Groups, Events and Gatherings	Providing support to kinship and foster parent communities.	Page # 9

Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba

General Information Callers

KFFNM provides support, through the Provincial Community of Care phone line, for community members seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **136** service calls to our office.

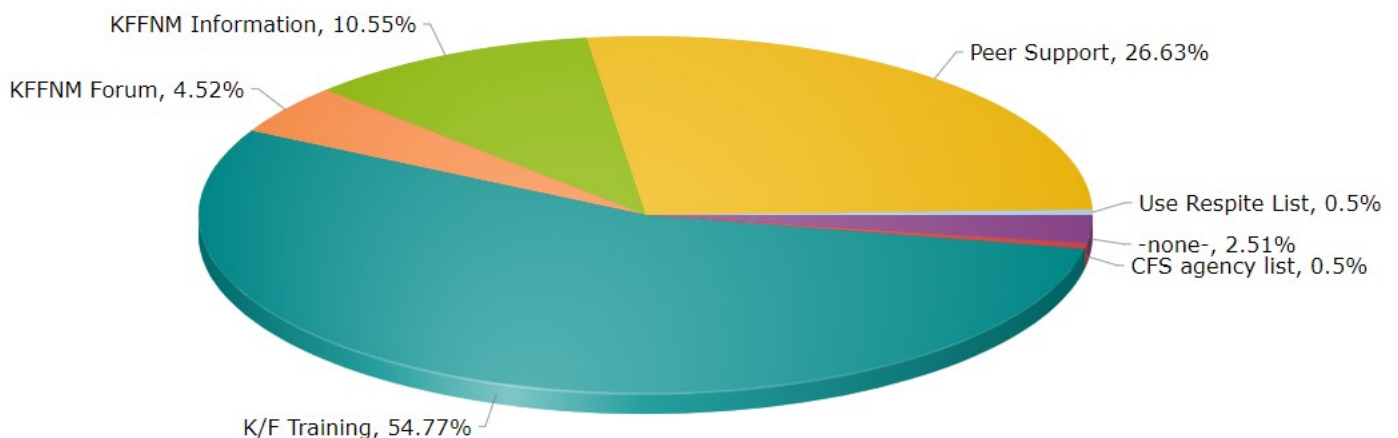
KFFNM General Inquiries



Callers requesting Kinship/Foster Care Information

KFFNM provides program services for kinship and foster parents in Manitoba. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **199** kinship/foster program service calls.

Kinship/Foster Parents Service Requests



Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care Information Sessions

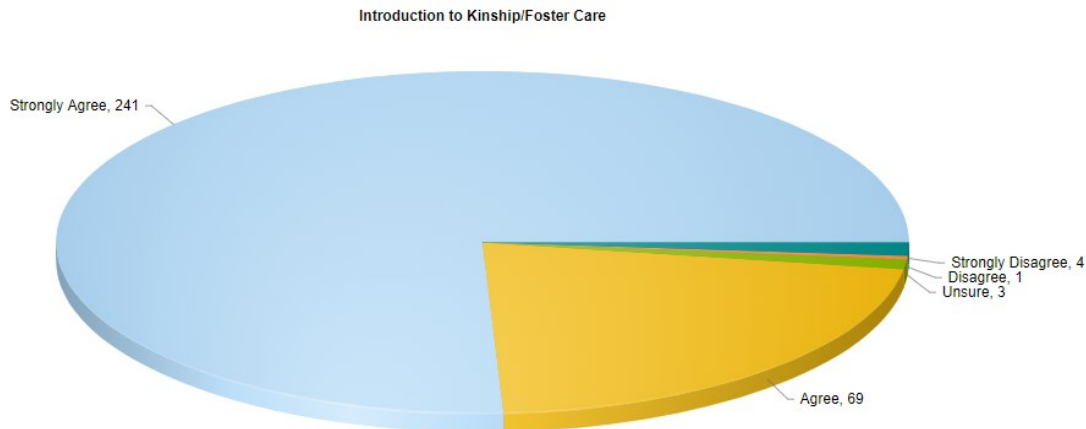
Table provides the number of community member contacts and those who chose to register to attend sessions.

	# Contacts interested in fostering	# Registered to attend	# Attended
October	23	28	14
November	19	15	10
December	8	No session provided	
January	47	No session provided	
February	18	28	17
March	16	20	10
Total	131	91	51

Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care *Participant Feedback.*

Sections 1 & 2

Participant feedback regarding training experience and information provided.



Section 4: Written Comments

Participant written comments are separated into 2 primary categories of Training Content (information provided) or Training Process (training presentation). Within the primary categories, comments are identified as either analytical (specific particular aspect) or reflective (general impression). Finally, analytical and reflective comments are separated as being positive (+) or as identifying a challenge (-). Where no category contains a related comment the category does not show in the Examples of written comments submitted table.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	5	2
Challenges identified	1	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	1	2
Challenges identified	0	0

Examples of Content Comments

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened my eyes to the Foster program. Thanks for the real information. Information received were clear. Done interactively and containing useful information.
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This session was very helpful! Looking forward to training opportunities. Thanks!
TC - Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think culture/language are an extremely important part of identity. Resource lists to help children remain connected would be helpful.

Examples of Training Process Comments

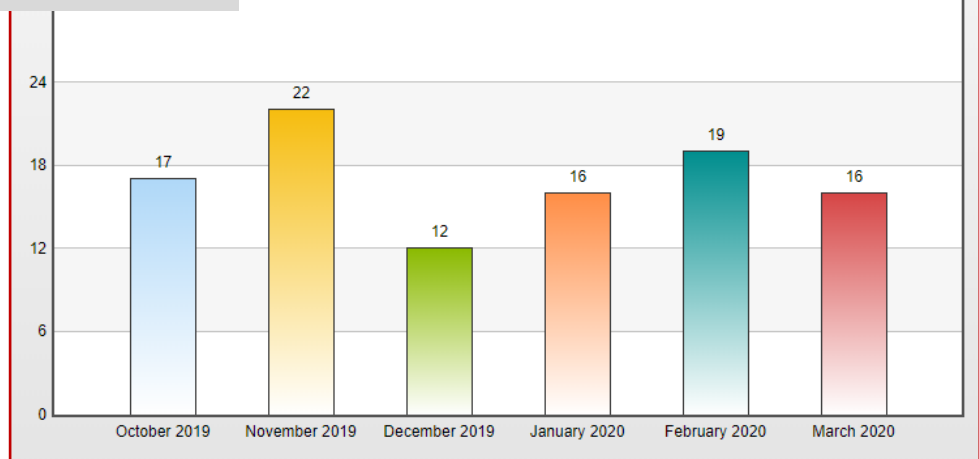
TP + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop was well presented.
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presenters were awesome. Great sense of humour was displayed. Was admirable.

Kinship/Foster Parent Peer Support

Callers requesting Peer Support Program

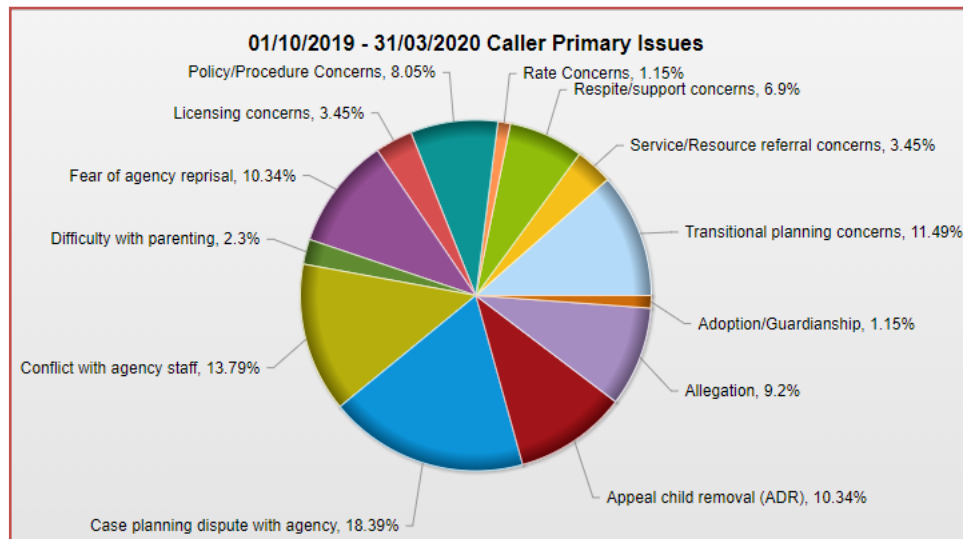
KFFNM provides a Peer Support Program for kinship and foster parents who are seeking support for a variety of concerns. During this reporting period our Peer Support Program received **102** caller requests for support.

Peer Support Calls by Month



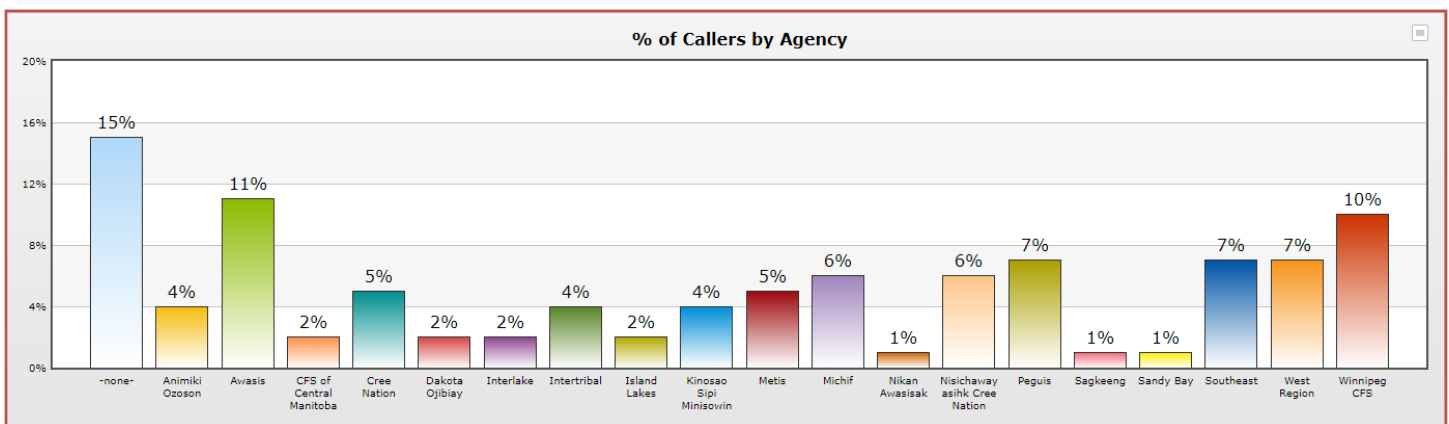
Primary Issues Identified by Callers

Types of primary issues identified by callers.



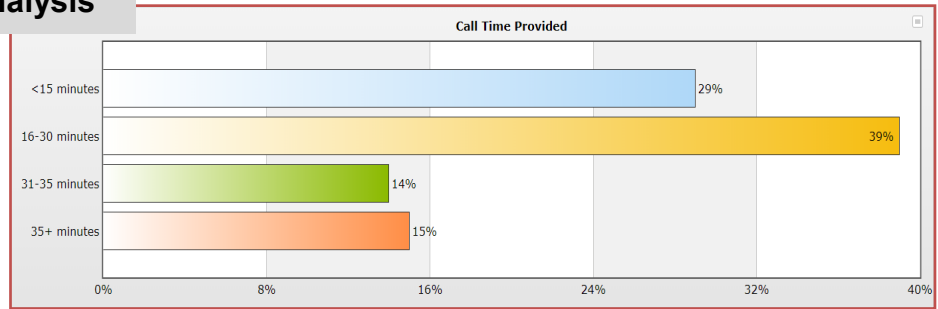
CFS Agency Identified by Caller

'None' represents agency not identified by caller.



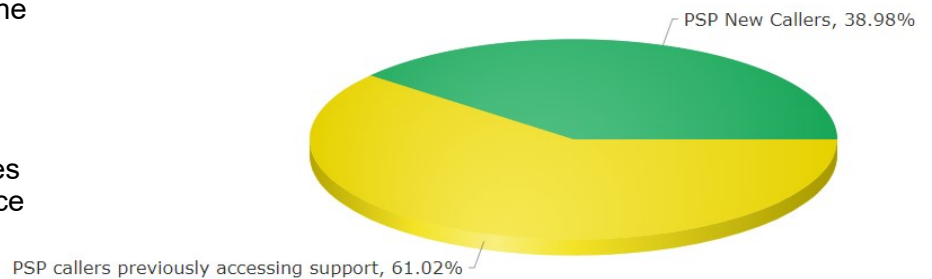
Peer Support Program Data Analysis

KFFNM database provides information regarding the average length of time provided to callers. Dramatic changes to the average call time may indicate a need for program service adjustment.



New PSP caller vs. Returning PSP caller

KFFNM database provides clarity for the number of repeat calls a caller makes contrasted with callers who receive sufficient information and/or support during their initial call. Dramatic changes to these percentages may indicate a need for program service adjustment.



Peer Support Program Volunteer Training

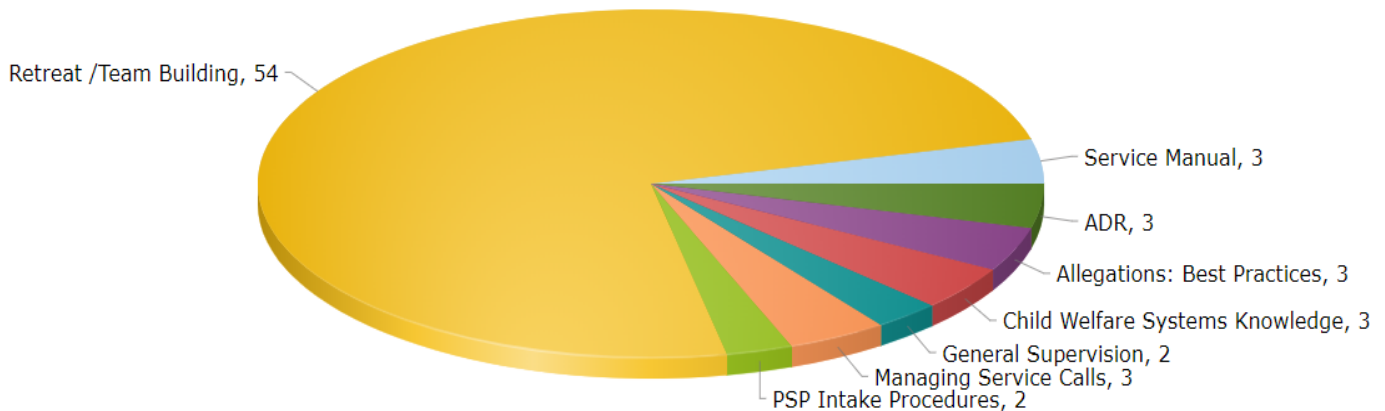
Currently there are 9 trained Peer Support providers. Volunteer training is provided through (Direct) one-to-one training sessions, individual reviews, and assessments. Additionally, continuous telephone conversations with volunteers provide: de-briefing, resource information and individual support.

During this reporting KFFNM Annual Team Building Workshop was provided for program volunteers.

Direct Volunteer Training Provided

During this reporting period **73 hours** of Direct training hours were provided to Peer Support Volunteers.

Total Direct Training Hours Provided (# Training Hours)

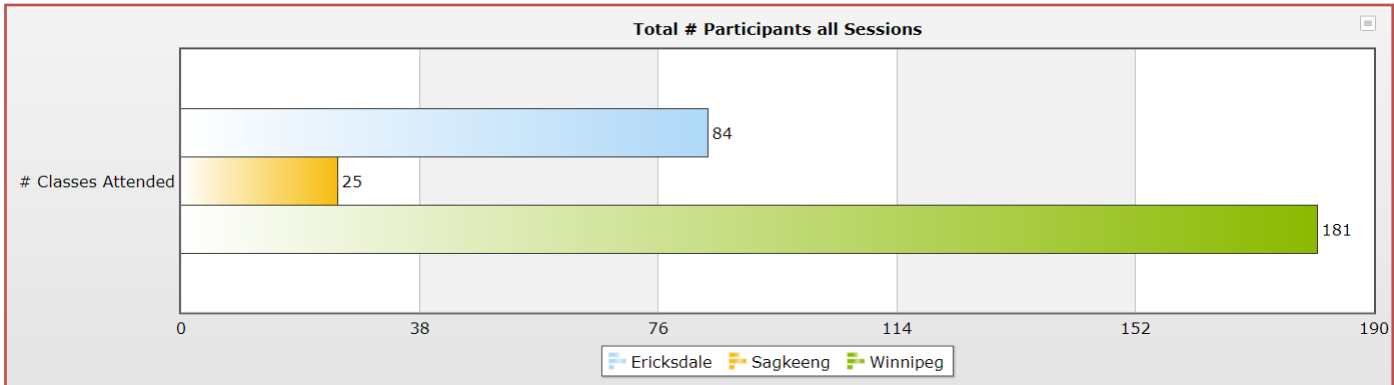


Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Level 1
9 sessions

During this reporting period, **5** completed series (9 sessions) of Level 1 were provided to **290** session attendees.

Location provided and number of participants for all sessions.

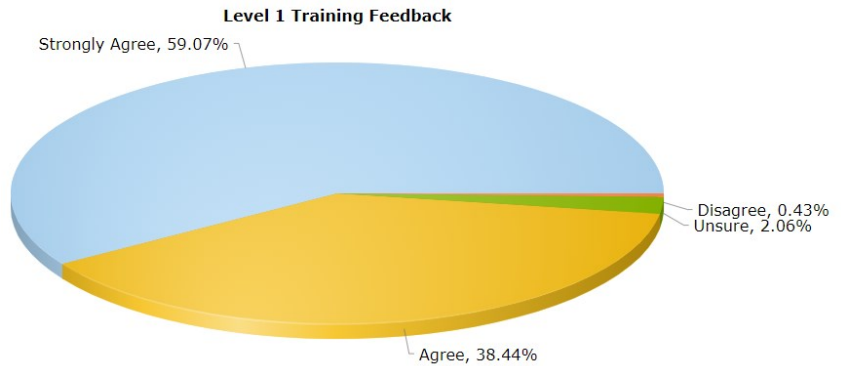


Level 1
Participant Feedback.

Kinship and foster parent participants continue to report a high level of satisfaction with the Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development Level 1 sessions. **Strongly Agree** response was indicated **544** times.

Sections 1 & 2

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



Section 3: Written Comments

See page #3 for information regarding written comments data collection methodology.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	8	5
Challenges identified	0	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	5	10
Challenges identified	2	0

Examples of Content Comments

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very informative. Real life solutions Should be suggested mandatory Looking forward to completing advance training. So much great information. The training is informative and right on time. Helped understand how to communicate as a parent
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I strongly recommend all foster parents take this course Highly recommend that agency's foster parents take this courses/ training. Very informative, interesting, beneficial and fun! Every foster parent should be trained with these materials.

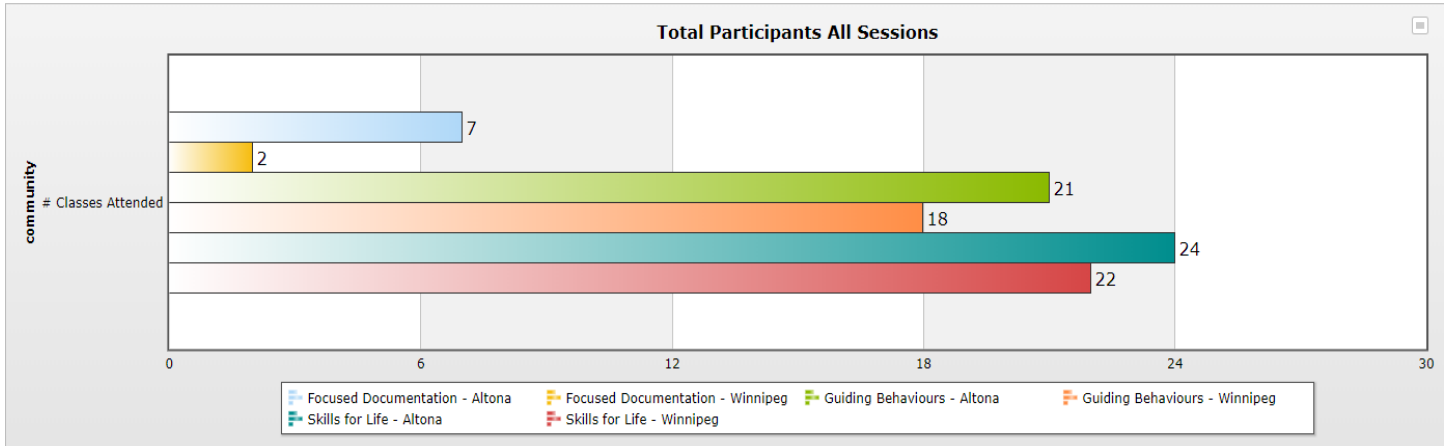
Examples of Training Process Comments

TP + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made it really easy to open up and chat. Presenters are so welcoming, easy to talk to, interesting to listen to.
TP - Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would love more discussion time. Every situation is different and it is good to have discussion. Need more time for discussion I don't think the homework is necessary. Prefer to discuss in class.
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Really enjoyed the class. Made me feel very comfortable. It's always great attending any training here at KFFNM, I look forward to attending a future workshop. Very helpful discussions. Enjoyed the class.

Level 2
5 series of 3 sessions

During this reporting period, 6 Level 2 Series of **18** sessions were provided to **94** session attendees.

Location provided and number of participants for all sessions.

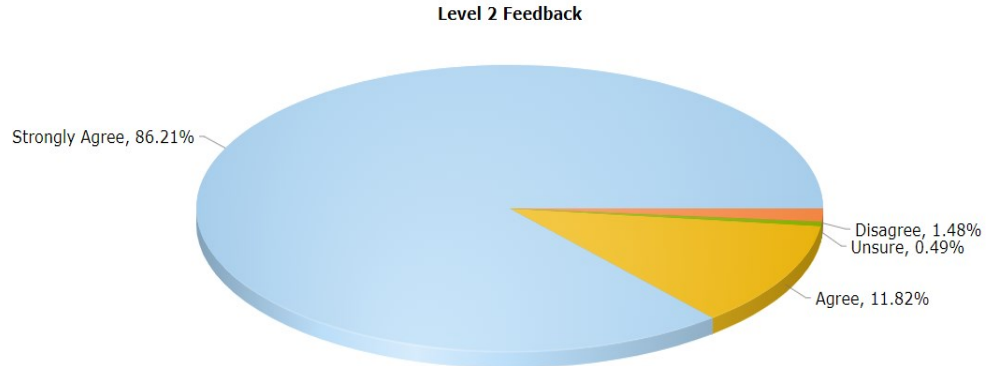


Level 2 Series
Participant Feedback.

Kinship and foster parent participants continue to report a high level of satisfaction with the Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development Level 2 sessions. Strongly Agree response was indicated **175** times.

Sections 1 & 2

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



Section 3: Written Comments

See page #3 for information regarding written comments data collection methodology.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	7	6
Challenges identified	0	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	7	7
Challenges identified	1	0

Examples of Content Comments

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel this training has given me a spring board to becoming a more engaged player in the team. I have learned that if something is not working I may need to change my words, approach and actions. School workbook will be very valuable. Clearly laid out tools are applicable, make sense. Transferable to my home.
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very practical, clear training. Very helpful discussions The program is an amazing set of topics adding onto each other that are so relevant Material was so thorough and helpful.

Examples of Training Process Comments

TP + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every time I leave I feel like I am able to implement right away. Trainers worked so well together I love this facility, around the table so we can see everyone!
TP - Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more time for discussion.
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I thought the facility was just right for this group. Now, just need to formulate it and implement it. Excellent presentations! I did not know some of the stuff that I should have.

Kinship/Foster Parent Information Sessions

In response to commonly asked questions from kinship and foster parents, KFFNM has developed 'stand alone' Information Sessions. Presentation material is Board approved and piloted with kinship and foster parent community member groups.

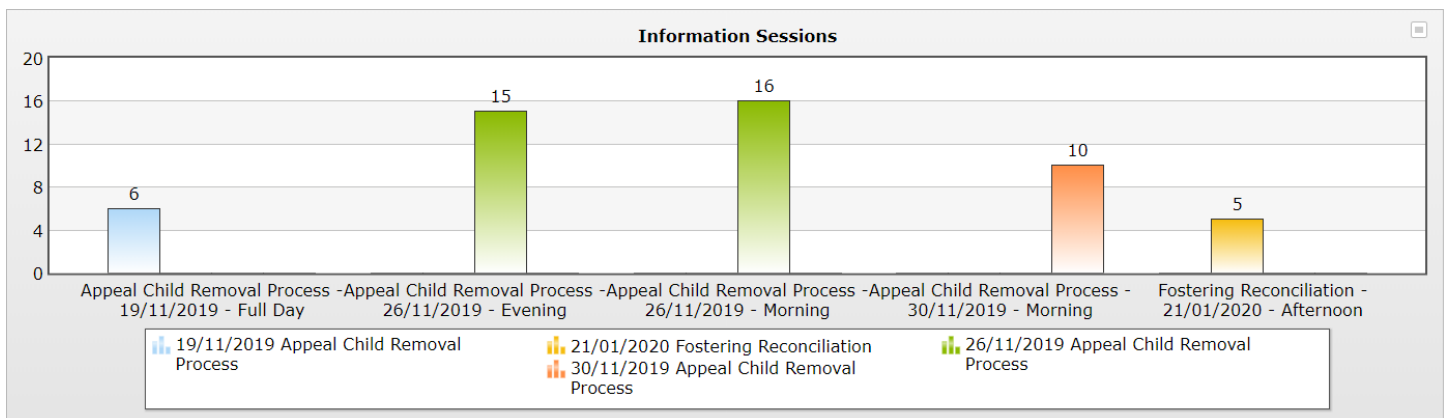
Current Information sessions offered:

- Understanding the Appeal Process for Child Removal
- A Historical Perspective for Fostering Reconciliation
- CFS Legislation which guides kinship/foster care
- KFFNM Service Overview

Information Sessions Delivered

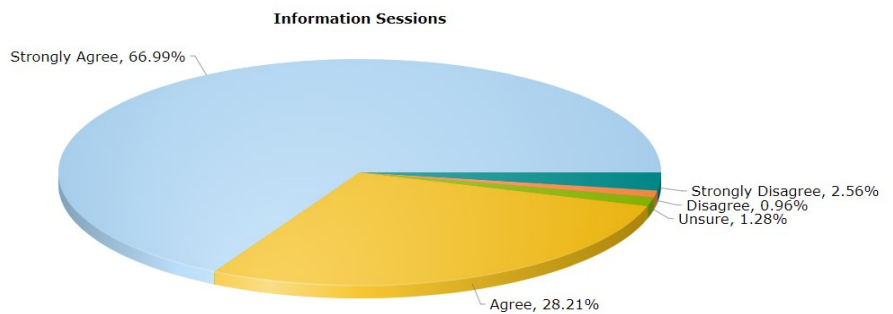
During this reporting period, **5** Information Sessions were provided to **52** attendees.

Date provided and number of participants for all sessions.



Information Sessions Participant Feedback.

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



Section 3: Written Comments

See page #3 for information regarding written comments data collection methodology.

Training Content (TC)		
	Analytical	Reflective
Positive	8	8
Challenges identified	2	0
Training Process (TP)		
Positive	6	9
Challenges identified	2	0

Examples of Content Comments

TC + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate the info and resource info • Will be digging further to understand better. • Thanks ... informative!
TC - Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More time for discussion and complete pledge. • A lot to think about, gives a stress headache on where do you start.
TC + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training was so informative it made me decide to attend in the future. • KFFNM need to be heard and given the opportunity to have input with guidelines, standards, laws are being made and changes are happening.

Examples of Training Process Comments

TP + Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainer was so wise and explained the topic clearly. • If the agencies made it mandatory to take these workshops they would be better prepared.
TP - Analytical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough time in day, but was good. • I found this gathering a lot confusing being asked what I or we can do to bring change.
TP + Reflective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So helpful. • The world would be a better place if everyone could sit down and learn these things. Reconciliation path would be better well centered. • Your presentation was very valuable. • Really shows there is a lot of sharing of ideas between all levels needed.

Focus Forums

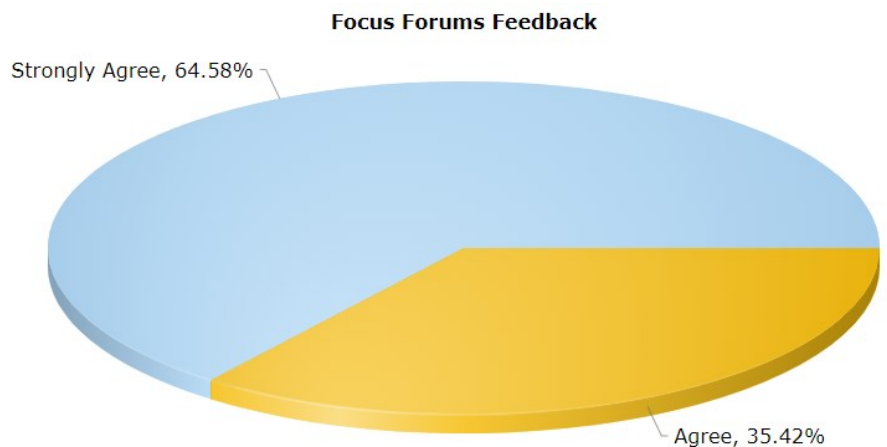
To collect the voices of kinship/foster parents on a variety of relevant issues, the KFFNM facilitates forums in communities throughout the province. The voices of kinship/foster parents are made available through KFFNM Forum Reports provided to participants, CFS agencies and Authorities after each forum topic series is completed.

Focus Forums Facilitated

KFFNM held 1 kinship/foster parent forums during this reporting period. The Focus Forum was held in Winnipeg and 8 kinship or foster parents attended.

Focus Forums *Participant Feedback.*

Participant feedback regarding their satisfaction with their training experience and value of the information provided.



Groups, Events and Gatherings

During this reporting KFFNM collaborated or supported Child and Family Services agencies by providing volunteer assistance and support at several community functions.

Community	Agency	Event
Winnipeg	Winnipeg CFS	Cookies with Santa
Winnipeg	Sakeeng	Christmas Party
Winnipeg	Winnipeg CFS	Adoptions Christmas Party
Winnipeg	South East CFS	Christmas Party
Steinbach	Southern FASD Coalition	Christmas Party



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