

KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA

2021-2022 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, 2021 to
March 31, 2022



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.

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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.
Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care	Historical understanding and awareness of care expectations, legislation, the structure of the family services system and standard licensing process.
Peer Support Program	Trained volunteer kinship and foster parents provide phone support and education to kinship/foster parents on best practices and systems information.
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.
Information Sessions	Understanding the Child Removal Appeal Process Understanding Legislation and Standards. Historical Perspectives for Fostering Reconciliation KFFNM Service Overview
Focus Forums	Three forums, per year, are facilitated province wide on issues identified by kinship and foster parents and the KFFNM Board.
Groups, Events and Gatherings	Providing support to kinship and foster parent communities.

AT A GLANCE

Program Service Delivery Information

During this 6 month reporting period **285** inquires into KFFNM services were responded to through our office.

Peer Support Program responded to **53** kinship or foster parents requesting information and support.

In total KFFNM provided **125** Zoom 2-3 hour sessions to **1071** session participants.

Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care sessions recorded **87** community members, inquiring about providing kinship or foster care. Information packages were emailed in response to all inquiries. **73** callers attended and completed KFFNM Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care session.

Skill Development Level sessions (1&2) and **Information Sessions** received **286** kinship and foster parent registrations resulting in **213** individuals attending.

Across all Kinship and Foster Parent Skill Development modules and sessions provided, **78%** of participants completed the required sessions.

Feedback questionnaires were emailed to participants after the completion of sessions. **54%** of participants responded and let us know about their experience.

Some of the responses from participants which make us feel great.

Overall **96%** of participants thought the information provided was valuable. **90%** responded that they found the KFFNM session workbooks were helpful. When asked if they would continue to participate in future KFFNM Skill Development sessions **95%** responded yes. Kinship and foster parents responded that **89%** felt more empowered from what we offer. **94%** of participants answered that they found taking KFFNM sessions through a Zoom presentation was either extremely or very helpful.

Facebook

We reached 8141 people.
We had 1446 engagements (reactions, comments, shares).
We received 28 page likes.

Mail-Outs

Adapting to training through Zoom we continue to mail session material directly to participant's home. During this reporting period we mailed out to kinship and foster parents:
271 training booklets
196 Complimentary parenting tools

Volunteer Hours

Board members,
Peer Support Providers,
Education Co-facilitators,
Provided a total of **1996** support hours.

Daily Journals

Submitting a high level of quality reports to the agency of a C.I.C. can be a challenge for foster parents. KFFNM developed and published daily journal books and provided **65** bound copies for agency foster parents to support their reporting skills.

Virtual Support Sessions

5 support sessions provided with **25** participants engaged.

Hidden Impact Forum

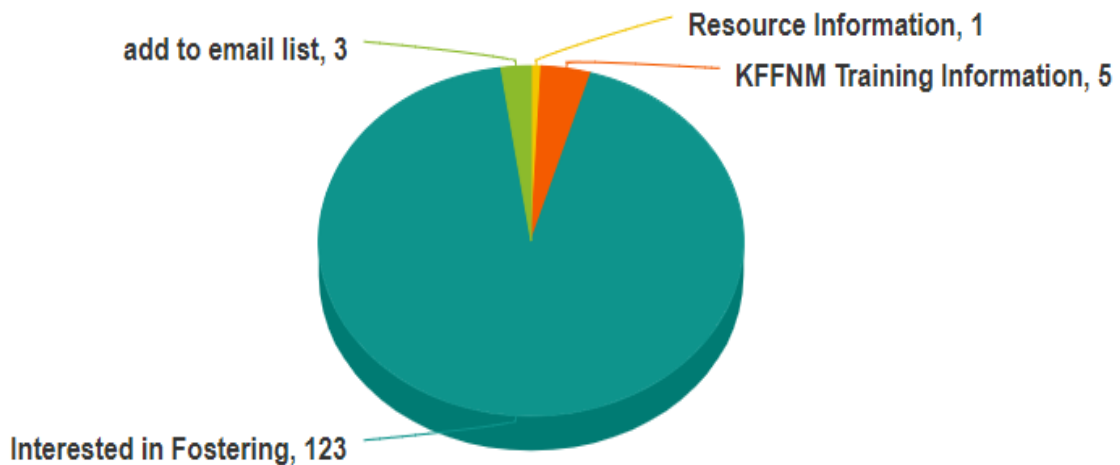
2 forums where held with **9** participants adding their voices.

Service Contacts

General Information Callers

KFFNM provides support and information for community members seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba. Community members can access information through the Provincial Community of Care phone line or KFFNM office phone line. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **132** community members service calls.

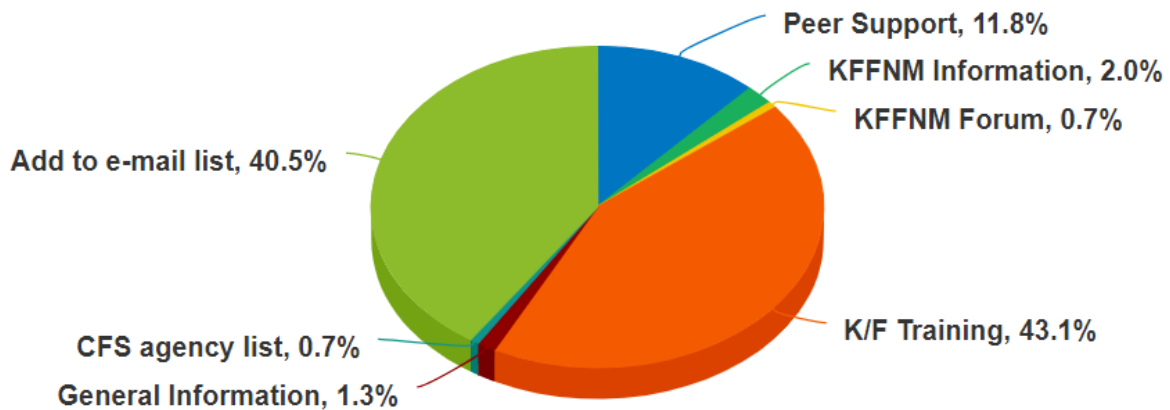
Community Members Requests



Kinship/Foster Care Providers Initial Service Requests

KFFNM provides a variety of program services for kinship and foster parents in Manitoba. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **153** kinship/foster initial program service calls. The pie chart represents the overall percentage of calls and the initial service request.

Initial Service Requests

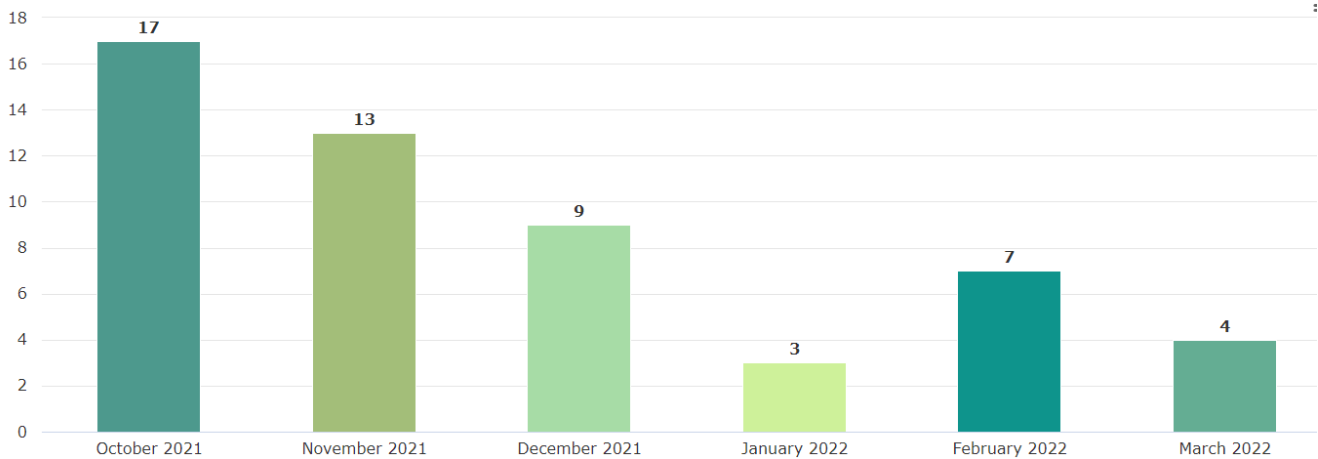


Note: Initial service request does not always represent the eventual service outcome/category.

Peer Support Program

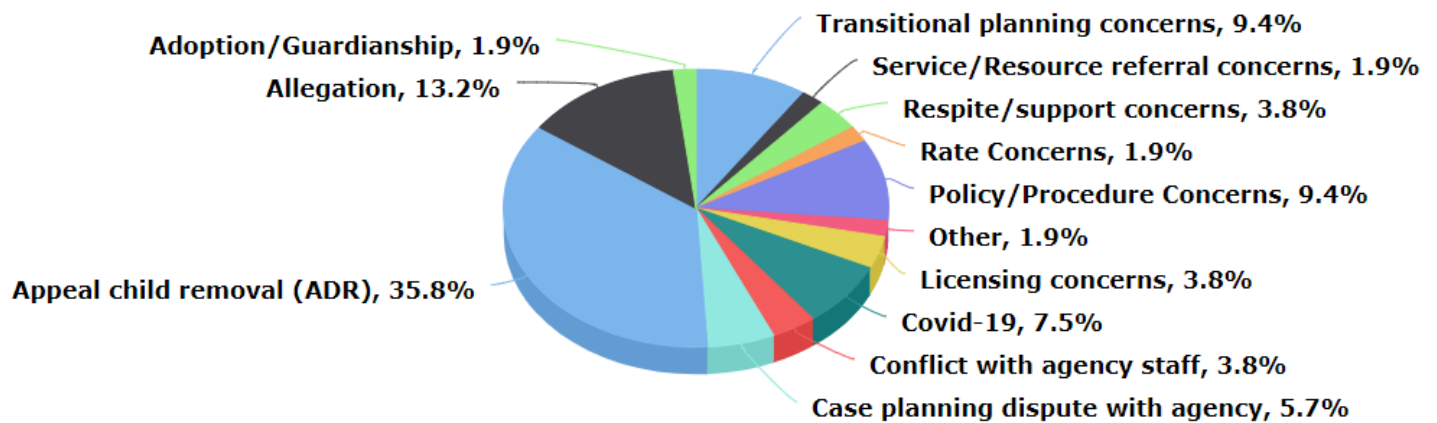
Callers requesting Peer Support Program

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 **53** caller requests for support.



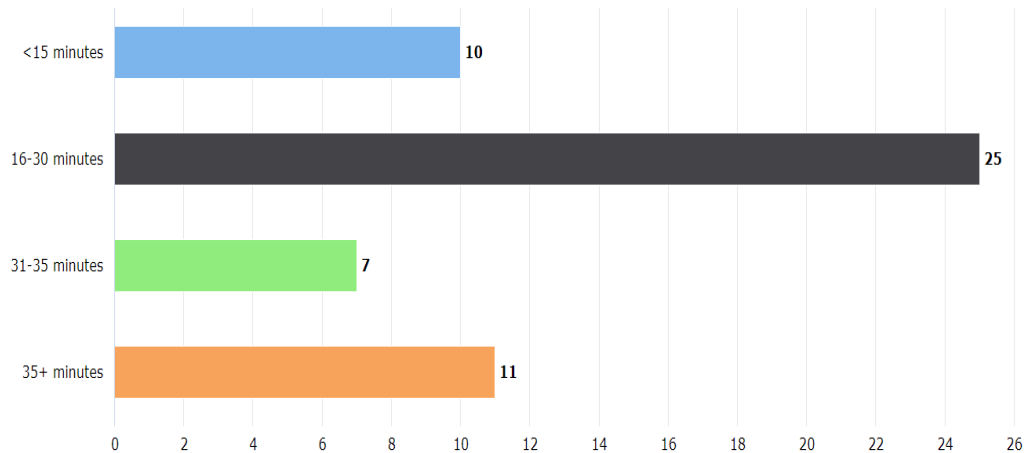
Primary Issues identified by Callers

Peer Support calls are grouped into primary caller issues. The primary issues are identified by callers. Data is collected relating to all complementary concerns and Peer Support provider responses are recorded for training purposes.



Peer Support Program Service Delivery Data Analysis

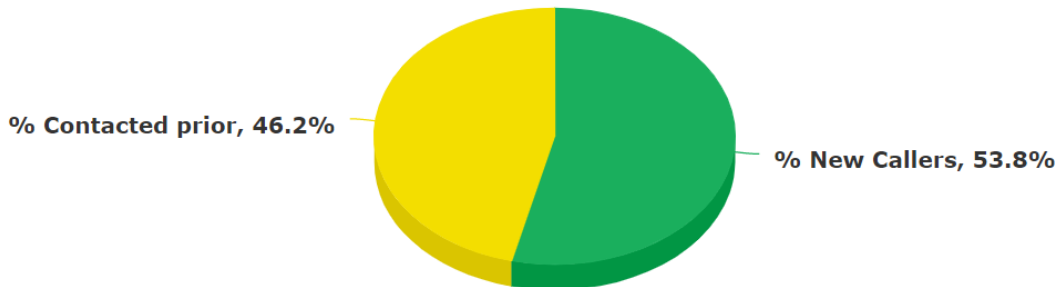
KFFNM database provides information regarding the average length of time provided to callers. Dramatic changes to the average call time may indicate a need for program service adjustment.



Identification of on-going support provided to Kinship/Foster Parents

Pie chart contrasts the percentage of **new** kinship or foster parent service requests versus the percentage of kinship or foster parents who accessed the Peer Support line prior, or more than once for additional/ongoing support.

This demonstrates that often we are able to provide **clear succinct information** for callers (53.8%), but providing **additional support (46.2%)** in more complex situations will sometimes be required.



Peer Support Provider Trainings

During this reporting period training was provided to Peer Support Volunteers.

# Trainings Provided	# Participants Attended	# Hours Involved
2 sessions	9	3

Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care

During this reporting period,
8 Introduction sessions were provided.
 For a total of **8** zoom sessions.

	# Attended
October 2, 2021	8
October 7, 2021	9
November 4, 2021	7
December 4, 2021	11
February 3, 2022	10
February 5, 2022	9
March 3, 2022	15
March 5, 2022	4
Total	73

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Found the training helpful.	73%	23%	4%		
Believe the information provided will be useful.	68%	28%		4%	

Feedback regarding information provided.

	A great deal	A lot	moderate amount	A little	None at all
The information helped me develop insight into the Manitoba foster care system.	45%	35%	10%	10%	

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
Session clarified the responsibilities, rights & roles of a kinship/foster care provider.	95%	5%	
Session clarified the expectations involved with becoming a kinship/foster care provider.	95%	5%	
I am aware of the next steps for becoming a kinship/foster care provider.	85%	15%	
I am aware of the training and skill development expectations for kinship/foster parents.	90%	10%	
I am aware of supports and resources offered through KFFNM.	100%		

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

	Likely	Not sure	Unlikely
Are you interested in continuing KFFNM training after you are licensed?	75%	25%	

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the trainer's presentation helped clarify the information?	95%		5%

Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Information Sessions

In response to commonly asked questions from Peer Support Callers and training participants, KFFNM has developed ‘stand alone’ Information Sessions.

During this reporting period, **12** Information sessions were provided for a total of **12** zoom sessions.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered	total # in Zoom sessions
135	85

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
How well did this Information Session meet your needs?	55%	38%	7%		
Did you find the session workbooks helpful?	40%	41%	12%	7%	

Feedback regarding information provided.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful	
Did the information in this session provide answers to questions you had?	78%	18%	4%	
	Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult	
How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during this session?	44%	48%	8%	
	Am working at it	Am seeing engagement	Already feel like a team member	Not sure
Did the information provided help you feel more valuable as a member of the CFS team?	37%	11%	9%	17%

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the facilitator was helpful in guiding your learning experience?	94%	6%	
	Yes	No	
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%		

Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Level 1

KFFNM skill development approach supports the development and enhancement of the unique kinship and foster parent skill sets involved in providing temporary and complementary care from within the Child and Family Services system. * Skills to successfully work as valued and accountable members of the Child and Family Services team. * Skills to articulate the descriptive elements of their unique parenting (*What, Why, Who, When and Where, and How outcomes are measured*). * Skills to communicate their unique parenting to CFS Agencies, natural family members, schools, respite workers and community resources.

During this reporting period **6** Level 1 training series were provided. Each training series contained **12** training sessions. Training series were offered during mornings, afternoons and full days.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered for Training Series	# attended Training Series	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Training Series
75	68	684	*31

*Some participants complete the series over different reporting periods or timelines. KFFNM database allows maintenance and recording of participant training records.

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

- How well did the training sessions meet your needs?
- Did this training increase your awareness of how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?
- Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?
- Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
How well did the training sessions meet your needs?	55%	42%	3%		
Did this training increase your awareness of how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?	46%	42%	12%		
Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?	36%	60%	3%		
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?		94%		6%	

Regarding working partnership with CFS

Do you feel more empowered to be a valuable member of the CFS team?

	I am working at it	I am seeing engagement	I already feel like a team member	Not sure
Do you feel more empowered to be a valuable member of the CFS team?	33%	33%	36%	

Specific questions about training principles.

- What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?
- Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors 'Strategies, Tools, and Skills' when describing the parenting you provide?
- How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during the sessions?

	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?	88%	12%	

	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely
Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors 'Strategies, Tools, and Skills' when describing the parenting you provide?	97%	3%	

	Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during the sessions?	24%	58%	18%		

Regarding level of participant engagement.

- Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?
- Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?
- Will you join us for future training sessions?

	Yes	No
Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?	90%	10%
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?	94%	6%
Will you join us for future training sessions?	97%	3%

Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Level 2

KFFNM skill development advances to the integration of kinship and foster parenting skill based principles and practices presented

during Level 1 sessions. Course material uses many examples and means by which skills can be integrated into parenting. Participants examine their parenting Strategies, Tools and Skills in combination with previously defined Parenting Descriptors to greater clarify the impact of the temporary and complementary practices.

Level 2 sessions offered **during reporting period:**

- Guiding Behaviours
- Skills for Life
- Focused Documentation
- Fostering Family Connections

During this reporting period, 9 Level 2 Series of 4 sessions each were offered, for a total of **36** sessions.

Session Registration/Attendance			
# registered to attend	# attended	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Level 2 Series
76	60	210	50

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
53%	47%				
75%	23%	2%			

Do you feel the training sessions strengthened your kinship/foster parenting skills?

Did Level 2 sessions assist you with developing and articulating parenting strategies you use?

A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderate Amount	A Little	None at all
37%	44%	17%	2%	

Specific questions about training material.

Did you find the workbooks helpful?

Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
52%	48%	

Did you discover parenting tools which will support your parenting strategies?

Yes	No
100%	

Regarding level of participant engagement.

Will you join us for future training sessions?

Yes	No
100%	



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