

KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA

2021 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

April 1, 2021 to
September 30, 2021



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.

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

Kinship/Foster Parent Services Overview

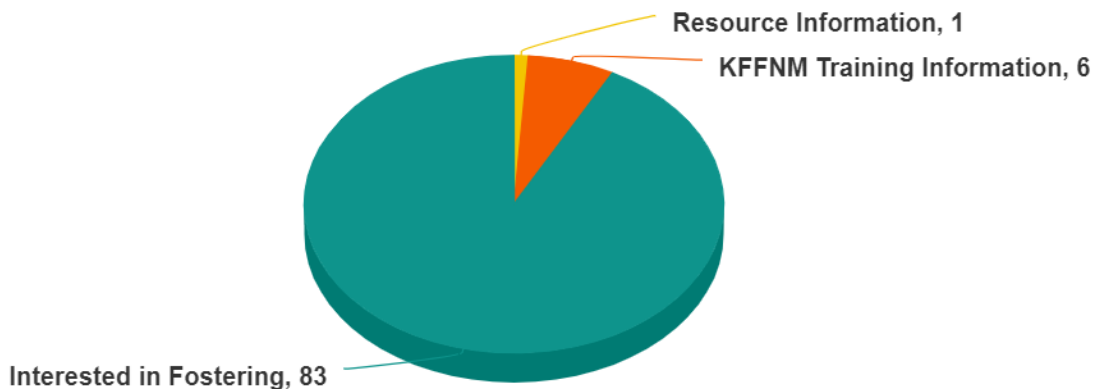
Community of Care	KFFNM responds to the Community of Care phone line on behalf of the province and Authorities. Information packages are sent to interested callers. KFFNM Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care sessions are offered.
Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care	Historical understanding and awareness 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, standards and policies. 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.

Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba

General Information Callers

KFFNM provides support and information for community members seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba. Community members can access through the Provincial Community of Care phone line or KFFNM office phone line. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **90** community member service calls.

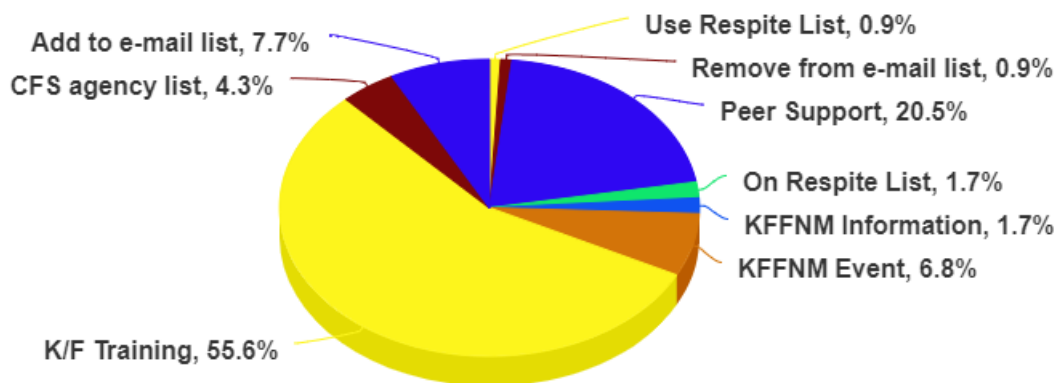
Community Members Requests



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 **266** kinship/foster initial program service calls. this represents the overall percentage of calls and the initial service request.

Initial Service Requests

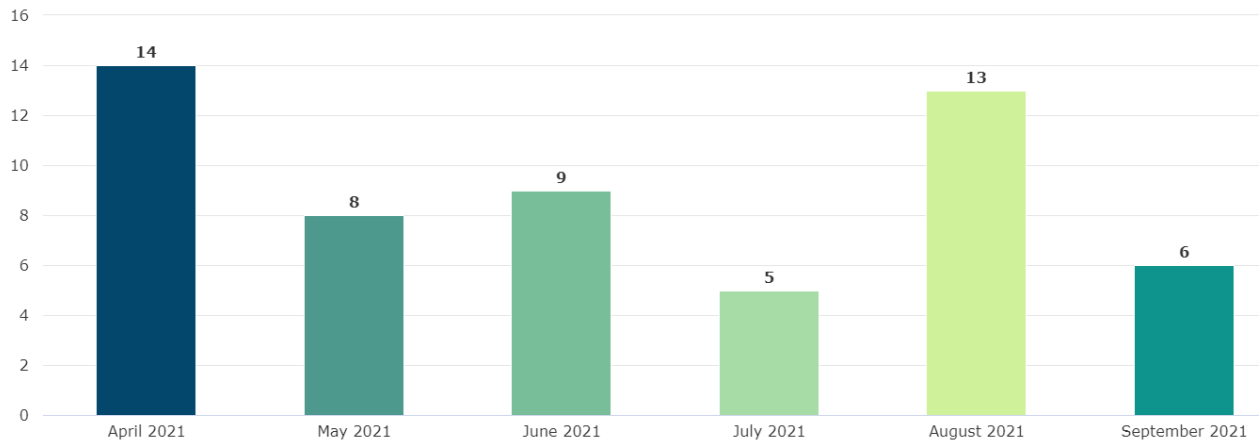


Note: Initial service requests do not always represent service the a caller accessed.

Kinship/Foster Parent Peer Support

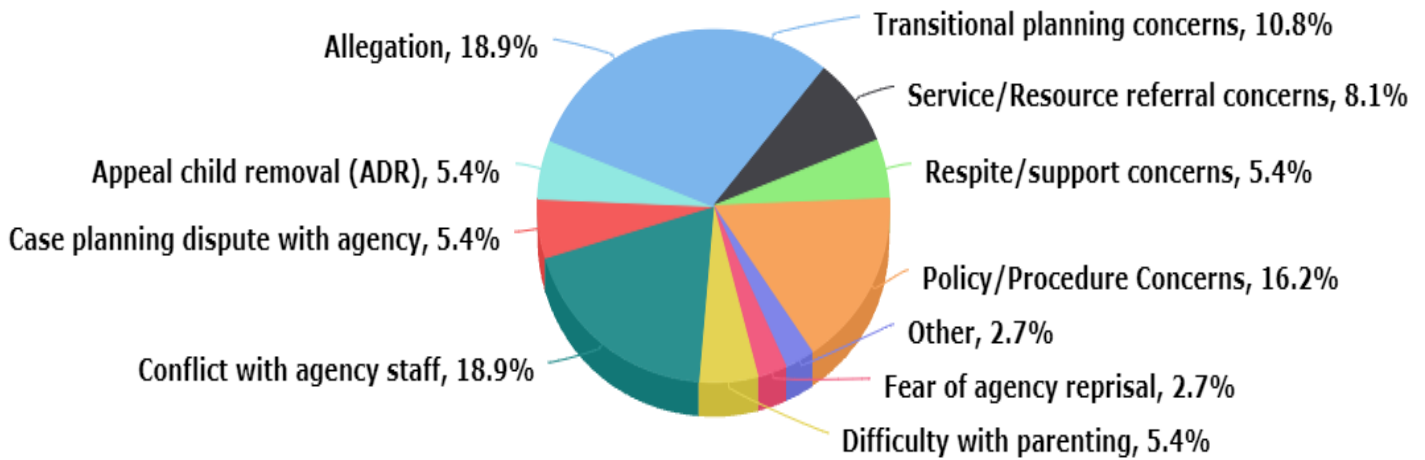
Callers requesting Peer Support Program

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 **55** caller requests for support.



Primary Issues Identified by Callers

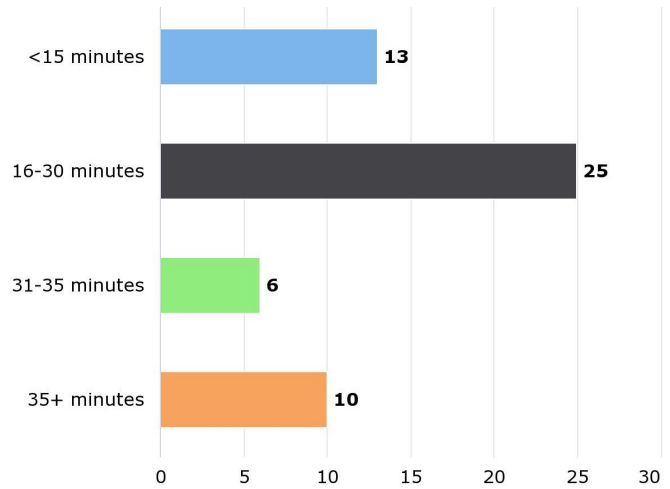
Peer Support calls are grouped into primary caller issues. Primary caller issues are identified by callers. Data is collected relating to all complimentary concerns and Peer Support provider responses are recorded for training purposes.



Kinship/Foster Parent Peer Support

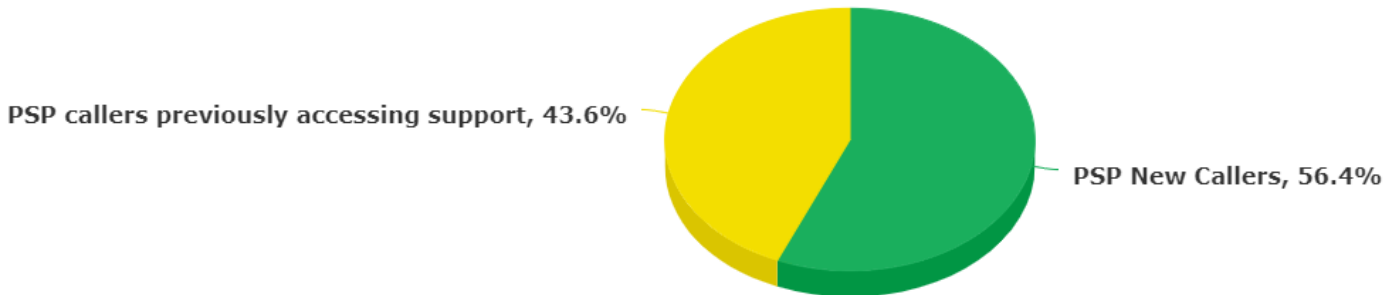
Peer Support Program Service Delivery Data Analysis

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.



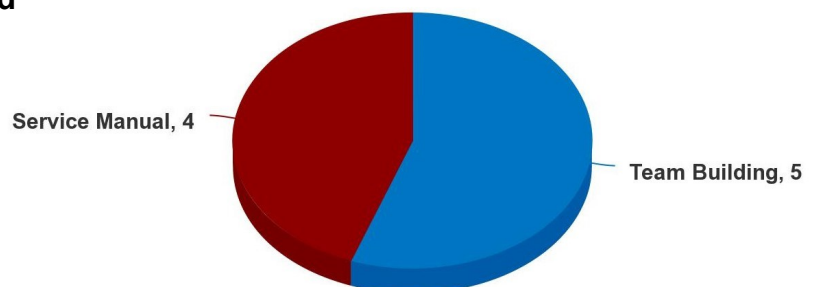
Identification of on-going support provided to Kinship/Foster Parents

Pie chart contrasts the percentage of kinship or foster parents who accessed the PSP phone line during this reporting period and in the past with new kinship or foster parents who are accessing the PSP phone line for the first time during this reporting period.



Direct PSP Volunteer Training Provided

During this reporting period **9** hours of Direct training hours was provided to Peer Support Volunteers.



Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

As it continues to be impossible to meet with kinship and foster parents for group training/support meetings during this reporting period we have been bringing our services to their homes.

We continue to expand our training services to include complimentary on-line training and plan to return in-person, group trainings when appropriate.

KFFNM provided **62** Zoom 2-3 hour training or information sessions for **132** session participants.

During this reporting period we continued using a survey program to send e-mails to participants to collect their feedback.

Facebook

**We reached 7409 people.
We had 358 engagements
(reactions, comments, shares).
We received page 78 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:**

**350 training booklets
21 Complimentary Parenting tools**

KFFNM.ca

**We continue to make improvements
to support easier registration
through our website calendar.**

Co-Facilitator Training Engagements

Trained co-Facilitators provide Level 1 Skill Development training sessions beside KFFNM staff facilitators to support the delivery of current kinship and foster care information.

# Trained Co-Facilitators	# Trainings provided By Co-Facilitators
5	2

Agency Host Training Partnership

During the fall KFFNM began a Pilot Project with Winnipeg Child and Family Services to collaboratively provide a Level 1 training series with a KFFNM staff facilitator and a WCFS Foster Care Worker with their Short Term Emergency Program. Lacey Taylor supervises and supports a group of foster homes which she collected together to attend the Level 1 series.

At this time the pilot has commenced and will complete in early December. KFFNM staff are working with Lacey to guide participants through the foundational skill development concepts involved in 12 sessions of Level 1 series. During training sessions Lacey provides insight for the application of the concepts as they relate to fostering within WCFS. Lacey meets with the group of participants between sessions to enhance and further explore participant skill development.

A complimentary Co-Host manual was created by KFFNM as a resource to support Lacey with our collaborative engagement. This will be strengthened through Lacey's input at the conclusion of the pilot.

Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care Information Sessions

Table provides the number of registrations and attendance for sessions.

	# Registered to Attend	# Attended
April 8, 2021	19	15
May 1, 2021	14	9
May 6, 2021	13	12
Total	46	36

64% of attendees completed our feedback tool.

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Found the training helpful.	100%				
Believe the information provided will be useful.	100%				

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.	25%	75%			

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
Session clarified the responsibilities, rights & roles of a kinship/foster care provider.	100%		
Session clarified the expectations involved with a kinship/foster care provider.	100%		
I am aware of the next steps for becoming a kinship/foster care provider.	92%	8%	
I am aware of the training and skill development expectations for kinship/foster parents.	92%	8%	
I am aware of supports and resources offered through KFFNM.	92%	8%	

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

	Likely	Not sure	Unlikely
Are you interested in continuing KFFNM training after you are licensed?	74%	28%	

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the trainer's presentation helped clarify the information?	100%		

Note: 2021 Fall sessions participant feedback is not fully reflected as not all sessions were completed within the reporting period. Participant written comments are provided in our Annual reporting.

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.

Information Sessions offered during this reporting period.

- Understanding the Appeal Process for Child Removal
- * (additional session) K/F Best Practices
- CFS Legislation which guides kinship/foster care
- A Historical Perspective for Fostering Reconciliation

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered	total # in Zoom sessions
12	11

48% of attendees completed our feedback tool.

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?	40%	60%			
Did you find the session workbooks helpful?	50%	50%			

Feedback regarding information provided.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful	
Did the information in this session provide answers to	40%	60%		
	Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult	
How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during this session?	40%	40%	20%	
	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?	30%		50%	20%

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

How comfortable are you feeling now in finding specific information about this session topic?	100%		
	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the facilitator was helpful in guiding your learning experience?	60%	40%	
	Yes	No	
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%		

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Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Level 1 KFFNM skill development approach is to support the development and enhancement of the unique kinship and foster parent skill sets involved with 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 day.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered for Training Series	# attended Training Series	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Training Series
75	65	318	9

55% of attendees completed our feedback tool.

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?	54%	46%			
Did this training increase your awareness of how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?	38%	54%	8%		
Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?	38%	54%	8%		
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?		100%			

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?	34%	23%	31%	

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?

	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?	83%	17%	
Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors 'Strategies, Tools, and Skills' when describing the parenting you provide?	100%		

How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during the sessions?

	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?	34%	62%			

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?	100%	
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?	100%	
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%	

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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

Level 2 sessions offered during reporting period:

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.

- Guiding Behaviours
- Skills for Life
- Focused Documentation

Session Registration/Attendance

During this reporting period, 5 Level 2 Series of **20** sessions.

# registered to attend	# attended	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Level 2 Series
23	20	76	17

61% of attendees completed our feedback tool.

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
78%	22%			
100%				

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
44%	44%	22%		

Did you discover parenting tools, during these sessions, which will support your parenting strategies?

Yes	No
77%	23%

Specific questions about training material.

Did you find the workbooks helpful?

Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
100%		

Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?

Likely	Unlikely
100%	

Regarding level of participant engagement.

Will you join us for future training sessions?

Yes	No
100%	

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