

KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA

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

April 1, 2022 to
September 30, 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.

Contents

At A Glance Program Service Delivery	Page # 3
Community Member Service Contacts Individuals accessing KFFNM	Page # 4
Peer Support Program Support request data collected	Page # 5
Skill Development Sessions Registration, Attendance, Feedback information	
Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care	Page # 7
Information Sessions	Page # 8
Level 1 Sessions	Page # 9
Level 2 Sessions	Page # 10

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 and 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 and 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 of Directors.
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 **221** inquires into KFFNM services were responded to through our main line.

In total KFFNM provided **101** Zoom 2-4 hour sessions to **751** session participants attendees, **2** in-person sessions were provided for a total of **103** skill development sessions.

2 Agency Information (Q&A) sessions were provided for **12** agency representatives from **3** of Child and Family Service Authorities.

Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care sessions recorded **48** community members registered. Information packages were emailed in response to all inquiries. **31** callers attended and completed KFFNM Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care session.

Skill Development Level sessions (1&2) and **Information Sessions** received **245** kinship of foster parent registrations resulting in a cumulative attendance of **710** participations.

Skill Development Level 1 series was offered **4** times. **45** participants attended. **26** completed all the required 9 module sessions and 3 mentorship sessions. **some participants complete in a different reporting period.*

Skill Development Level 2 sessions offered **8** series start date options. **57** participants attended.

Feedback questionnaires were emailed to participants after the completion of skill development series. **74%** of participants responded and let us know about their experience.

Participant feedback highlights:

Overall **92%** 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 **98%** responded yes. Kinship and foster parents responded that **88%** felt more empowered from involvement with KFFNM skill development sessions. **95%** of participants answered that they found taking KFFNM sessions met their needs.

Facebook

We reached **3602** people.
We had **349** engagements
(reactions, comments, shares).
We received **21** page likes.

Mail-Outs

Adapting to training through Zoom we continue to mail session material directly to the participants home.

During this reporting period we mailed out to kinship and foster parents:

685 training booklets

Volunteer Hours

Board members,
Peer Support Providers,
Education Co-facilitators,
Provided a total of **1,459** service hours

Coffee Support Times

1 in-person support session was provided with **9** participants joining.

Family Fun Times

2 in-person family gatherings were held to support community building. In **Thompson 37** people joined us and in **Steinbach 78** people participated. It was wonderful to see families come together for food, games and connection.

Fostering Family Connections

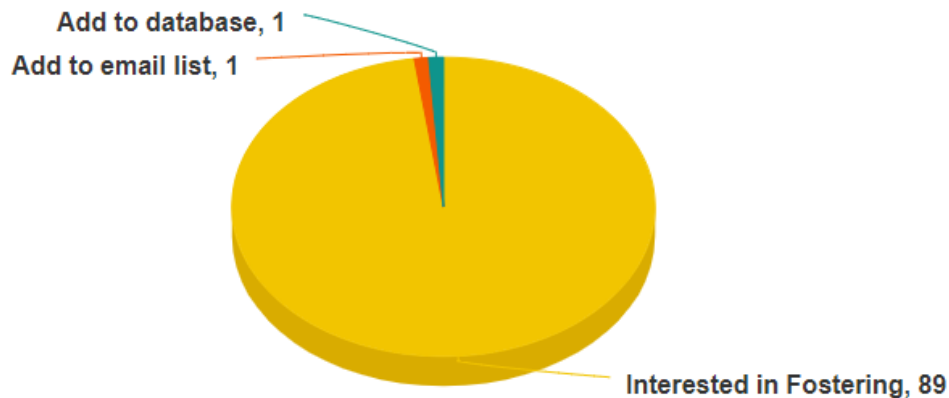
6 kinship and foster parents joined us for this pilot forum in Thompson.

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 regarding kinship or foster care information through the Provincial Community of Care phone line or KFFNM office phone line. In addition with Facebook and the KFFNM website, during this reporting period KFFNM responded to **91** community members.

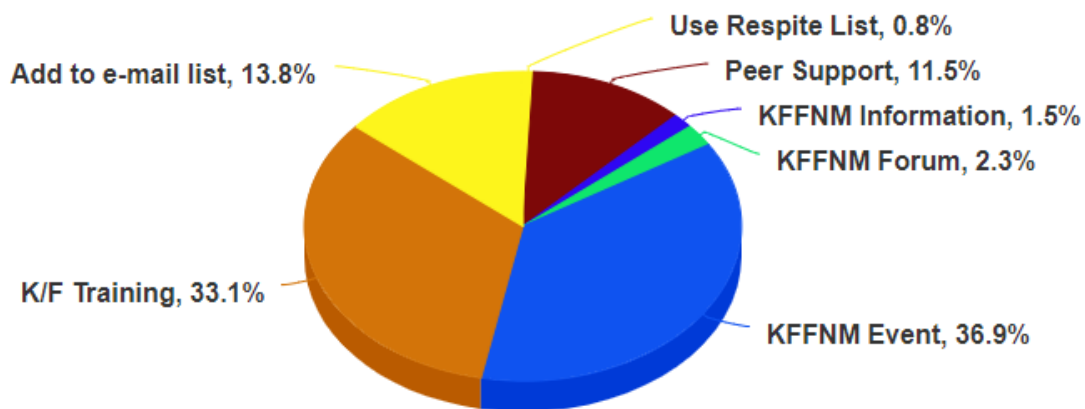
Community Members Requests



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 **130** kinship and foster parent requests through our office. The pie chart represents the overall percentage of calls and the initial service request.

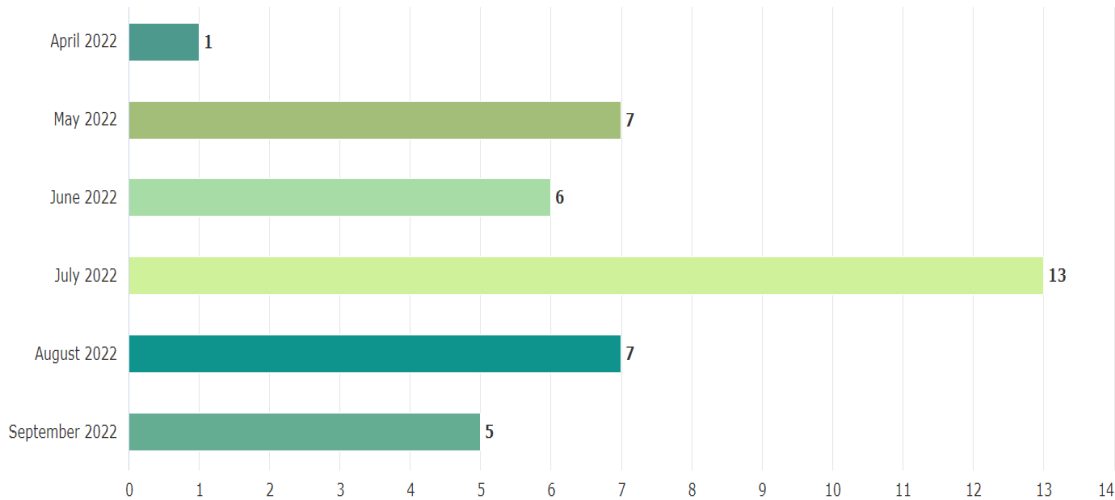
Initial Service Requests



Peer Support Program

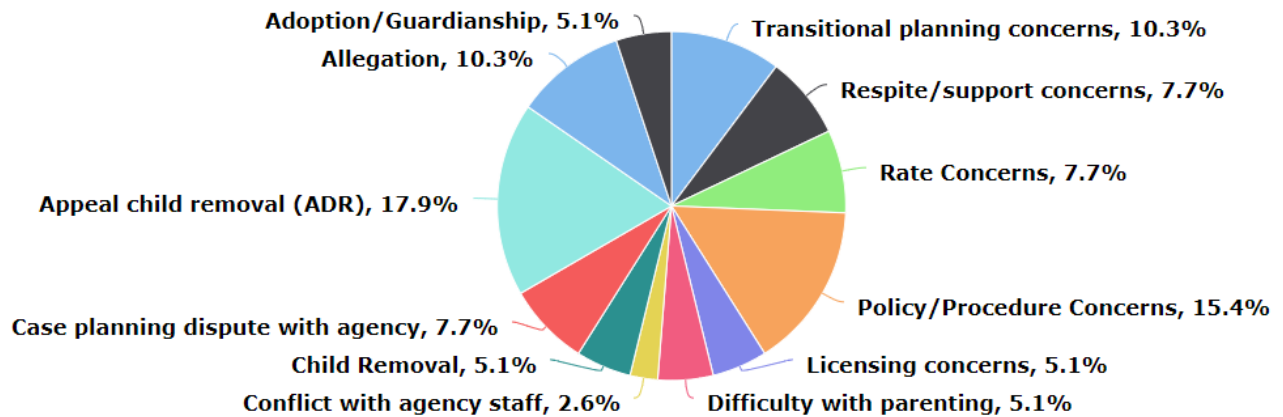
Callers requesting Peer Support Program

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 **39** requests for support.



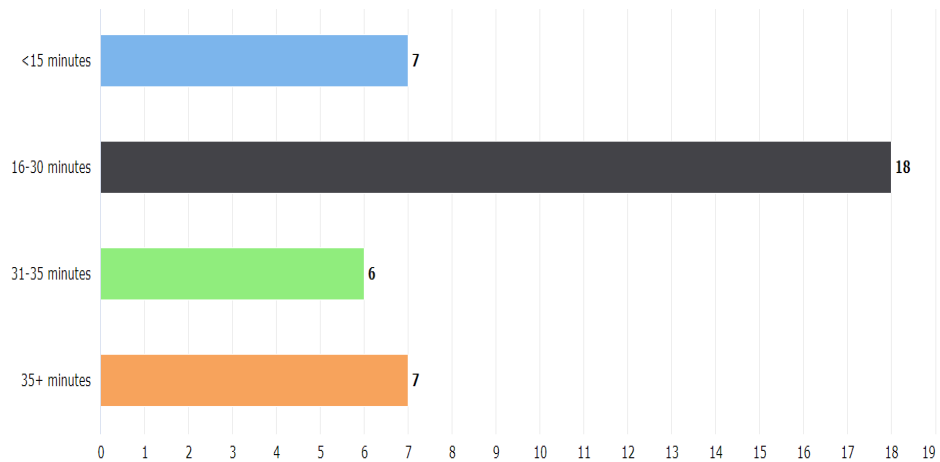
Primary issues identified by callers

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



Peer Support Program Service Delivery Data Analysis

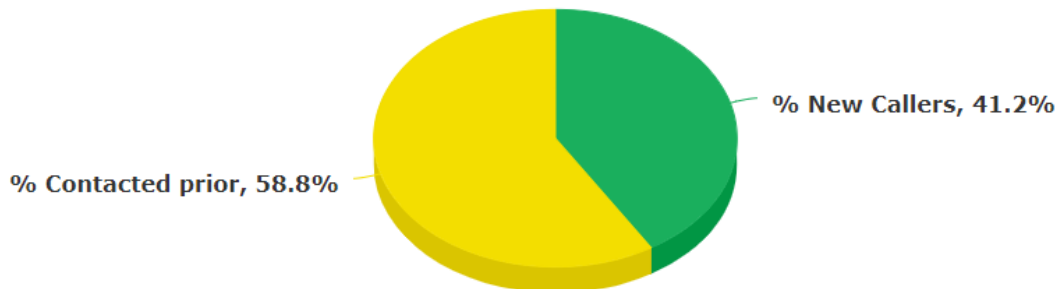
KFFNM database provides information regarding the average length of time spent with callers. Dramatic changes to the average call time may indicate a need for program service adjustment.



Identification of on-going support provided to kinship and foster parents

Pie chart contrasts the percentage of **new** kinship or foster parent callers who accessed the PSP phone line during this reporting period with the percentage of kinship or foster parents who access the PSP phone line prior and during this reporting period indicating additional support needed.

Demonstrating that some issues are able to be addressed with **clear succinct information (53.8%)**, but some issues are more complex and require **additional support (46.2%)**.



Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care

	# Registered	# Attended
During this reporting period,	April 7, 2022	13
4 Introduction sessions were provided.	April 9, 2022	10
	May 5, 2022	12
	June 2, 2022	13
	Total	48
		31

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Found the training helpful.	75%	20%	5%		
Believe the information provided will be useful.	65%	30%		5%	

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.	40%	35%	20%	5%	

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
Session clarified the responsibilities, rights & roles of a kinship/foster care provider.	90%	10%	
Session clarified the expectations involved with a kinship/foster care provider.	90%	10%	
I am aware of the next steps for becoming a kinship/foster care provider.	70%	30%	
I am aware of the training and skill development expectations for kinship/foster parents.	80%	20%	
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.	95%	5%	

	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 online.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered	total # in Zoom sessions
106	68

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?	47%	42%	11%		
Did you find the session workbooks helpful?	53%	37%	5%		5%

Feedback regarding information provided.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful	Did not have prior questions	Now I have questions
Did the information in this session provide answers to questions you had?	53%	32%		16%	

	Very easy to understand	Easy to understand	Neither easy or difficult
How would you rate the complexity of the information provided during this session?	58%	42%	

	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?	21%	11%	53%	15%

Feedback regarding KFFNM training.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not so helpful
Did you find the facilitator was helpful in guiding your learning experience?	34%	66%	

	Yes	No
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%	

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 **4** Level 1 training series were provided. Each training series contains **12** training sessions. During this reporting period **48** training sessions were provided. 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
55	45	392	26

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?
 Did this training increase your awareness for 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?	57%	39%	4%		
Did this training increase your awareness for how meaningful and valuable the care you provide is?	48%	43%	9%		
Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?	41%	57%	2%		
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?		93%	7%		

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?	29%	24%	45%	2%

Specific questions about training principles.

What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?

	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
What do you think of the Principle of Addition as explained during training?	84%	16%	

Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors 'Strategies, Tools, and Skills' when describing the parenting you provide?

	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely
Do you think you will use the Parenting Descriptors 'Strategies, Tools, and Skills' when describing the parenting you provide?	93%	5%	2%

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?	32%	52%	16%		

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?	58%	42%
Will you use the workbooks provided when explaining the complexities of your role in discussions with CFS supports or workers?	93%	7%
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%	

Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development

Level 2

KFFNM skill development advances to the integration of kinship and foster parenting skills based upon 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 their care practices.

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

- Guiding Behaviours
- Skills for Life
- Focused Documentation
- Fostering Family Connections
- Writing Your Milieu

During this reporting period, **8** Level 2 Series of **4** sessions for a total of **32** sessions.
 During this reporting period 1 session for Writing Your Milieu was provided in person to a care provider.

Session Registration/Attendance			
# registered to attend	# attended	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Level 2 Series
84	57	204	48

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

How well did the training sessions meet your needs?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
48%	52%			
66%	22%	12%		

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
31%	62%	5%	2%	

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

Yes	No
89%	11%

Specific questions about training material.

Did you find the workbooks helpful?

Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not at all Valuable
35%	55%	10%

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
41%	49%	10%		

Regarding level of participant engagement.

Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?

Yes	No
58%	42%
98%	2%

Will you join us for future training sessions?



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS