

2023

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD

April 1, 2023 to
September 30, 2023

THE KINSHIP AND FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF MANITOBA

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



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Contents

Who are We? Organization information	Page 1+2
At A Glance Program Service Delivery	Page 3
Service Requests Type of service requests	Page 4
Peer Support Program	Page 5
KFFNM Support Services	Page 6
Skill Development Sessions Registration, Attendance, Feedback information	
Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care	Page 7
Level 1 Sessions	
Level 2 Sessions	Page 8&9
Information Sessions	



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

Who Are We?

The Kinship & Foster Family Network of Manitoba (KFFNM) is a non-profit charitable organization funded by the Province of Manitoba. KFFNM's Board membership is fully comprised of kinship and foster parents. KFFNM promotes the participation of kinship and foster parents in co-facilitating education programs and responding to peer support calls for guidance. KFFNM 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, KFFNM 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.

- ✦ KFFNM 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 KFFNM hosts 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.

Services Overview

<p>Community of Care</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Introduction to Kinship/Foster Care</p>	<p>Historical understanding and awareness of care expectations, legislation, the structure of the family services system and standard licensing process.</p>
<p>Peer Support Program</p>	<p>Trained volunteers offer phone support and education to kinship/foster care providers on best practices and systems information. Offers in-person groups and gatherings to support interconnections with care providers.</p>
<p>Kinship/Foster Care Skill Development Series</p>	<p>Level 1 sessions: understanding of kinship/foster care provider skills and knowledge. Level 2 sessions: care provider strategies, tools and skills to enhance competencies. Facilitator Training: skill development for co-facilitating group training sessions offered through KFFNM.</p>
<p>Information Sessions</p>	<p>Understanding Legislation, Standards and Policies. Historical Perspectives for Fostering Reconciliation Understanding the Child Removal Process KFFNM Service Overview</p>
<p>Focus Forums</p>	<p>Three forums, per year, are facilitated province wide on issues identified by kinship and foster care providers and the KFFNM Board.</p>
<p>Groups, Events and Gatherings</p>	<p>Providing support to kinship and foster care provider communities.</p>

AT A GLANCE

Program Service Delivery Information

During this 6 month reporting period **214** inquires into KFFNM services were responded to through our office.

Overall KFFNM provided **65** Zoom 2-4 hour sessions for **114** session participants attendees.

Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care sessions recorded **11** community members registered for providing kinship or foster care. Information packages were emailed in response to all inquiries. **8** callers attended and completed KFFNM Introduction to Kinship & Foster Care session.

Skill Development Level sessions (1&2) and **Information Sessions** received **109** kinship or foster care provider registrations.

Skill Development Level 1 sessions offered **3** series start date options. **30** participants attended. **12** completed all the required 9 module sessions and 3 mentorship sessions. **some participants completed missing sessions in a different reporting period.*

Skill Development Level 2 sessions offered **8** series start date options. **56** participants attended. There was a **47** participant completion rate with attending the required 4 sessions.

Feedback questionnaires were emailed to participants after the completion of skill development series. **59%** of participants responded and let us know about their experience.

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

Overall **70%** of participants thought the information provided was valuable. **70%** responded that they found the KFFNM session workbooks were helpful. When asked if they would continue to participate in future KFFNM Skill Development sessions **100%** responded yes. Kinship and foster parents responded that **75%** felt more empowered from involvement with KFFNM skill development sessions.

KFFNM Data Base

There are 1,456 kinship or foster care providers in our data base.

Facebook

We reached 3757 people.
We had 150 engagements (reactions, comments, shares).
We received 16 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: **107** training packages.

Volunteer Hours

Board members,
Peer Support Providers,
Education Co-facilitators,
Provided **1,476** volunteer hours

Coffee Support Times

6 in-person support session were provided with participants joining in.

Family Fun Times

3 in-person family gatherings were facilitated with kinship, foster parents and their families joining us for food, games and the opportunity to meet kinship and foster care providers.

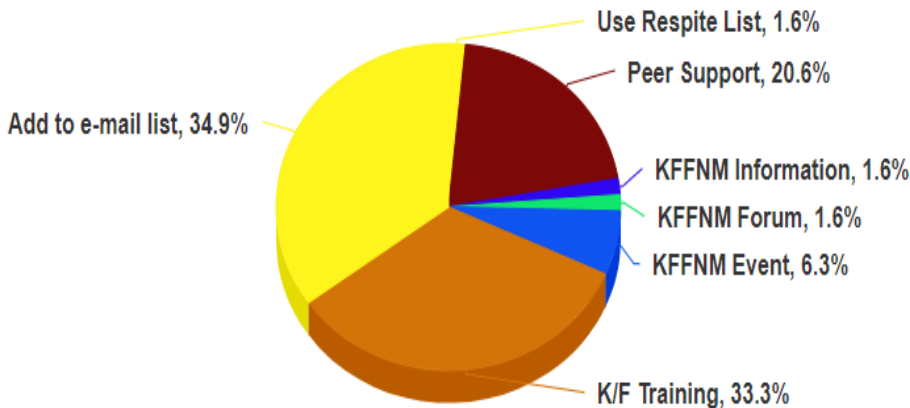
SERVICE REQUESTS

Community Member Requests

KFFNM provides support and information for community members seeking information about kinship and foster care in Manitoba. Community members can access this through the Provincial Community of Care phone line or KFFNM office phone line, in addition to KFFNM Facebook and KFFNM website. During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **52** community members direct phone line calls.



Kinship/Foster Care Providers Service Requests



KFFNM provides a variety of program services for kinship and foster care providers in Manitoba.

During this reporting period, KFFNM responded to **146** kinship/foster service requests.

The pie chart represents the overall percentage of service requests for this period.

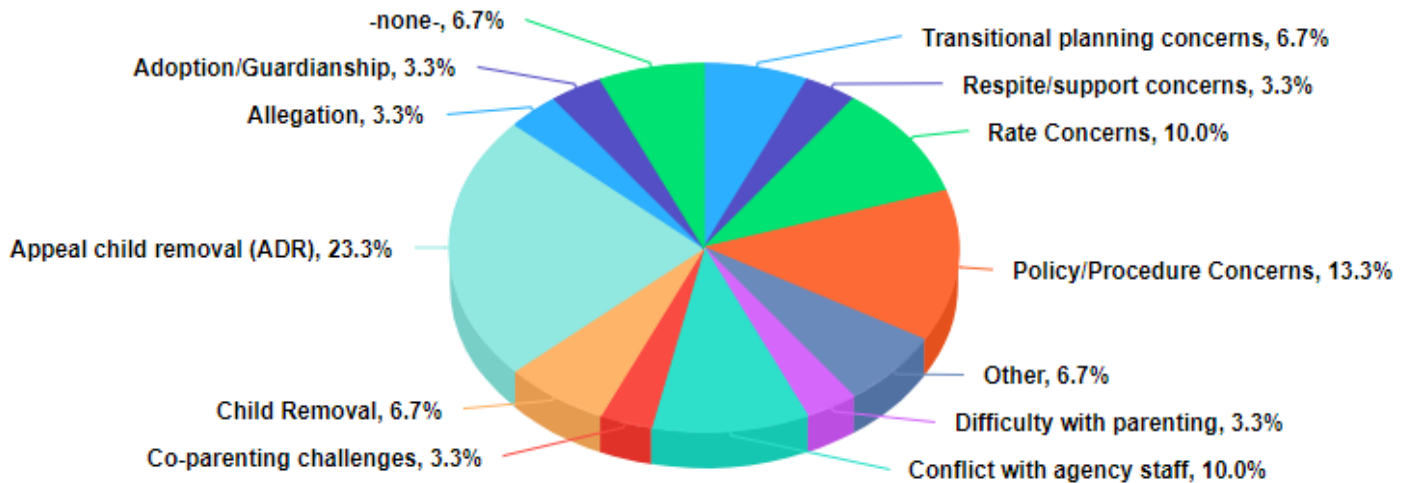
Note: Initial service request does not always represent the service the caller ended accessing.

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

It has become apparent our peer support call line has become a first point of access for kinship and foster parents. Callers often repeatedly accessed this particular resources as they worked to resolve challenges. With increase to our support services we are seeing a shift from callers strictly accessing the support line and transitioning to a variety of KFFNM support or skill development services. Support referrals are made to Information Sessions, Skill Development Sessions, In-Person Support Times, or Question & Answer sessions.

Callers Requesting Peer Support Program

KFFNM 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 **54** caller requests for support. 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 documented for training purposes.



Peer Support Volunteer Training and Support

KFFNM provides a variety of trainings and support for all volunteers engaged with delivering services. Volunteers are engaged with the KFFNM board, PSP call line, and co-facilitating care provider skill development educational sessions.

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers are engaged with the KFFNM board, PSP call line, and co-facilitating care provider skill

During this reporting period.	
Service	Hours Provided
KFFNM Board	14
PSP call line	1412
Co-Facilitating	62

KFFNM SUPPORT SERVICES

During this reporting period 6 In-Person Support Groups and 3 community Family Time Events.

Participants

82

In-Person Support Groups

KFFNM has re-opened peer support services which provide in-person engagement. A strong majority of care providers have requested access to this level of support. During this reporting period the focus was on facilitating engagement amongst participants and discovery for relevant subject matter participants would like to explore through this particular resource.

Family Time Events

KFFNM facilitated an in-person Family Time in Thompson. Family times are a celebration for kinship/foster families to come together share a meal and engage in crafts or activities. A bouncy castle was provided along with craft tables, conversation and a meal.

Focus Forums

KFFNM invites Manitoba's kinship and foster parents to participate in a series of community forums. These forums offer kinship and foster parents an opportunity to share their wisdom and express their opinions on the challenges and rewards of kinship and foster parenting. It is our intent that the ideas presented in these forums may improve the kinship/ foster care experience for everyone involved.

Focus on Family Connections was the topic explored during 2022 and 2023. Information was discussed regarding historical perspectives, possible impacts of Bill C-92 and four questions were posed to participants. Responses to questions were written on post-it notes and compiled in an upcoming report. Forums were held in Thomson, Steinbach, and Winnipeg.

Zoom Question & Answer Sessions

KFFNM offers Question & Answer ZOOM sessions to CFS agencies and kinship and foster care providers. The focus is to provide increased awareness for training services, support services, and volunteer services we offer. Information is collected on initiatives which participants think we should consider.

INTRODUCTION TO KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE

During this reporting period,
2 Introduction sessions were provided.

Registered # Attended

11	8
-----------	----------

Participant Feedback

Feedback regarding value of training session.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Found the training helpful.	80%	20%			
Believe the information provided will be useful.	75%	25%			

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.	75%	25%			

	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.	90%	10%	
I am aware of the training and skill development expectations for kinship/foster parents.	100%		
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?	100%		

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

KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

During this reporting period, Skill Development sessions were provided.

# Registered	# Attended	Total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Training Series
109	103	439	79

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 **3** training sessions. During this reporting period **36** zoom training sessions were provided. Training series were offered during mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered for Training Series	# attended Training Series	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Training Series
32	30	227	12

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 for a total of **32** sessions. During this reporting period **1** session for Writing Your Milieu was provided in person to foster care group participants.

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered to attend	# attended	total # in Zoom sessions	# completed Level 2 Series
56	53	192	47

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, **3** Information Zoom sessions were provided. .

Session Registration/Attendance

# registered	total # in Zoom sessions
21	20

SKILL DEVELOPMENT FEEDBACK

Participant Feedback

General questions regarding training value.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
How well did the training sessions meet your needs?	60%	25%	5%		
Do you feel the training sessions strengthened your kinship/foster parenting skills?	75%	25%			
Overall do you think the information provided will be valuable?	70%	20%	10%		

Specific questions about training material.

	A great deal	A lot	Moderate amount	Not at all
Did you find the workbooks helpful?	70%	10%	20%	

	A Great Deal	A Lot	Moderate Amount	A Little	None at all
Did the sessions assist you with developing and articulating parenting strategies, tools and skills you use?	63%	12%		25%	

	Yes	No
Did you discover parenting tools, starting these sessions, which will support your parenting strategies?	80%	20%

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
60%	30%	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
30%	60%	10%		

Regarding level of participant engagement.

	Yes	No
Did you feel comfortable to share your thoughts or questions during the sessions?	90%	10%
Will you join us for future training sessions?	100%	



The Kinship & Foster Family
Network of Manitoba

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS