

MRFC-NCR BOARD MEETING
December 6, 2006

Attendees:

Louise Boudreau, Chair
Thomas Allgoewer, Executive Director
Cissy Wang
Cecilia Pita
Alain Miclette, Treasurer
Ilektra Devereux
Major S. Jonasson, Ex-Officio

Regrets of members:

Marc Chenier
Eileen Boles, Vice Chair
Sylvie Nadeau-Janelle
Christine Etna

Absentees:

Secretary:

André Lévesque

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 1840 by Louise.

1. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

ACTION BY

Louise welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed the floor to Ilektra for the introduction of our guests, Ms. Leslie Natynczyk and VCDS LGen WJ Natynczyk.

1.2 Introduction of Our guests

Ilektra introduced our special guest and briefly explained their experience with the U.S. MFRC system and more specifically about their involvement in the many community services programs at the U.S. Army Base in Fort Hood.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted after point 5.was moved ahead of point 3.

Motion: Ilektra Seconded by Alain

3. Children Program Overview

Info

For the benefit of our guests, Diane provided an overview of the Children program. She mentioned that mainly due to problems with the location of the center and the difficulties in getting help on-call, we need to provide more "home care" type of services. As well, not having an actual daycare in Uplands or in Orleans where there is a definite need for it compounds the problem. Her staffs are actively looking at all the areas where the service is needed and venues where it could be provided.

At this point Louise reaffirmed our need to find out how much money we will be receiving from United Way. She also emphasised our need to find better ways to publicise our charitable donation status for United Way directed Donations.

Diane then confirmed that the "Saturday time away" (aka respite care) is one of the most used services. She also mentioned that we try to design our program to meet special

needs of the military community, such as opening at 6:10 am and the provision of emergency daycare. She then described the great partnership we have with the Elizabeth Park School. As well, she emphasised that the numerous volunteers are vital to our success.

She ended her presentation by described the major challenges we faced, Specifically she mentioned that, while the 5% pay increase we gave the staff last year did help tremendously, we still couldn't match what the private daycare offers which makes it difficult to properly staff the daycare services. As well, she mentioned that we are offering great programs yet, for whatever reason, they remain under used. Finally Diane reiterated the need better publicize what we have to offer.

Louise mentioned to all that indeed we need to find out why people are not availing themselves of the various MFRC services in greater numbers.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MAY MINUTES

The May 10, 2006 meeting minutes were approved without amendment.

Motion: Cecilia Seconded by Ilektra

5. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER MINUTES

The November 2, 2006 meeting minutes were approved without amendment

Motion: Ilektra Seconded by Cissy

6. ED REPORT

Thomas discussed a few points not covered in his monthly report: (Info)

- We are on the brink of having the new financial system on-line;
- The nominal role is still an issue. We finally have it but we have yet to analyse it and make proper use of it;
- The marketing and the promotion of our various program is now a top priority.
- Usage of the various services is up, specially deployment and emergency childcare;
- As a sign of the family stress that our deployment to Afghanistan is generating, the use of our social services (counseling) is up. We are now very close to be at maximum capacity and extra staff may need to be hired soon. Extra funding is likely available for this and Thomas will keep a close eye on this particular issue;
- Some situations have occurred where the present definition of (Thomas) "military family" was found to be lacking. Specifically issues related to the joint custody of children between military member and "ex-spouse". Thomas will enquire with DMFS for clarification.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are still on track; 58% of the year as past and we are 53% spent. Some Programs are overspent mainly because October was a 3-pay month (26 pay per year) but also because some program are being reimbursed after the fact. But there is nothing to worry about. We do not have to dip in our reserve in order to function. It looks like the daycare will be at full capacity in January, which is always financially sound. Finally we still need to look the feasibility of a 2-tier fee system. (Info)

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Committee Standings. Louise mentioned how please she was with the outcome of the last meeting and thanked all of those that have volunteered for the various committees. She also reminded everyone that the various draft TORs are due in January. (Info)

8.2 Support to Civilian Members that are Deployed. Louise opened by mentioning that our concerns do not appear to have made it to the policy promulgated by DMFS. We will then continue to send correspondence reaffirming our concerns to DMFS. In the end, we are joining two different communities and our policy need to adapt to this new environment. For one, we need to include a civilian representative on our board. As well, how would a 2-tier system work with civilians? We do not want people to have false expectations; We do not want them to feel like “second class citizens”. Furthermore, Self-identification might be a problem. (Info)

A long discussion ensued with regards to what we should be providing to the families of the deployed civilians as we wait for clearer direction from DMFS. In the end Louise motioned that all of our services be offered to the civilian families until we get clarification from DMFS. (All)

Motion: Louise Seconded by Alain All in favour CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 DMFS Participant Survey Results. DMFS’s survey did not receive the response they were anticipated therefore the results have not yet being officially published. The response, however, was large enough for the ED to gather helpful information. Overall, there is a fair amount of satisfaction from those using the services. One surprise from the survey is that we expected the employment assistance program to be much more appreciated than it actually is. As well, the survey shows that the users require a more advance level of second language training than we currently offer. (All)

9.2. Fencing at the school. Reports have come to us with regards to a man indecently exposing himself to kids behind the school in Uplands. The military police is involved in the response to the incident. CFSU is handling the response. One of the proposals is the installation on a fence behind the school to prevent the children from using the “short-cut through the woods” in an effort to discourage the offender from re-offending.

Our main concern is that we only heard of this incident “through the grapevines”. We (the BOD and the ED) need to be informed of such incidents much sooner and through official channels. The other concern is in the delay that occurred before the school children’s parents were made aware of the latest problem. The ED will continue to work with CFSU and the MPs on this issue.

(Thomas)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Governance and Risk Management. André mentioned that the first draft of the TORs was completed tonight before the BOD meeting and that there should not be any problems with having a final draft ready for review at the next meeting. André also asked Thomas to enquire with the other EDs across the country and see if we could get a copy of their updated governance policies that we could use as a solid starting point for the drafting of our own policies.

10.2 Personnel. Ilektra confirmed that the draft TORs for the personnel committee are completed. She also confirmed that the personnel grievance policy will be ready for the January meeting. As an aside, Ilektra mentioned that the Petawawa MFRC had a float in the Orleans Santa Parade and we did not. She suggested that we do enter a float in next year’s parade. As well, Ilektra asked for volunteers to help make Christmas parcels for the deployed personnel.

10.3 Policy Development Review. Cissy presented to the BOD the draft TORs for this committee. She also confirmed that all the other draft TORs should be sent to the Policy Review committee for final review before they are presented to the BOD.

10.4 Fundraising. Christine was not present at the meeting and no update was given.

10.5 ED Evaluation Committee. We need another Board member to sit on this committee and Louise asked for a volunteer by next meeting.

As well, after a short discussion Louise confirmed that the draft TORs are now due at the February meeting vice the January.

11. WRAP-UP

Louise informed us that Marc Chenier has officially resigned from the BOD. (Info)
We are now getting seriously low in BOD members and we will need to help Eileen and focus on BOD recruitment. As well we need to consider having civilian spouse join the BOD to get their perspective on deployments and their inputs.

Finances are going well.

Louise will continue the dialogue with DMFS with regards to the services to the families of the deployed civilians.

Finally the issue of the “indecent exposure” in the hands of the MPs.

Alain enquired about the possibility of having meetings in Rockcliffe more often. (Thomas)
Louise mentioned that having the possibility to “video conference might help some member participate when the meetings are held in Rockcliffe. Thomas will look into this.

Ilektra reminded us that next year we will need “Float Elfs” to help put together an entry into the Orleans Santa Parade.

12. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next Board meeting is to take place at 1830hrs on January 10, 2007 at the **Uplands centre**.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The BOD meeting adjourned at 2045 hrs

L. Boudreau
Chair

A. Lévesque
Secretary

