

Drayton Valley & District Family and Community Support Services
Board of Directors
Roles & Responsibilities

History

Drayton Valley & District FCSS began in Drayton Valley in late 1997. In October of 1998, after extensive education and partnership building, the Town of Drayton Valley passed BY-Law 98-14, formally creating the organization.

FCSS began as a partnership between the Province of Alberta, the Town of Drayton Valley, Brazeau County and, beginning in 2003, a portion of Parkland County as well.

The Town and County have a partnership agreement, by which the County provides 2/3 of their FCSS funding to the Town of Drayton Valley for Drayton Valley & District FCSS and 1/3 to the Village of Breton for the Breton program. The Town of Drayton Valley is the administrative body for the funding for Drayton Valley & District FCSS.

Family and Community Support Services is:

- a legal partnership between the Province of Alberta and municipalities or Metis Settlements;
- an agreement under which locally-driven preventive initiatives can be developed, to enhance the well-being of individuals, families and communities;
- a funding arrangement through which the province provides a pre-determined grant for locally-driven initiatives, and municipalities match that grant by providing at least 20 percent of the funding;
- a philosophy under which: local people can influence things that affect them; communities can be innovative and creative; citizen participation, self-help and volunteerism are encouraged; human growth and potential are enhanced;
- a continually evolving program that encourages communities to strengthen themselves

The Purpose of the Board

- a) In accordance with the By-Law, the FCSS Board shall make recommendations regarding areas of programming and assignment of appropriate resources.

The Board is to provide support and advice to the FCSS Program Manager in the following areas:

- b) Formulation of plans, priorities and policies regarding Family and Community Support Services with a view to the establishment of a comprehensive program.
- c) The establishment of such relationships with other municipal, Provincial and Federal departments and community agencies that will promote the orderly development of FCSS.
- d) Encouragement of individuals and groups to offer constructive suggestions or criticisms of policies or programs established.
- e) Consultation with professional groups, social agencies (public or private) or other groups as it may determine advisable.
- f) Suggestions to public and/or private agencies regarding changes in policies, programs or practices that might improve the impact of such services.
- g) Cooperation and joint planning with related community groups and agencies.
- h) Promotion of citizens awareness of the importance of prevention and of prevention social services available.
- i) Promotion of citizens awareness and identification of key social issues and challenges facing the community.
- j) Promotion, encouragement and facilitation of volunteerism and the use of volunteers, and encouragement of citizen participation in program development.
- k) The development and implementation of policy for grants, municipal assistance and specific grant applications for the FCSS programming.
- l) Review of submitted briefs regarding possible or current FCSS programs from responsible individuals and groups.
- m) Annual submission to Town Council of an estimate of the financial requirements for the Drayton Valley & District FCSS program and administration of the capital and operating expenditures thereof.

The Board consists of Seven individuals:

- One Town Council member
- One Brazeau County Council member
- One Region #4 CFSA member (could be Staff or board)

Four members from the community at large: one Drayton valley resident, one County resident, one Senior resident and one Youth resident.

Meetings

The Board meets every two months generally in the morning or early afternoon for approximately two –three hours. Meetings tend to be longer in the fall (October/November) and spring (May/June) when granting applications are submitted for review.

Services to the Community

FCSS provides a number of services to the community according to the Terms and Conditions of Funding from the Province.

- The provision of grants to organizations providing services that fit the both the funding criteria as well as the community priorities determined by the Board.
- The creation of community information documents, such as summer program calendars, community directories and the Community Express newsletter.
- Collaboration of community efforts such as the Human Service Trade Fair, Youth Conferences, Go Girl, etc..
- Support to volunteer organizations and referral to volunteer agencies.
- Community referral (phone and walk-in).
- Direct community programs such as Parenting After Separation and the Volunteer Income Tax Program.
- “Sponsorship” of special projects such as Building Safer Communities and Affordable Housing.

FCSS programs must:

- a) Be of preventative nature that enhances the social well-being of individuals and families through promotion of intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity, and
- b) Do one or more of the following:
 - Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis.
 - Help people to develop an awareness of social skills.
 - Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people.
 - Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them.
 - Provide support that helps sustain people as active participants in the community.

FCSS Programs cannot fund:

- (a) provide primarily for the recreational needs or leisure time pursuits of individuals,
- (b) offer direct assistance, including money, food, clothing or shelter, to sustain an individual or family,
- (c) be primarily rehabilitative in nature, or
- (d) duplicate services that are ordinarily provided by a government or government agency.

Additional Commitments

Because FCSS exists in 192 Municipalities, an annual Provincial Conference is held for the benefit of staff and Board members to network and learn about FCSS and relevant social and municipal issues.

Drayton Valley and District FCSS is a member of the Edmonton Evergreen FCSS Region, and a mini-conference is held each spring for Staff and Board s to discuss regional issues for their programs and municipalities.

Board members may be asked to attend one or both of these conferences.