



Our Vision: All children and youth are safe and nurtured

Our Mission: We protect children and youth from abuse or neglect by ensuring their safety in a permanent and nurturing environment in partnership with families and the community



Board of Directors 2010-2011

Left to Right - Maureen Bedek, Don Lawrence-Past President, Jennifer Paul-O'Donnell, Jeff Addley-President, Cheryl Fish-Treasurer, Rod Potgieter-Executive Director, Tonya Sheldon, Ric Murray-Vice President
Not pictured: Gord Bryant-Secretary, Kathy Fehr, Tracy Grant, Monty Fordham, Matt Moyes,

I am your Children's Aid - Staff 2010-2011

Executive Director	Rod Potgieter
Director of Services	Dawn Flegel
Manager, Finance & Administration Services	Barry Westman
Manager, Family Services and HR	Donna King
Manager, Senior Legal Counsel	Joyce Dittrich
Manager, Resources	Brian Flint
Manager, County Investigations Services	Karl Flegel
Manager, City Family Services	Shelley West
Manager, County Family Services	Adri Hewitt
Manager City Investigations Services	Monica Szikszay
Manager, Children's Services	Dori Brauer / Julie Carter
Manager, Family Services	Julie Meyers
Manager, Support Services	Susan Dawe-Lundy
Manager, Information Systems	Tom Timbrell
Executive Assistant	Neil Hubert (Rita Withenshaw)
HR/Quality Assurance Coordinator	Ramona Smith
Legal Counsel	Marnelle Dragila, Liz Wilson
Legal Assistants	Lorri Parkins, Sue Sheridan
Receptionist	Hetty Findlay
Administrative Assistants	Julie Agius, Wendy Evans, Nancy Loeters, Paula Mooney, Sherri Quinlan, Terri Struthers
Bookkeeper	Amanda Luyks
Payroll and Benefits Administrator	April Murray
IT Coordinator	Dan Bridge
Volunteer Coordinator	Lorri Donaldson
Transportation & Access Coordinator	Jamesie Blackwell
Child and Youth Worker	Kelsie Hitchen-Percival, Tabitha MacArthur, Heather Snow
Foster Support Worker	Sharon Bogart, Kristen Fryer, Amanda McCooeye, Jen Peters,
Children's Support Worker	Kari Wyse
Children's Mental Health Counsellor	Steve Kippen
Students	Stephanie Ates, Caitlin McMahon, Alyssa O'Brien, Terri Peterkin,
Foster Care Recruiter	Debbie Dawdy
President, Foster Parent Association	Nancy Moyes

CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS

Amy Adams, Kristy Baker, Deb Barnes, Kallie Boudreau, Jennifer Chamberlain, Tricia Creed, Silvia Cuevas, Gordana Cvetkovic, Jennifer Deroches, Rob Fellows, Lana Fleming, Julie Gillard, Natalie Goodyear, Jodie Henry, Suzanne Hines, Taylor Jack, Christina Jolliffe, Stephanie Knox, Nicole Kuipers, Sandra Lake, Dana Lawrence, Jennifer Lewis, Josie Loewen, Melissa Mercier, Jodi Lynn Morris, Krista Palma, Cheryl Pasma, Rhonda Phillips, Kate Reid, Krista Rohrer, Lucy Shaw, Tracy Trainor, Anne Wall, Patty Warren, Caroline Welten, Lynita Wilson, Dawn Winegarden, Kathryn Wozny, Melanie Wuytenburg

CHILDREN'S SERVICES WORKERS

Marcia Andkilde, Rebecca Downey, Laura Evans, Kayla Gowdy, Anne MacKinnon, Janice Oldham, Michelle Rickard, Danielle Russell
Adoption Worker - Marilyn Provenzano

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE WORKERS

Paul Ballantyne, Tracey Hedges, Marnie Merritt, Susan Nichol, Julie Ritchie, Deb Vint

Kinship Services Workers - Carol Feddema, Maria Gubbles, Jennifer Lester, Wilma van der Woerd

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS

Wynie Dearlove, Jamie Darling, Patty Dunn, Cara Gogan, Sue Hiebert, Barbara Newell, Todd Rowley, Kim Seabrook, Lisa Vandendor

FAMILY ACCESS WORKERS

Becky Vaughan
Casual - Lana Allen, Patty Dunn, Dawn Goodman, Kelsie Hitchen-Percival, Marija Jurcic, Paula Mooney, Sam Rempel, Teresa Ross, Kim Young



Family & Children's Services
St. Thomas & Elgin
410 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 3C7
Tel: 519- 631-1492 Fax: 519- 631-0596
www.caselgin.on.ca

Family and Children's Services of St. Thomas and Elgin

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Talbot Teen Centre

June 8th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010-2011

The past year has been an exceptional one for our Agency.

Moving beyond the implementation of the Ministry Transformation Agenda, we have begun to develop a "made in Elgin" child welfare model. We have followed our Balanced Scorecard Strategic Plan and the Ministry's strategic directions to arrive at a place where we can describe the "Elgin Model" of child welfare. This model has unique elements and approaches that are different from most other Children's Aid societies in the Province.

Key elements of our model are the Foster to Adopt program, enhanced permanency options for children receiving services, increased placements of children in family based homes in Elgin County, availability of in-home supports, children's mental health counselling, access to psychiatry and psychology. This has resulted in far fewer youth in group homes and significant reductions of the number of children taken into foster care. In addition, we have worked closely with our community partners and planning councils to begin to integrate our services in an enhanced model of community collaboration. We want to fulfill our mission of providing for the welfare of all children in the community by working in an integrated way, by collaborating with families and our community partners to protect children and to look after their well-being.

It is our aim to provide services in the least intrusive manner possible that will still protect the child from abuse or neglect. At the same time, if the child needs to be brought into care we aim to keep the child in their own home, the home of a relative or kin, or in a foster home.

In 2010/11 we enjoyed a great deal of interest in what we are doing in Elgin County from the Ministry, the Child Welfare Commission, our provincial and regional colleagues and community partners. Our staff was invited by the Child Welfare Commission to sit on three of their advisory committees. We presented the Elgin Foster to Adopt model at the OACAS conference in June 2010, the model was published in the OACAS Journal, presented at the National Conference on Infant Mental Health in May 2011 and has been presented to the CASs of London and Simcoe County. As a CAS with good service outcomes and a balanced budget for 2010/11 we were invited, along with three other CASs in the province, to meet with the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services, Mr. George Zegarac, to discuss our models of service provision and explain how we do it.

You will notice from the accompanying graphs that since 2006/07 our completed investigations have remained relatively stable (graph #1). While there was a slight dip in the number of completed investigations in 2008/09, at the same time there was an increase in the number of transfers after investigation to ongoing family services. This was a statistically significant increase in the number of transfers and coincided with the height of the recent economic and social recession being experienced in Elgin County.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

REVENUES

Province of Ontario - Grants	\$11,881,174	93.7%
Other Children's Aid Societies	372,588	2.9%
Government of Canada - Children's Special Allowance	294,424	2.3%
Other Income and Recoveries	125,273	1.0%
Maintenance from Parents	7,325	0.1%
	<u>\$12,680,784</u>	100.0%

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 5,763,912	45.8%
Boarding Rate Payments	2,972,591	23.6%
Employee Benefits	1,282,457	10.2%
Transportation	567,329	4.5%
Children's Personal Needs	503,180	4.0%
Building Occupancy	359,055	2.9%
Technology	269,290	2.1%
Medical and Related Expenses	241,799	1.9%
Office Expenses	203,835	1.6%
Purchased Services - Case Related	97,634	0.8%
Miscellaneous	95,696	0.8%
Training and Recruitment	92,957	0.7%
Purchased Services - Non-Case Related	84,541	0.7%
Promotion and Publicity	26,592	0.2%
Program Expenses	21,700	0.2%
	<u>\$ 12,582,568</u>	100.0%

Surplus Year Ended March 31, 2011 \$98,216

The number of families being served in ongoing services increased in 2008/09, then started to reduce. The number of children served in care has been gradually coming down since 2007/08 and this is demonstrated most clearly when looking at the monthly average of children served in care (graph #2).

The total number of residential days of care provided has reduced significantly from a high of 58,180 in 2003/04 to where we are at 45,864 in 2010/11 (graph #3). In addition, the Residential Days Care [Other] graph shows that included in the total residential days of care is an increasing number of youth on Extended Care and Maintenance [ECM]. In 2003/04 this was 3,485 days in care and in 2010/11 it was 18,130 (graph #4).

We are making concerted efforts to support our youth who are graduating from CAS care to provide them with the supports, education and capacity to have the very best chance of making a successful transition to adulthood.

What the data in the graphs is showing is that Family and Children Services of St. Thomas and Elgin has experienced a very similar demand for child protection services in the past five years. What has changed however is a model for the provision of our services. We are providing a less intrusive family based model that still keeps children safe and protected but also provides opportunities for children to stay in their family of origin or with kin. When children are brought into care they are discharged as soon as feasible or they move on to some level of permanency, including adoption.

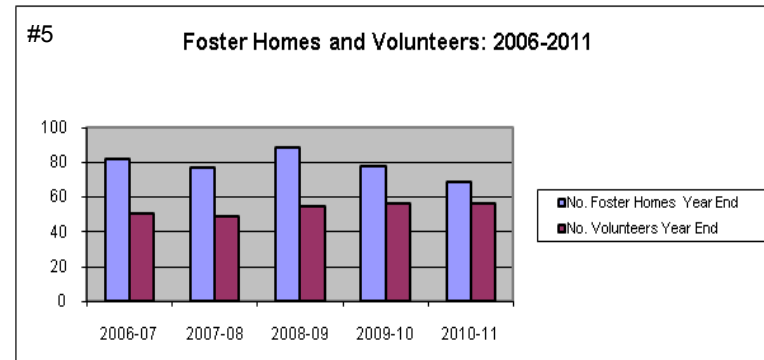
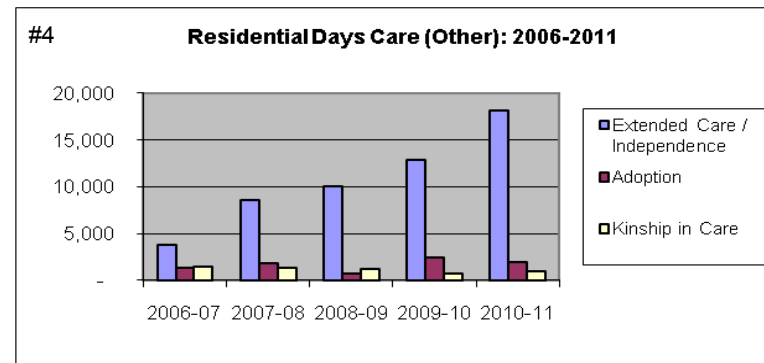
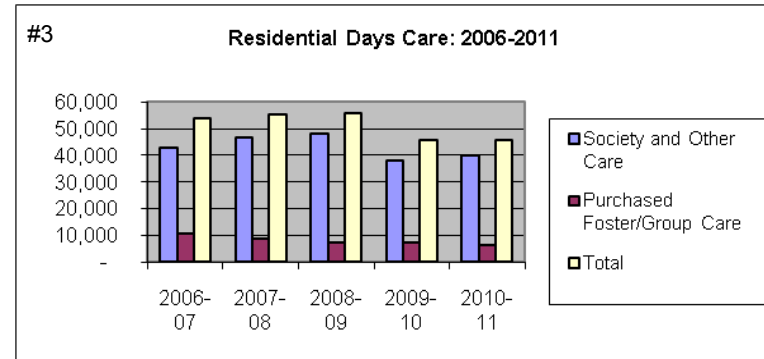
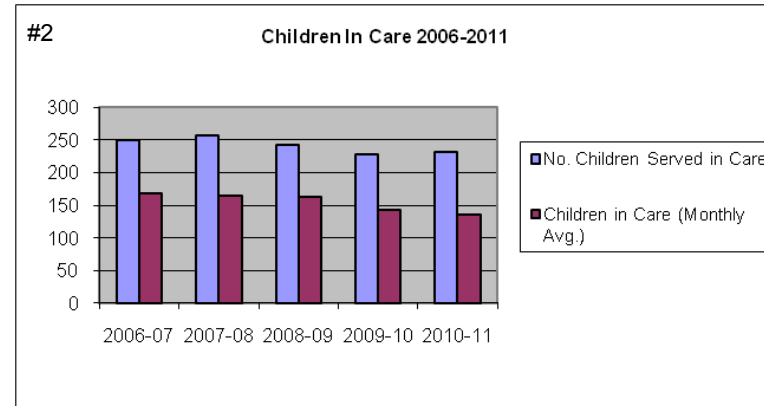
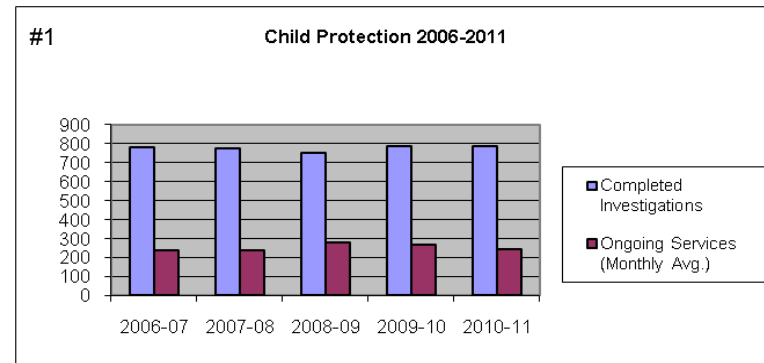
This year we completed a new Balanced Scorecard Strategic Plan which we are very excited about. We want to be a CAS that is a collaborative leader in child welfare, a CAS that works tirelessly to find a safe and permanent family for every child that needs protection and a CAS that engages authentically with the families that we serve.

We have an excellent team at our CAS which is ably led by a strong and knowledgeable Board of Directors; the programs are implemented by an experienced and resourceful Staff and supported by generous and dedicated Foster Parents and Volunteers. We enjoy good collaborative relationships with our community partners and planning councils and we thank them for this.

This is been a very good year for Family and Children Services of St. Thomas and Elgin. We are grateful for the sterling efforts put in by all levels of our organization and for the efforts of our community partners who work in collaboration with us to protect children and youth from abuse and neglect by ensuring a safe stable and nurturing environment for all children in partnership with families and the community.

Jeff Addley
President

Rod Potgieter
Executive Director



YOUTH IN CARE REPORT FOR 2010-2011

The Youth in Care Executive celebrates its seventh year of being the voice of Youth in Care in Elgin.

This enthusiastic group of young people commit to monthly meetings, events, trainings and public speaking. Over the past year, some of the most popular Youth in Care (YIC) events organized by the Executive have been ice skating, a trip to Canada's Wonderland, and a hike in Springwater Conservation Area which culminated with a campfire. We anticipate a great turnout when we try something new this coming June; a trip to the Mustang Drive-In!

In spring of last year the YICEC participated in a meeting with the Child Welfare Commission and promoted the positive things that Elgin is doing for Youth in Care. It was also an opportunity to make suggestions on how things can change provincially to improve the lives of our YIC population, such as increasing the maximum age of CAS support from 18 years of age to 25.

This past December we celebrated our annual Youth in Care Christmas Dinner at the Talbot Teen Centre. This popular event once again proved to be a success with a great turnout of youth and delicious food. To top off dessert, each youth received a gift card for the movie theatre.

A new program was born this past holiday season, the ECM Holiday Sponsorship Program, which was highlighted in our most recent agency newsletter. This program saw more than 30 youth on Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM) receive gifts at Christmas from community members who selected their star off of our tree. Many of our ECM youth not only live alone but they struggle at this time of year when friends and family don't always seem so close by. This voluntary program was a great success and many of the community partners who participated last year have asked to be a part of this heart warming initiative again this fall.

Over the March Break we took a group of youth to the local Red Cross for a two day training to become certified in First Aid and CPR. This is the 2nd successful year for a training that we hope to make an annual event.

The Elgin Youth in Care Executive Committee is an active participant in the South West Zone events. This group operates under the umbrella of Youth CAN. Recent events have included winter camping in Grey County in February, and just last month, camping in Sarnia. The annual Youth CAN conference will be held mid August at Sheridan College. As always we look forward to attending this event where the youth have an opportunity to attend workshops (such as budgeting, arts and culture, and policy development) and networking with other youth from across the province. The energy at this conference has to be felt to be believed!

The L.O.M.E. Committee, consisting of youth and staff from London, Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin (LOME) CASs, was recently developed. This education-driven committee hosted a successful event on March 21st entitled Educational Success Celebration "Celebrating You!" After a hearty meal of pizza and chicken, youth were recognized for their individual successes at school no matter how big or small. The highlight for the youth was the draw for 2 iPhones during the evening. The message was to keep up the good work and aim high for your goals. We also look forward to repeating this event in the spring of 2012.

Three of our senior Youth in Care, along with Youth in Transition Workers, Board Members and our Executive Director Rod, attended a Lobby Day at Queens Park on May 16th. The unique experience had the youth meeting with members of parliament to discuss their ideas for making changes for Youth in Care. As the Speaker of the House, Mr Steve Peters, is also our MPP, the youth received the unique VIP treatment of being seated in the Speaker's Gallery during question period and a private tour lead by Steve, of Queen's Park. One youth said "It was a great experience, I've never been to Queens Park and it was good to have our voices heard."

Summer is almost here and once again we are busily preparing for the upcoming Summer Youth Experience Program. This trademark activity has made our agency the *talk of the town* with other CASs. We anticipate the Coordinator of the program will start mid-June with the hopes that youth will be registered, trained and ready to start their placements just after the July holiday long weekend. Please watch for flyers in the mail or check out our website www.yicelgin.ca

The YICEC is very grateful to the Elgin Children's Foundation who has awarded grants to Youth in Care attending post secondary school. Thousands of dollars in awards and bursaries have been given out to youth so far and, with the number of our youth attending post secondary continuing to climb, we anticipate more fundraising and award-giving to come.

Our very own Lena Klassen has made the YICEC very proud as she is the successful candidate for the Clark Bursary Award. This award from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) will assist Lena in covering the costs of her schooling (\$3000.00 each year for the next three years). Lena is currently enrolled in the Child and Youth Worker Program at Fanshawe College in London. Ms. Klassen was also the 2010 recipient of the Karen Shaw Bursary from the Elgin's Children Foundation.

The hard work and dedication of the Youth in Care Executive Committee is appreciated by all. The Executive would like to thank the Agency, The Elgin Children's Foundation and our Community Partners for their ongoing support.

Youth In Care Executive Committee
Back: David Hummel, Kelsie Percival, Britney Doster, Lisa Klassen, Tabitha MacArthur
Front: Lena Klassen, Heather Snow, Ashley Stewart
Not pictured: Kathleen Carpenter



Vision Statement: Youth supporting youth.
Mission Statement: Youth in care making connections through social, recreational and educational activities while having a voice in the decisions which will affect and enhance their lives.