

WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN  
Family Services Inc.



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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

**MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021 9:30 AM**

**NIGIGOONSIMINIKAANIING FIRST NATION ROUNDHOUSE**



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# Weechi-it-te-win Family Service

## WELCOME

### Board of Directors

and

### Member Representatives

<b>Community</b>	<b>Board of Director</b>	<b>Member Representative</b>
Big Grassy	Brian Major	Brian Major
Big Island	Dave Paul Jr	Virginia Handorgan
Couchiching	Lucille Morrisseau – Secretary <a href="#">Executive Council Member</a>	Dave Bruyere
Lac La Croix	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian	
Mitaanjigamiing	Chris Henderson – Vice President <a href="#">Executive Council Member</a>	Roy Morrison
Naicatchewenin	Adrian Snowball	Darlene Smith
Nigigoonsiminikaaning	Sue Boshey – President <a href="#">Executive Council Member</a>	Garry Windigo
Onigaming	Candice Kelly	Dorothy Copenace
Rainy River	Shawn Brown	Rob McGinnis
Seine River	Tom Johnson Jr	Carrie Boshkaykin



# Weechi-it-te-win Family Service

## ELDER'S COUNCIL

<b>Elder</b>	<b>Community</b>
Bessie Tom	Big Grassy
Gladys Debungie	Big Island
Bessie Mainville	Couchiching
Margaret Ottertail	Lac La Croix
Agnes Kabatay	Mitaanjigamiing
Louis Councillor	Naicatchewenin
Marie Allen	Nigigoonsiminikaaning
Vacant	Onigaming
Bev Wilson	Rainy River
Rosie Boshkaykin	Seine River

## MAANGO'ININI

Norman Jordan	Drum Keeper
Louis Councillor	Drum Keeper
Jessie Kelly	Drummer
Charlie Friday	Drummer
Gilbert Smith	Shkaabez
Marie Allen	Stick holder
Bessie Mainville	Stick holder
Rosie Boshkaykin	Stick holder
Faith Lovato	Stick holder



# Weechi-it-te-win Family Service

## STAFF LISTING

### YEARS OF SERVICE

Thank you for your exceptional work and paramount dedication throughout the years.

<b>26-30 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	<b>0-5 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>
HEIDI BOLEN-KREGER	ANTHONY ANDRUSCO
ROGER CHIASSON	BOBBY ATATISE
SANDRA STEVENS	CHRISTINE BADIUK
<b>21-25 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	JESS BADIUK
ARLENE BRUYERE-PARKER	STACEY BOSHEY
FLORENCE CHARTRAND	DANIELLE BRUYERE
TRISH MAINVILLE	ROBBIE CROWE
SARAH WINDIGO	SASHA GALBRAITH
<b>16-20 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	LAUREEN HILL
LAURIE ROSE	JEREMY JORDAN
SHANNON BLIGHT	ANDREW MCCORMICK
ANDREA DEBUNGIE	CHERYL LABELLE
BEATRICE MCMILLEN	AARON MCINTOSH
<b>11-15 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	JENNA MORRISSEAU
KATIE MOWE	KAREN OTTERTAIL-GEERKEN
<b>6-10 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>	KARMON PERRAULT
DUANE ALLEN	BEULAH PERREAULT
DONNA MAINVILLE	PHYLLIS PIERSON
RAYLENE JOHNSON-FIRTH	MICHELLE STRACHAN
CANDACE MORRISSEAU	FERN TOOKENAY
MERV ROSE	DEAN WILSON
ARLENE TUCKER	ANGELA YERXA
ED YERXA	ILINE YERXA
	AMANDA JOURDAIN
	JENNA MORRISSEAU
	DARREN YERXA
	WILMA YERXA BIRD
	MCKENNA BEGIN



Weechi-it-te-win Family Service

**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT, SUE BOSHEY  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAURIE ROSE**



# Weechi-it-te-win Family Service

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday, July 26, 2021 9:30 am**

### **AGENDA**

1. Traditional Opening Ceremony & Prayer
2. Call Meeting to Order – Sue Boshey, President
3. Welcoming Address – Sue Boshey and Laurie Rose
4. Roll Call – President
5. Acknowledgements of Appointments
6. Approval of Band Council Resolutions
7. Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes
8. Audit Report Fiscal Year 2020/2021
9. Service Reports
10. Traditional Selection Process
11. Other

*Date* November 16, 2020 via zoom | *Meeting called to order by* Sue Boshey, Chair of the Board

### Attendance

FIRST NATION	NAME	TITLE	ATTENDANCE
Nigigoonsminikaaning	Sue Boshey	Board President	Present
	Garry Windigo	Member Representative	Present via phone
	Wil Windigo	Chief	Tammy Ryll taking mins for Rainy Lake Chiefs
Mitaanjigamiing	Chris Henderson	Vice President	Present
	Roy Morrison	Member Representative	Present
	Janice Henderson	Chief	Present via phone
Couchiching	Lucille Morriseau	Secretary	Present
	Dave Bruyere	Member Representative	Present
	Brian Perrault	Chief	Present
Rainy River	Robin McGinnis	Chief/Member Representative	--
	Shawn Brown		--
Naicatchewenin	Adrian Snowball	Board of Director	Present
	Darlene Smith	Member Representative	--
	Wayne Smith	Chief	Present
Onigaming	Candice Kelly	Board of Director/Chief	Present via phone
	Dorothy Copenace	Member Representative	--
Lac La Croix	Carrie Atatise-Norwegian	Board of Director	Present via phone
	Michael Ottetail	Chief	--



Seine River	Tom Johnson Jr.	Board of Director	Present
	Carrie Boshkaykin	Member Representative/Chief	Present
Big Grassy	Brian Major	Board of Director	Present via phone
	Lynn Indian	Chief	Regrets
Naongashiing	David Paul Jr	Board of Director	Present
	Virginia Handorgan	Member Representative	--
	Wes Big George	Chief	--
<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Laurie Rose	WFS	Executive Director	Present
Shannon Blight	WFS	Director of Nanaandawewenin	Present
Dean Wilson	WFS	Director of Administration	Present
Candace Morriseau	WFS	Executive Assistant	Present

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### Opening Prayer/Roll Call/Meeting called to order

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Sue Boshey, Chair did roll call beginning the meeting at 9:20 am. It was determined that quorum was achieved and the Board could conduct business. Advised that elders have been consulted and asked about moving the AGM to the spring. The board approved Spring 2021 for AGM with traditional selection to take place at that time and the Agency would carry on with current executive until selection done.

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### Welcoming Address

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Laurie Rose gave a welcome address and thanked Board members and Elder's council for their vision and guidance. Gave acknowledgement to the loss of Elders Genevieve McGinnis and Catherine Kelly.

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### Acknowledgement of Appointments/Acceptance of BCRs

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No BCRs were provided.

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## Approval of October 22, 2019 AGM Minutes

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Board reviewed minutes as provided in report.

**MOTION:** That the Board approves the minutes from AGM October 22, 2019.

**MOVED:** Tom Johnson Jr.

**SECONDED:** Adrian Snowball

**Motion accepted.**

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## Audit Report Fiscal Year 2019/20

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Taylor Radford, MNP auditor, presented the audit report included in the package.

Statement of Financial Position: Unqualified opinion which indicates no issues found with figures and statements present fairly. Last year \$3 million was paid out from CHRT to the ten communities. \$6 million left over that hasn't been spent and is under current liabilities. This year \$3 million was paid out to communities again.

Cash is down because of CHRT payments. Accounts Payable is up as result of payments that were owed to communities at year end and have not been paid out. Overall, ISC looks at working capital – right now it is negative \$2.8 million because the restricted cash related to RESP is required to be shown as long term assets.

Operating Statement: revenue is up from last year because ISC funding received this year related to wage parity payments and recognition of that deferred revenue. Expense side there are increases in boarding expenses. Program expenses are up- those are payments to communities- CHRT increases driving the hike. Overall about \$870,000 excess in revenue this year. Under revenue - Ontario Child Benefit and Universal Child Care Benefit is \$290,000 & \$207,000. This is applied for and gets distributed to families that care for the children. \$207,000 goes into RRSP – if child does not go to school the RRSP funds is kept until they are 25 years and gets distributed to balance of outstanding CIC RRSP accounts. The OCB supports cultural, recreation and vacation.

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## Bylaw Update

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Bylaw was reviewed with Directors and Member Representatives in Winnipeg with Mark Ellis. It was made reader friendly. Code of Conduct was also reviewed.

The bylaw was signed and approved in 2019.

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## Program Reports

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### **Naaniigaan Abinoojii Report**

Laurie Rose presented highlights of report which is included in the Annual Report.

### **Nanaandawewenin Report**

Shannon Blight presented highlights of report which is included in the Annual Report.

There was discussion around the selection of Elders. Chief Henderson wants a TOR and term decided by board and the elder should be chosen through BCR.

Family Counselor funding was also discussed. Interest from some First Nations to return funding for the family counselor position – what would the rationale be? Family counselor funding – meeting with CCP supervisors regarding this program for their input and provide options to enhance and support program. FFTAH indicated that their application is based on aiding children needing psychotherapy. FFTAHA indicated that families do not feel comfortable seeking support from community workers. 3 community supervisors were interested in returning the FC funding to WFS to better serve clients. This decision is a community one.

### **Administration Report**

Dean Wilson presented highlights of report which is included in the Annual Report.

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### Traditional Selection Process – Executive Council

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Postponed to Spring 2021 due to Pandemic.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

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Sue Boshey  
Chairperson



Boozhoo, aaniin.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to provide the Cultural Coordinator annual report to the Leadership and Board of Directors.

This past year and a half have certainly been a challenging time for many. During this past 18 months, I have been doing a lot of work from home and conducting home visits with the Elders who needed the extra support. This is something I take great pride in.

We have been able to conduct our ceremonies, which recently included the two drum feast with our brothers and sisters from the north. This ceremony was uplifting, and we are celebrating the teachings our ancestors. I am honored to be a part of these beautiful ceremonies.

I have also been able to participate in numerous culturally based land event with the Developmental Services Program of Weechi it te win. The Elders Council has enjoyed being able to work with the children this past year.

With the recent restrictions being lifted and moving towards a more “normal” way of living, our Elders Council will resume with the meetings and planning for our Agencies. We have identified some areas of discussion and development in the up coming months. Working closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

I wanted to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for providing support to the Elders during the lockdowns. Your kindness was widely received and appreciated.

I wish for a healthier upcoming year for our Nations. Chi Miigweech for allowing me the opportunity to work with Mango Inini and the Weechi it te win Elders Council.

## **COVID-19 & NAANIIGAAN ABINOOJII**

March 2020- April 2021, brought challenges as Covid-19 sent the world into lock down. Weechi it te win Family Services and First Nations stepped up to this crisis and set up protective policies for our children, families members and staff. A strong a vigilance to our children by our First Nation leadership ensured restrictions to their First Nations during this trying time. Our devolution model has once again shown that having front line services at the First Nations played a key role during this time for Children and youth, particularly during the worlds Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 has brought all types of new challenges and adjustments to children, caregivers, parents and staff. Currently the impacts and restriction have proven trying in this field but. The child wellbeing sector is staying on top of safety and mitigation of any risks to our children and communities. Where ever possible virtual visit was recommended while following the First Nation's lock down rules and restrictions.

## **HISTORY OF FIRST NATIONS DEVOLUTION MODEL 1982-2021**

**1982** Rainy Lake Tribal Chiefs intended to take necessary measures to ensure that our children and families are protected and commenced upon the process to create indigenous Child welfare services for its 10 area First Nations

**1986** George Simard becomes WFS Executive Director

**1987** Weechi it te win received its Agency Designation. Weechi it te win was entrusted to hold the license for our First Nations as they bring to fruition it's Child Care Law.

**2003-2004** our 10 First Nation have taken on the direct services under child welfare protection and Family Counselling programs.

**2008** Naaniigaan Abinoojii- Our Central Purpose is implemented as a result of Bill 210.

**2012** Laurie Rose: WFS first Female Executive Director

**2013** Transfer of Jurisdiction agreement between Weechi it te win and Kenora Rainy River Child and Family Services.

**2014** Family Preservation program is established and devolved to our 10 First Nations.

**2016** Devolution of administration of each First Nations Children's holiday culture and recreational supports.

**2018** WFS joins the Treaty #3 Abinoojii Inakonigewin technically Table.

**2019** Enhancement to Continue Care Support for Youth Programs (CCSY), Voluntary Youth Service Agreements (VSYA). Following youth Conference and the voice of the youth was heard! Weechi it te win and the Board approved a majority of the youth's needs based on the youth recommendations. Enhanced financial supports for start-up costs, Cell phone Deposit/ start up, incentives for graduation and post-secondary graduates. A key highlight of their new contracts has been youth/ young adult section to request items not previously covered or noted. Each youth's contracts are unique to them and speaks to their individual needs.

**2019** Established and devolved enhanced supports to First Nations Families a Youth Worker, Addictions Worker, Cultural Worker and Case aide to their Community Care Programs. It intent is to have ready access to a holistic approach to all children, youth and First Nations families with hoped that resiliency and pride is maintained while ensuring outreach and access to support that would prevent any further anxiety and stress onto the family system which may ultimately result in a Child Welfare call.

**2020 Family Reunification Pilot Program.** After a year of discussion and prep. WFS is piloting a reunification program for our family's with the hopes of having a viable service for family and children. This program will identify home based needs and support as they move to full reunification and closed from any WFS and CCP services.

Initial insight proved that this program is highly needed and should have been recognized years ago. Families and children have been able to reestablish their home environment with physical items such as beds living room kitchen needs and décor that speaks to their home décor themes and setting up their children's room with their young ones that hopefully helps their roots grow and that heart felt feeling of oneness that had been missing.

**2021** First Nations are continuing their development of Abinoojii Inakonigewin with the support of Weechi it te win and its Board. This year will continue this endeavor as Weechi it te win advocated between Ministry, OACAS, ANCFSAO and other government bodies on our unique and thriving model of First Nation Child Wellbeing Services.

**2021:** Ongoing commitment to strengthen our First Nations Community Care Programs and their service supports to its members

## **SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

**2002-03** Service Agreements developed for 90% of service delivery direct devolution of direct services to the First Nation

Service Agreements are contracts between Weechi it te win Agency and our 10 area First Nations. Our Service Agreements protects our devolution model via contract with our 10 area First Nations.

Weechi it te win holds the license with MCCSS and through the leadership, Board of Directors and Executive Director our unique service Delivery model was enhanced which continues to strength to the language and support of Abinoojii Inakonigewin, C-92 which ever avenue the First Nations move towards while the resources of Weechi it te win being available to the First Nations Community Care Teams during their Child Care Law development under their chosen path.

**2020** Services Agreements were rewritten to strengthen the Devolution model and WFS resourcing to our First Nations Community Care Programs.

**2021** First Nations have reviewed and most have signed their new service Agreements with a few negotiations currently in process.

### **WFS ENHANCED SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS During Covid -19**

WFS has ensured that children would still have access to mental health activities as well as caregivers having supports to help address and ensure wellness for all Children in Care during this most trying time.

WFS along with First Nations Community Care teams and First Nations programming have been creative this year with virtual activities for children and youth, families.

Most Children and Caregivers have become quick learners to Google Chrome books and online learning. Cheers to our interm foster parents who rose to the challenge and continued to support children and youth during this time.

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### **MCYS ENHANCED EXTENDED SUPPORTS DURING COVID-19**

During this past year, while many were navigating life under Covid-19. Special exemptions were put in place to support Children exiting Care and our young adults who would otherwise find themselves at the end of their CCSY contract.

Children in Care during this period are eligible to remain in their caregiver setting with the same supports as in care status during the pandemic. The same is to be said for our otherwise transitioning youth are given an opportunity to remain with their supports under the CCSY contracts.

First Nations and their contract with youth who have transition plans for College where remaining with a Caregiver does not meet their adult plans for their future are supported to transition to college under their CCSY contract.

**Extension period will remain with until September 2022.**

### **I PADS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE DURING COVID -19**

ISC has worked with WFS and ANCFSAO to ensure children eligible under INAC were provided with iPad. These were received at WFS and distributed by our CCP team designate.

teams had opportunities to sit in on multiple tech tables via zoom. This was a rare opportunity to advocate to the Ombudsman, OCL and advocate for indigenous children, women's and Men's rights and services across Ontario.

### **PILOT PROGRAM**

Naaniigaan Team with blessing the Executive Director and the Board of Directors approved Naaniigaan Reunification Pilot Program.

**Barrier to reunify pilot program:** families that have addressed service needs however, physical barriers remain (housing, first and last months' rent, hydro set up etc.) Naaniigaan team and First Nations are

working together to see this to full fruition. While under Pilot stage parents will voluntarily participate in designing a program that may be annualized for all family in reunification phase to promote the best possible outcomes for children returning home.

**INTAKE AND INVESTIGATIONS TEAM**

No changes in the Unit this past year as it relates to Investigations and Assessment Unit. Our Response to Calls was a modified due to Covid-19 restrictions, however the Workers in the I&A Unit attended to calls with the communities while ensuring safety for all. Some of the interviews were conducted by phone and outdoors. Safety assessments have continued with the use of PPE. Masks are worn in the homes at all times. Investigations continued throughout with little to no disruption in services.

Prevention Services while ensuring child safety is the primary focus of the I&A Team. Recommendations in response to referrals has been to use a non- intrusive approach with prevention focused services to be put in place through family healing, family support, Family Preservation or Cultural Services. Preventing a Child from entering and out of home placement was prevented at every possible opportunity.

**ELIGIBILITY BY REFERRAL**

**Eligibility Code:**

<b>1 Code</b>	<b>Physical/Sexual Harm by Commission</b>	<b>32 Referrals</b>
<b>2 Code</b>	<b>Harm by Omission (failure to adequately care)</b>	<b>30 Referrals</b>
<b>3 Code</b>	<b>Emotional Harm</b>	<b>92 Referrals</b>
<b>4 Code</b>	<b>Abandonment &amp; Separation</b>	<b>7 Referrals</b>
<b>5 Code</b>	<b>Caregiver Capacity</b>	<b>91 Referrals</b>
<b>6 Code</b>	<b>Request for Counselling</b>	<b>16 Referrals</b>
<b>10 Code</b>	<b>Request for Assistance/Consultation/Information</b>	<b>145 Referrals</b>



## 2 YEAR REFLECTION STATS

### INTAKES /REFERRALS

2019-2020		2020-2021	
Intakes and Referrals	433	Intakes and Referrals	587
Investigations	56	Investigations	45
# of New Children in Care	27	# of New Children in Care	10
Re- admissions to care	25	Re-admissions to care	3
Discharges from Care	54	Discharges from care	72

During the year intakes were higher at 587 resulting in 45 total investigations initiated. Resulting in 397 intakes were redirected or served by First Nation Community Care for Case Management or community Like for services. 145 were request for assistance, consultation and information sharing to intake/ Investigation Unit

It is reflective that over the year and with enhanced programing readily available to community families and maintain in family unit.

**ON CALL AFTER HOURS** Calls/Referrals

**TOTAL 296**

**On Call Training** was conducted once over this past fiscal year with 10 participants due to covid-19 restrictions and limits for indoor capacity. On Call Training will resume in August for all new employees who will require it.

### **NAANIIGAAN ABINOOJII CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WE SUPPORT**

This year WFS and our First Nations Community Care Team have better promoted the access of services with family and preservice items as addressed by families in order to prevent out of home placements.

Families this past year have successfully completed their personal journeys that initiate agency involvement and has joyously reunified with their little one. These are always great indicators of the strength of family on community and the support available.

With the enhancement of programming provided by WFS to the First Nations Community Care Teams and the sacred responsibility entrusted to our Community Care teams by their First Nations, and by the over- all least intrusive approach by front line workers, it is reflective that overall more children have been reunified with their parents.

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## ALTERNATIVE CARE

<u>WFS CURRENT CAREGIVER LISTING</u>			
<u>INQUIRY</u>	<u>HOMESTUDY</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>144</u>

<u>CAREGIVER YEARS OF SERVICE</u>			
<u>1-5 Years</u>	<u>6-10 years</u>	<u>11 &amp; over</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>86</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>144</u>

- The ministry implemented an extraordinary measure for the extension of caregiver approvals regarding the medical requirement due to the difficulty acquiring appointments during the pandemic.
- Caregiver training through Dr. Braunberger has maintained the bi-monthly schedule throughout the pandemic.
- Child placements have been stable as there have been fewer placement breakdowns and placement changes over this year, in comparison to previous years.

### Caregivers have been supported by the CCP teams and WFS with their children in care, including:

- financial,
- food hampers,
- art supplies,
- PPE reimbursements,
- Many family and child activities to help relieve the tension of isolation,
- numerous contests with prizes were available.

Each of the communities were very creative in finding ways to support caregivers and children in care.

**Many have said that ours is a thankless job, but I want to acknowledge and say Miigwech to the community workers who diligently and generously supported your caregiver homes during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Chi miigwech!**

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**CHILDREN IN CARE BY AGE**

<b>0 to 4</b>	21
<b>5 to 9</b>	55
<b>10 – 14</b>	55
<b>15 – 17</b>	28
<b>18+</b>	34
<b>Total</b>	193

**ADMISSIONS VS DISCHARGED FROM CARE: APRIL 1 2020- MARCH 31 2021**

<b>Admissions</b>	26
<b>Discharges</b>	72

First Nations have better resourcing to their children and families in order to prevent any child welfare involvement. One should always take the least intrusive approach to helping children and families.

From time to time there is may be call for a stronger approach to ensuring a safety of children in crisis situation. Should the First Nation Community Care team and WFS I & A team deem a child in need of place of safety Children may enter care while their First Nations and parent’s ready services in order to quickly reunify families.

**FILE AUDITS AND GRADING SYSTEM FOR FIRST NATIONS CC PROGRAMS**

There were no manual audits on files held at the First Nations Community Care programs during Covid-19. With a small window during 2020, 7/10 CCP team were able to be audited before restrictions were once again enforced. When audits are completed they are provided to Chiefs, CCP Supervisors so that oversight of their sacred responsibilities to children, families and caregivers under their supervision.

**2020 CESCR REVIEW AND FOSTER CARE LICENSING REIVEW (During pandemic year)**

Ministry reviews are reflective of Devolution and activity strengths and areas needed to be enhanced at our First Nation Community Care staff. As well are area’s where WFS resourcing could enhance supports to teams

Due to Covid-19 review was modified from onsite review to virtual review. This was a huge overtaking this past year as Ministry and agencies were modifying all programming and supervision practices. WFS and the First Nation had restrictions to no office visits or group gathering.

Teams and WFS were able to navigate this pandemic and ensure the Ministry had available material for their review.

With Naaniigaan team and First Nations pushing through the modified approach attached is the 2020 review for Extended Society Care.

WFS and Teams have been navigating a face to face system during a socially distance and locked down protocol.

Team have not only provided the best available and oddly unfamiliar approach to their jobs but assisted that their community as whole meet food securities and restrictions from any threat of exposure to youth and elderly.

#### **Weechi it te win received its license with conditions for 2020- 2021.**

##### **Strengths and areas for improvement were:**

Ensure Fire drills in all caregiver homes were being completed

Timely filing of documentation for review.

Children report during interview being happy in their current placements

Large Majority of children placed with family system

Caregivers were concerned with staff turnover

Children requested more access to their language and cultural.

More training in all areas for new First Nation team members and caregivers.

100% eligible children have their RESP accounts set up

Children would like better access to their workers (covid)

Child in care workers appeared to be invested in their roles and cared for the children involved in their program.

More recruitment of Child in care workers noted.

This year has been a remarkably off year with Covid-19 restrictions and how this has impacted everyone across the globe. We are thankful to our devolution model that was able to be in lock down while living and working within the First Nation territory. While we all have become Zoom and Skype experts, we await the opportunities to return to a new normal. We have also benefited with learning and reaching new skills to meet with and have better access to our clients in a safe and healthy way.

## From the desk of the Director of Nanaandawewenin

The 2020-21 fiscal year was a historical and challenging year which pushed us all to think outside of the box and find creative ways to ensure that families continued to receive quality services. I would first like to acknowledge and thank the Program Managers – Ed Yerxa, Michelle Strachan, and Sherri Kabatay for the vision and dedication they have shown Weechi-it-te-win and our Anishinaabe people. I would like to acknowledge the creativity, perseverance, and drive that was given by all WFS staff during the Covid-19 Pandemic. This year we did our best to engage our clients and the public “virtually”. We re-vamped the Developmental Support Services social media page, to include all WFS healing and support programs. Every month there were several virtual events and activities put forth by various programs to engage the public. “Addictions Awareness Week” was honored by our team and various staff created their own educational videos which were posted on the social media page. WFS also hosted a virtual pow-wow where dancers shared their beautiful videos and were provided with an honorarium.

When allowable, our programs held several “in-person” events. We honored “Orange Shirt Day” to enhance public awareness about Indian Residential Schools. Shirts, soup/bannock and a written explanation of the orange shirt was provided to over 150 people. Our programs also hosted an event for Halloween to ensure the kids were able to receive some extra treats. Finally, we supported Domestic Violence Awareness Week by providing a grab and go lunch and a purple t-shirt,

2020-21 was also a year to refine and redevelop policy, procedure, and outreach materials. The Telemental Health Program redesigned their outreach materials and created a comprehensive newsletter which was sent all over Northern Ontario. The Family Healing Program team developed their policy and procedures which accurately reflects all services currently provided. A new Psychological Services Policy was completed as well as a comprehensive Operations Manual for all healing and support programs.

**The following chart shows the services that were provided from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021.**

	AON	BGFN	OFN	RRFNS	NFN	CFN	MFN	SRFN	LLCFN	Nigigoosiminikaaning	Other
Family Healing Program Cycle	0	1	1	11	12	0	1	8	3	1	6
Family Healing Program Relapse Prevention	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	7
Family Healing Program Aftercare Services	2	4	2	5	19	7	2	6	11	21	11
Developmental Therapy	0	1	1	2	4	5	2	1	0	1	0
Developmental Services - Navigation	7	10	6	26	15	32	14	12	7	13	6
Speech and Language Services	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Developmental Therapy	0	0	0	9	1	20	3	0	0	0	3
Education Liaison	7	9	5	15	10	7	9	11	7	12	3
WFS Family Counselling	4	1	0	4	0	3	3	3	3	3	0
Telemental Health Coordination	7	4	3	9	16	18	7	11	5	15	152

<b>Youth in Transition</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>YIT Housing Support</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Clinical Services Coordination</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Although we were restricted from providing in-person services for most of the year, we still managed to provide some direct services as noted in the chart above. As soon as emergency orders lifted, we were right back in there providing face to face services with safety procedures in place. When it pertained to crisis calls, we went out and provided mental health services as well as community crisis response.

In closing, I am incredibly proud of the efforts put forth by all the staff to keep things moving through a very challenging time and I am very happy to be a part of this collective effort.

## WFS Clinical Team

In 2020-21, Weechi-it-te-win reinstated the position of Clinical Team Leader to form a clinical services team made up of various programs. The Clinical Team Leader is responsible for ongoing supervision and development of the various mental health programs provided by Weechi-it-te-win Family Services such as the Family Counselling Unit, Telemental Health Coordination, Clinical Services Coordination, Youth in Transition and Housing Support Worker programs.

## WFS FC Unit

The Family Counselling Unit was able to continue services to clients throughout the 2020-21 year despite the many limitations created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Services were modified to include “virtual sessions” when appropriate, and in-person sessions occurred when it was allowable to do so. A Family Counsellor Newsletter was created that went out “virtually” throughout the year that provided a variety of topics, parenting tips, activities, and information for parents to support their children.

## Telemental Health Program

Over the past year The Tele-Mental Health Program has bought on a new assistant, Bobby Atatise of Couchiching/Lac La Croix. The program is very busy serving not only the local First Nations but also throughout Northern Ontario. Despite Covid-19, the team was able to reach out to the communities with their newsletter and continued mailings. The program updated their technology with a screen and communications equipment. Other highlights of the program include: the hard work that went into eliminating paper files and utilizing the EMHware program in a greater capacity for electronic records and expanding communications and networking with our peers in the Timmins/Cochrane area. Client consults continued throughout 2020-21 via guest-link where clients could speak with mental health specialists through iPads, tablets, or smartphones.

## Youth-In-Transition Program/Housing Support Program

The Youth-In-Transition Worker and the Housing Support Worker did their best to keep the youth engaged with regular virtual skills and knowledge videos as well as hosting virtual mini-conferences for the youth to join to learn about financial literacy, budgeting, cooking, and sewing, etc. There were draws and activities put forth

on the social media page by these programs. The YITW and HSW also supported the rest of the clinical team to host community events including “Orange Shirt Day”, Domestic Violence Awareness, Hallowe’en, and a Christmas Lunch for their clients.

The YITW and HSW posted many at-home life skills videos via their Facebook page YI TW. Videos were made for Anishinaabe language, cooking, shopping on a budget, tenant training, cultural teachings, job search and resume development.

## Clinical Services Coordinator

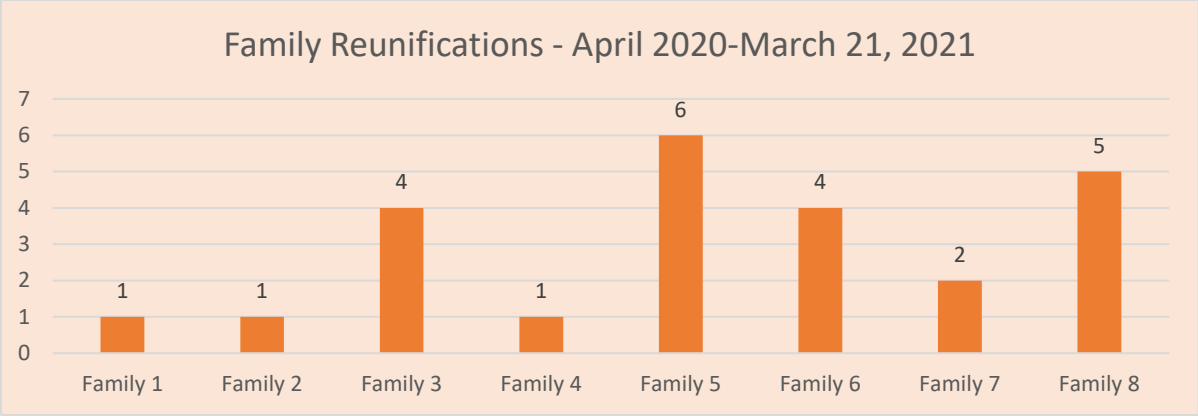
The Clinical Services Coordinator position was filled as a purchase service for most of the 2020-21 year. Psychological services continued to be offered throughout the year on a virtual basis. Also, WFS was able to provide the First Nation Family Counsellors with numerous virtual training opportunities, a package/kit of resources relevant to common clinical approaches and presentations in the communities, and new iPads with a wide variety of apps and subscriptions designed to support family counsellors and youth workers in the communities. The Clinical Services Coordinator also maintained a schedule for regular clinical supervision, open to all Family Counsellors, to engage in regular consultation meetings and presentations with Dr. Braunberger, Child Psychiatrist for TBHSC.

Also in 2020-21, a new Psychological Services Policy was drafted and approved. The Psychological Services Policy serves as a guide in how WFS coordinates and administrates its psychological services through partnerships with licensed psychologists. The policy was upgraded to include new legislation around privacy, confidentiality, and promoting and maintaining competent and credible services.

The Clinical Services Coordinator also serves as the Crisis Response Lead. WFS provided crisis response to four (4) First Nations during 2020-21, these include Onigaming (2), Anishinaabe of Naongashiing, Big Grassy and Naicatchewenin.

## Family Healing Program

The Family Healing program continued to provide face to face supports throughout the pandemic during crisis situations involving their clients. There were 3 regular treatment cycles offered and 1 relapse prevention cycle. The Family Healing Programs tracks statistics for family reunifications of children in care that occur after they have completed the program and are engaged with the FHP Aftercare Program. The FHP tracks these statistics for ISC funding purposes. A total of 24 children from 8 families (receiving services from FHP) were reunited during the 2020-21 fiscal year.



In June 2020, the staff at the Family Healing Program completed their policy and procedures manual which reflect the current outpatient services and operations of the program. This was an immense project undertaken by the team during the stay-at-home order.

The properties manager maintains the building and grounds at McTavish to the highest standard. In 2020-21 a tractor was purchased and the land behind the building is now being utilized for land-based and recreational activities during treatment cycles. The property now has all season trails that can be accessed for family activities.

## Developmental Support Services

Weechi-it-te-win’s Developmental Support Services has continued to grow to meet the needs of families and the First Nations.

In September 2020, Weechi-it-te-win’s proposal for Speech and Language services was approved by ISC Jordan’s Principle. The approval was for a two-year period and included 2 communication assistants and an Admin Assistant. Developmental Support Services has utilized the existing purchase service agreement in place with Creative Therapies of Thunder Bay to deliver Speech and Language Pathology and Therapy in addition to the current agreement for Occupational Therapy. It is important to note that WFS Developmental Services delivers occupational therapy, cultural developmental therapy and now speech and language therapy. Our Developmental Therapists and Communication Assistants carry out therapy under the supervision of licensed Occupational Therapists and Speech/Language Pathologists. This is so important because WFS Developmental Services has a full continuum of care and has the resources to carry out the work that is often recommended in assessments.

Based on the need for additional office space, WFS Developmental Support Services relocated their office in December 2020. The program is now located at Unit 2 - 281 1<sup>st</sup> Street East, Fort Frances. This was another huge positive change for this program as the new space will allow for small group early intervention programs on site.

It is important to note the Developmental Support Services is unique in the sense that it considers spiritual and cultural development as a part of wholistic development. As such, the program applies for funding through



ISC annually to delivery cultural development therapy and to deliver land/culture based learning programs. Even through the pandemic during 2020, Developmental Support Services was able to safely hold six (6) land-based learning cultural camps. Three (3) of which occurred at a Shebendowaan (Teaching Lodge) that was constructed by the Weechi-it-te-win team at Nanicost Grounds, and the remaining three (3) occurred at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre at Rainy River First Nations. Unfortunately, this funding must be applied for annually, and by the end of the fiscal year, ISC had not approved Weechi-it-te-win’s application; however, WFS received notice in June 2021 that the application was approved for another year. Part of this ISC funding goes directly to the First Nations. In 2020-21, Developmental Services funded six (6) Community based cultural camps; 1 in Big Grassy, 1 in Onigaming, 1 in Naicatchewenin, 1 in Mitaanjigamiing, and 2 in Couchiching First Nation.

## Capacity Building

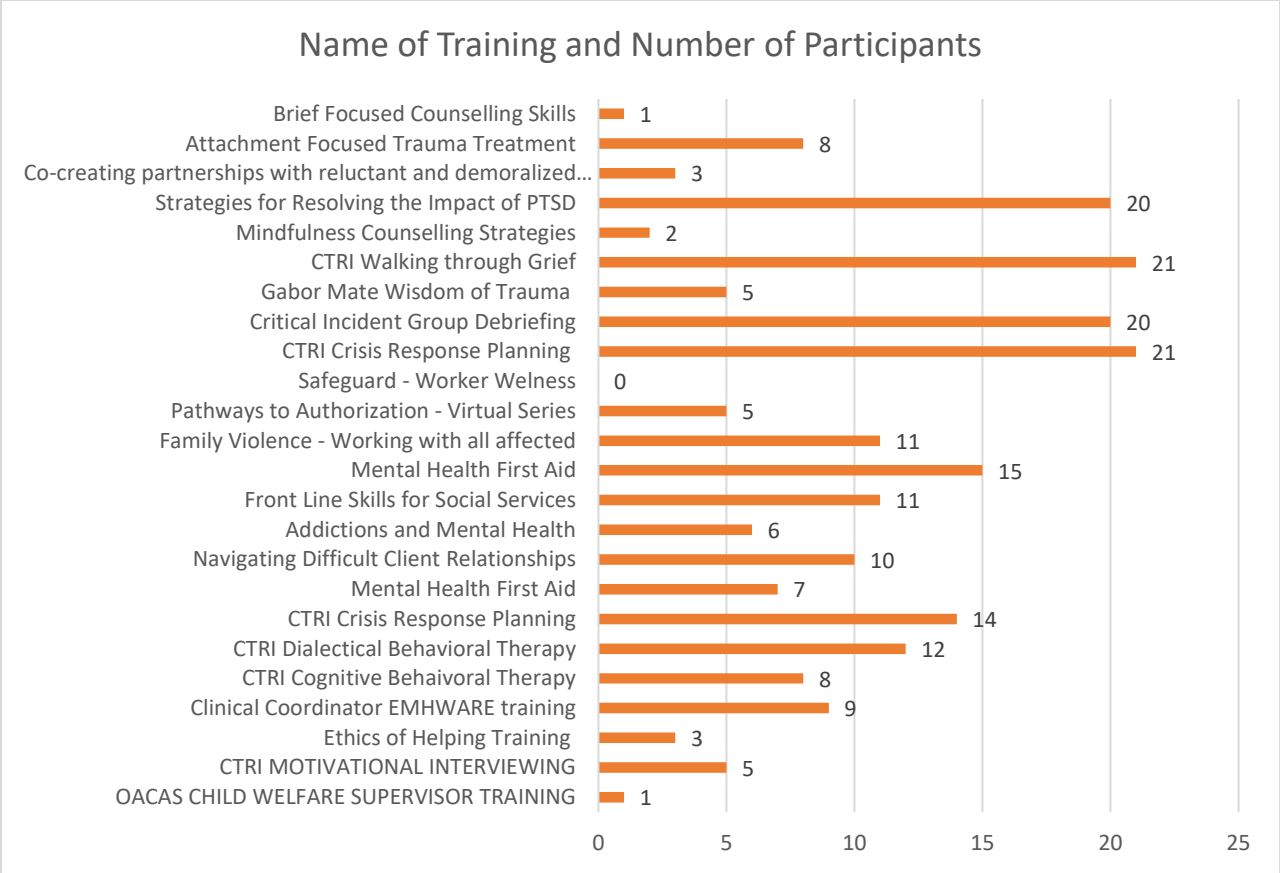
### Child Welfare Training

Due to the pandemic, WFS was unable to host on site trainings during 2020-21.

In the fall of 2020, 3 of the First Nations were visited to discuss training options for new child welfare workers. In 2018, the WFS Board resolved that WFS would not implement the OACAS Pathways to Authorization Training due to lack of indigenous input and content. Since that time, the OACAS re-developed the curriculum to include 2 modules specifically focused on indigenous content, developed in consultation with indigenous partner and only to be delivered by indigenous trainers. They titled this the “Re-imagined Series.” The other training option for new worker is the newly developed Indigenous Pathways to Authorization which was developed by ANCFSAO; however, this curriculum was not yet fully developed and training for trainers was not yet delivered. Therefore, all of the First Nations engaged thought that WFS should implement the “reimagined series” until such a time that the Indigenous Pathways to Authorization was ready for full implementation.

In March 2021, 5 new workers from the First Nations were registered for the “Re-imagined Series – Pathways to Authorization” to be completed virtually through other agencies in Ontario. The OACAS helped WFS and the trainees in accessing the OACAS website and registering for courses. These workers included 2 from Big Grassy CCP, 2 from Seine River CCP, and 1 from Mitaanjigamiing CCP.

The following chart shows all other capacity building programs for the 2020-21 fiscal year.



The following chart shows how many times CCP Program staff participated in WFS Capacity Building events.

