

Transition from B&L Managed Foster Home System to CFS Managed

Presented by: Child and Youth Services Division

Presenter: Lorna L. Hanson

A/Executive Director, Child Protection Branch

Who is the Transition Team

- ▶ Members are: the province and the four governing Child and Family Services Authorities
- ▶ Child Protection Branch: Lorna L. Hanson (A/Executive Director)
- ▶ Southern First Nation Network of Care: Theresa Stevens (CEO)
- ▶ General Child and Family Services Authority: Jay Rodgers (CEO)
- ▶ Metis Child and Family Services Authority: Billie Schibler (CEO)
- ▶ First Nations of Northern Manitoba: Ron Monias (CEO)

What is happening

- ▶ The province has given notice to B&L that they will no longer be using these services
- ▶ There will be a 120 day period (ending December 31, 2020) to allow for a smooth, gradual transition
- ▶ The transition means that foster homes, most which are currently licensed by Winnipeg CFS will be transitioning to new licenses that align with the CFS agencies or an Authority that oversees their children in care

Why is this happening?

- ▶ This shift promotes a more direct relationship with CFS agencies; both in licensing of the foster home and in their roles as guardian agency/worker of the children placed in your home
- ▶ This contact then strengthens case planning, connections to family, reunification planning and overall planning that meets the needs of children
- ▶ The transition provides culturally appropriate supports and training to foster parents
- ▶ Cross cultural placements need to work on creating space for cultural differences and our CFS system is devolved to promote this
- ▶ This shift in service delivery model aligns with government's CFS transformation

How will this change impact foster parents?

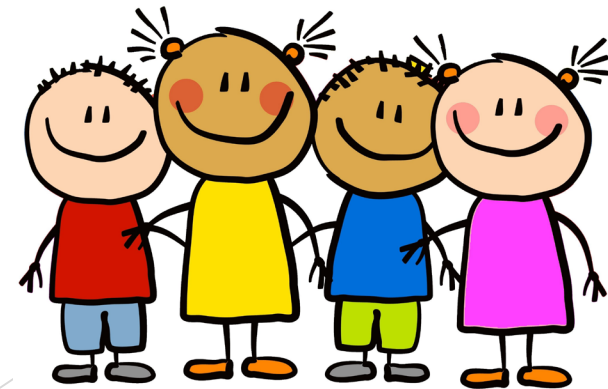
- ▶ As the transition occurs, your current license will close and a new license will be opened with an identified CFS agency.
- ▶ You will be part of this process, and have an ability to ask questions.
- ▶ You will be asked for consent to share information.
- ▶ Your foster care rate will not be changed for 60 days after your new license. After this time, an assessment will be completed.
- ▶ Some foster homes will transition faster than others, as this process will take up to 120 days.
- ▶ This town hall and the letter you received are the first pieces of communication, but we will continue to give you updates so that you are part of the process.
- ▶ You will no longer have a B&L supports as your foster home transitions, but this will all be communicated before it occurs. Your new licensing agency will manage and support your home.

Other impacts

- ▶ This may feel scary and there are some unknowns right now
- ▶ The amount of support (meaning how often you see your new foster care worker) may differ from your past experience
- ▶ You may have access to cultural events, or be able to access ceremony and Elders for the children in your care
- ▶ You will have to get to know the new workers, just as they will be getting to know you
- ▶ Your payments will come from the agencies that have placed children in your home

How will this change impact children?

- ▶ Children will retain their workers, as the guardian CFS agencies will not change.
- ▶ This is about a transition of a license not about case planning
- ▶ Case planning for the children in your care remains the responsibility of the guardian CFS agency
- ▶ Children may have more opportunity to meet extended family, learn their language and connect to their culture through ceremony, contact with Elders or others who share their culture



The Role of B&L in the transition

- ▶ The Province and B&L continue to talk to ensure this transition is smooth
- ▶ B&L will work with the Transition Team and the province to ensure a smooth transition for foster families and the children in your care



Next Steps:



- ▶ The transition team has created a technical team that will work on implementation of this service delivery shift
- ▶ Some next steps include:
 - ▶ The technical team with input from B&L Inc. will work to identify which foster homes will transition as part of phase 1 work
 - ▶ Identify the CFS licensing agencies
 - ▶ Hiring of staff by CFS agencies to support the issuing of new licenses
 - ▶ The remaining phases of work will be identified and completed throughout the 120 days
 - ▶ On-going communication with Foster Parents and other key stakeholders

How to stay connected and know what is happening

- ▶ The FAQ's mailed out with the letter sent by the Province provides information
- ▶ We will send out other information via circulars, and possibly another Town Hall if this was helpful (by email if you consent)
- ▶ You can ask your new licensing agency questions - once they have been identified (which will take some time)
- ▶ You can call the phone number to ask a question 204.945.2923
- ▶ Supports like Kinship, Foster Family Network have a peer support line that you can also call



Remember:

- ▶ Foster homes are always needed and we share common values and goals:
 - ▶ We want children in care to have a safe home, reunify them with family when it is safe to do so and ensure they are connected to community and culture because as youth age out of care they search for family and their community roots/connections
 - ▶ We value foster parents and many of these children have been in your homes for months and years - we do not want to de-stabilize homes
 - ▶ CFS can move children as part of reunification planning and we know this is more successful when foster parents are part of the plan and support this (even when that family home may look very different from your own)
 - ▶ Change takes time and so being patient is important. Building new relationships take time and so trust will take time too.
 - ▶ This transition should not be the reason for any child being removed from your home.



Closing thought

- ▶ As foster parents you may be saying good bye to B&L staff who have been supportive, accessible and helpful; and you are now saying hello to new people who may share different ideas, cultures and teachings, that will benefit the children you care for, as well as you, as foster families.



Questions?