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The Children's Aid Society of Brant

INCORPORATED

OHSWEKEN BRANCH — OHSWEKEN, ONTARIO

*Serving the residents of the Six Nations and
Mississaugas of the Credit Reserves*

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~~Monday~~, OCTOBER 29, 1979.

SUGGESTED AGENDA

RE: Ohsweken C.A.S Branch Office

1. Introductions
2. Purposes of meeting
3. Items of business:
 - A. court wards and wards by voluntary agreement; acceptance by DIA for cost of care
 - B. DIA funding for CAS prevention-type projects for 1980
 1. teacher-homemaker
 2. parent pre-school cooperative
 3. adolescent programming
 - a. group facility for boys and expanded foster care for girls incorporating out of care features; i.e. day care-crash
 - b. community interest development of services for youth
 - C. Current problems
 1. Council awareness and communication
 2. Staff development
 - D. Other matters
4. Adjournment

MEETING

RE: Children's Aid Society of Brant
Ohsweken Branch Office

PLACE: Ohsweken C.A.S. Office
DATE: Wednesday, 29 October, 1979
TIME: 11:10 am - 2:45 pm

PRESENT:

Six Nations Band Council
Renson Jamieson, Chief Councillor
Ross Powless, Band Administrator
Wilma General, Council Representative

New Credit Band Council
Ann LaForme, Council Representative

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Brantford District Office
Hugh Smith, District Superintendent
Bob Johnson, District Employment Co-Ordinator

Toronto Regional Office
Ram Chopra, Regional Supervisor for Social Services

Children's Services Division
Sam Morreale, Program Supervisor

Children's Aid Society of Brant County
Brantford Office
Ted Van Overdijk, Local Director
Doreen Hodge, Statician
Jean MacFadgen, Social Work Student

Ohsweken Office
Lance Sams, Administrator
Audrey LaForme, Office Manager
Vera Styres, Social Worker
Ida Martin, Social Worker
Melba Thomas, Teacher-Homemaker

INTRODUCTIONS

1. A copy of the suggested agenda is attached. The meeting was initiated by Mr. Lance Sams by requesting all present to make a self-introduction.

PURPOSES OF THE MEETING

2. Initial discussion centred on the purpose of this meeting. More specifically, for what purpose was this group of people asked to attend this meeting? Awareness of the communication problem that exists between the Ohsweken CAS office and the band councils was expressed. Also that the proceedings of this meeting should begin on that topic rather than attempting to deal with other issues first.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

3. C-QUESTION: On whose approval does CAS operate on the reserve? A BCR was not submitted to the District DIA office as is the usual procedure.

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: An outline of CAS services on the reserves from 1957 up to the present time was given. *(precise wording has been taken from the CAS Synopsis)

17 November, 1957: "That the council approve the agreement between the Indian Department and the Children's Aid Society, Brantford, Ontario for the extension of service by the said Society, for a period of Two (2) years, in accordance with terms and conditions of the said agreement. CARRIED."

4 February, 1960: "That this council permit the Children's Aid Society to carry on with its work on the reserve on condition that the Children's Aid Society work with this council. CARRIED."

1 November, 1962: "That this council request the Children's Aid Society of Brant that prior to their decision in placing children of the Six Nations Band, who are now in the Mohawk Institute, into foster homes that such cases be referred firstly to the Advisory Board, appointed to consider admissions and discharges to and from this Institute. CARRIED."

29 July, 1977: "That the Children's Aid Society of Brant be requested to employ Native people in all stages of their work on the Reserve, to correspond with a Draft of Recommendations prepared for consideration by the Child-

ren's Aid Society and the Six Nations Band Council. This is to include counsellors and office staff. CARRIED."

Mr. Van Overdijk also stated that it should be noted that, to the best of our knowledge, no other agency in Ontario have requested council participation when providing CAS services to reserve residents. Further, when discussing the feasibility of an Ohsweken Branch Office, council was involved from the beginning stages. That was accomplished through a member of council at that time.

It was also clarified that Mrs. Wilma General was the council member involved in the establishment of the Ohsweken office and as a member of council would have been aware that a BCR would be one of the first steps to take.

QUESTION: How effective is the present communication format?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Communication, or rather the lack of, is the most significant factor to consider when attempting to plan the future development of CAS programmes that are to be provided to the reserves.

Opinion was expressed that Mrs. Wilma General has been doing a thorough job of reporting CAS activities to the Six Nations Council.

Mr. Sams questioned the content of recent reports to council as Mrs. General has had no contact with the CAS office for the past several months. What surfaces at this point, is CAS's main concern regarding reports to council. CAS staff feel that a proper, and most importantly, a complete report is not given to council on a regular basis due to an incident that happened last March at a Six Nations Council meeting. (the Social Services Review meeting which had also involved the New Credit Council) As a result a breakdown in the communication between the CAS staff and council representatives occurred.

Because of the apparent failure to be able to discuss their respective views, it was suggested that this issue be resolved at another time as this meeting was not arranged for the purpose of establishing a "sounding board".

Mr. Hugh Smith offered his help in attempting to rectify the present situation and stated his interest in meeting with CAS staff at a future date. He also stated that this is the first actual meeting he had attended that has made him aware of the past situation and the resulting communication problem. Previously, he had sat aside, watched, listened to rumours, and not become involved in the matter. But, it is a part of his job to effect liaison and provide advisory service to band councils and would be willing to help CAS to arrive at a solution where this can be done.

DIA FUNDING FOR CAS PREVENTION-TYPE PROJECTS FOR 1980

3. B Mr. Sams gave a short outline on the long term plans for the Ohsweken CAS office as a prelude to current program planning. The eventual autonomy of the Ohsweken CAS office was the initial long term plan when establishing the office, with of course, the foremost objective of providing better services on the reserves. After receiving Band Council approval, the next step was to obtain native staff to administer these services and finally to plan programmes necessary to fill the needs of the community. However, at this time the Brantford CAS budget contains no available funding and we must explore other possible funding sources.

QUESTION: How is this being done? Was Band Council approached on the matter. When preparing for programmes, etc., band council must be involved in every step of the way.

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Band Council was approached by Vera Styres and Margaret Bomberry with a request for the rental of the library for the co-op program and a BCR. Unfortunately, when informed that their request to rent the library facilities was not approved, they neglected to request the BCR. This has since been rectified as they are scheduled to meet with the council again on 6 November, 1979 to request a BCR.

QUESTION: How did council appear towards the programme?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Council appeared favourable towards the programme but questioned the existence of the Ohsweken CAS office because of rumoured funding difficulties.

It was stated that in terms of administration, the Ohsweken office should be looked on its own merit and credibility; distinctly separate from the Brantford office.

Mr. Sams stated that possibly the rumour started because of a newspaper statement made by Mrs. Wilma General that indicated inadequate services provided by this office. Regardless of the financial restraints being imposed upon CAS agencies throughout Ontario, and Brant is no exception, the services being provided by the Ohsweken office are not being cut back. If anything, we are planning for the development of additional programmes, but in order to do this we must locate funding. And, just when we needed the support of our council representatives the most, they have proved to be our biggest obstacle.

Mr. Smith pointed out that both CAS and the council representatives have their own guidelines to follow.

We have collectively, worked together as a staff, and feel that we are providing a good service, not the best yet, but the services will continue to grow and develop with the needs of the community foremost in mind.

Mr. Ram Chopra stated that communication appears to be the crux of the development of new programmes. The structure of the Ohsweken CAS is unique as outlined in the Social Services Review and is certainly necessary and helpful. But the communication problem must be resolved. The solution might possibly be made through a presentation to council. He also indicated that the DIAND would be able to assist, as suggested by Mr. Smith, towards resolving this problem.

QUESTION: Could CAS approach council with a presentation of a possible communication route?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Renson Jamieson indicated that a presentation to council would likely be turned over the the Welfare Committee and expressed doubt as to whether CAS would receive an answer from the present council members as the council election is so close.

QUESTION: How long would it take council to inform us of their decision?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Renson Jamieson advised Mr. Sams that we could make our presentation to council and request them (council) to refer the matter to a more appropriate committee; likely the Welfare Committee.

QUESTION: Would the newly elected council members be able to take action on the matter?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Hopefully there will be some continuity of the new council with regard to past business.

QUESTION: What would be a more appropriate format for reporting CAS activities to council?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Mr. Hugh Smith stated that the form we have used so far when communicating back to council is to use the council representative and the need for a different approach is evident. Also he believed that council would not be satisfied with a report from a single representative. In addition to this, the amount of time spent with these reports to council and in discussing the related problems of this reserve is very minimal.

Hopefully, when preparing the new format for reporting to council or the Welfare Committee a specified amount of time can be allotted.

Mr. Smith also explained to the CAS staff present that the Councils do not wish to take over CAS services, but they do want to be kept aware and as fully informed as possible.

Mr. Ted Van Overdijk agreed that funding, programme planning, growth and development of CAS services, etc. are things that should be reported to the councils.

QUESTION: Renson Jamieson stated that there have been questionable materials in some of the past reports from CAS to council, but who can we ask for the answers?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Mr. Ted Van Overdijk explained that the staff at the Ohsweken CAS office are capable of, and quite willing to, dealing with the questions of council regarding the activities of the Ohsweken office.

QUESTION: How do some of the other community services report to council?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: The Ontario Provincial Police give the council a satisfactory report to council on a monthly basis.

Mrs. General stated that there were reports being taken into council every two months.

Mr. Van Overdijk explained that in order for anyone to give a proper explanation of the information in the reports, the reporting individual would have to be involved in the day-to-day operation and activities. The fact that the office was set up quickly and no reporting outline for council was prepared, is the problem we are dealing with now.

QUESTION: When questions are raised, who can answer them the best?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: It would be more appropriate for a staff member or members to report monthly to council as they would have the necessary inside information with which to answer any questions that are raised.

QUESTION: How can council be best kept aware of all the programmes, figures, etc., regarding the Ohsweken CAS office?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Our main concern is to provide services to children and their families. So far, we have been fortunate that the internal problems have not affected the services, but it is indicative that many changes are needed. Further, the developmental rate of the Ohsweken CAS office is conclusive, because of its availability to the people it serves and its actual location on the reserves.

QUESTION: Would CAS be in a better position to wait until after the council election before requesting advice on how we could proceed with communication and reporting to council?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Renson Jamieson stated that there is no guarantee as to how long the matter would take to be resolved because of the elections, but there would be a waiting period involved regardless of whether council accepted or rejected their involvement in the matter.

If council's involvement were to be requested, CAS would be taking advantage of the DIA's offer to help on a consultative basis, towards resolving the problem. The entire staff of the Ohsweken CAS office would be involved in this process. It should be added that CAS is fully aware that council has the ultimate responsibility for all reserve services, including new programmes, etc.

COURT WARDS & WARDS BY VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT - ACCEPTANCE BY DIA FOR COST OF CARE

3. A Mr. Ted Van Overdijk outlined the reason for having this matter on the agenda.

When a child comes into CAS care, whether through apprehension, court order, parental application or at the request of a young person, the DIA is approached by CAS (on an Initial Child Placement Authority form) to accept/reject financial responsibility of the child. Providing, of course, that the child is a registered band member of either the Six Nations or New Credit Reserves.

There is some confusion involved when submitting some children to the DIA. It seems to be because of having no clear cut procedure or guideline to workers to follow when making application to the DIA. If some procedure can be arranged between CAS and the DIA it would be beneficial to both in terms of time spent in getting some of the applications approved.

QUESTION: Is there some plan or procedure the CAS workers can follow with which to clarify acceptance or rejection of financial responsibility by the DIA?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Our department has to justify the financial acceptance of each case. Simple justification is lacking in some cases. There are several sections of the Child Welfare Act under which a child can be brought into care, and a lack of familiarity with these sections is the main reason. The forms are another factor. They do not provide enough information. With the small amount of information provided, together with no explanation of which section of the act they came into care under, the DIA has no choice but to reject the I.C.P.A. forms.

QUESTION: Can it be assumed by the CAS workers that when a court procedure is involved there is no question of the child being accepted for financial responsibility?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: The same information with regards to reason for service should be provided regardless of the circumstances. The information contained in any of the cases are handled confidentially. If it is in the case of an Agreement for Temporary Care and Custody (non-ward status) it would be appropriate for CAS to submit a copy of the signed agreement along with an outline of the circumstances.

Some types of services precludes going into court at all, under some of the new Child Welfare Act sections, but CAS can and should provide this information to the DIA.

QUESTION: Would it be possible for us to see some of the cases not accepted?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: The CAS office (Audrey LaForme) has kept track of all the cases not accepted by the DIA.

CAS workers will provide details on each and resubmit them to the DIA for possible acceptance.

3. B DIA FUNDING FOR CAS PREVENTION-TYPE PROJECTS FOR 1980

1. Teacher-Homemaker Program
2. Parent/Preschool Cooperative
3. Adolescent Programming - a. group facility for boys and expanded foster care for girls, incorporating out-of-care features; i.e. day care-crash
- b. community interest development of services
for youth

Mr. Smith informed staff that when planning for any new programmes, the involvement of the council was a necessary first step. Therefore it is also necessary to have an agreement for good communicating with councils.

QUESTION: Was this done (council informed and involved) when planning for the current programmes?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Yes, there are letters on file to the councils for our request for BCR's for the three programmes. The BCR's, at this time, request approval for this office to proceed with planning and funding negotiation.

Programmes were outlined and researched by our staff to prove the need of the community first and second, for the feasibility of the programmes.

For instance, with regard to the co-op programme, we learned that council did approve, in principle, of another day care programme about two years ago. Although we are not involved in that planning process, our programme is fundamentally along the same lines, but geared more towards a preventative programme. At the same time, we are aware and support the work of the Day Care Committee as we can see the need for a working mother's babysitting service on the reserves.

Basically, our co-op programme is not for working mothers but is a preventative service which essentially promotes and enhances the parent-child relationship as the parent is actively involved in the planning of the co-op and also works on a rotating, volunteer basis with the children and Early Childhood Specialist.

QUESTION: Do the nurseries have the same objective?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: A day care and preschool co-op are two distinctly separate programmes.

QUESTION: Would this co-op be eligible to obtain funding, either directly or through grants? (This question also applied to the other two programmes.)

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: The BCR's request from councils does request approval to proceed with funding negotiations, i.e., searching for possible funding sources.

Mr. Ram Chopra stated that some of the funding provided by the Ministry has been "special funding" for CAS agencies. But it is not sure if the Brant office can be guaranteed funding. A forecast has been submitted by the Brantford DIA to the Toronto DIA and a request for Day Care services to the Six Nations Reserve was in the budget. The DIA would not be able to inform CAS if this request will be allowed until April 1980.

The Teacher-Homemaker service have also been provided for through the Brantford CAS budget and with the financial restraints imposed, it is possible that this service will no longer be provided.

QUESTION: Is there any way CAS can obtain funding for this service through any spec-

ial funding or grants through the DIA?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Mr. Chopra explained that these programmes are still in the making and that monies ultimately come from the federal government through the provincial government in accordance with the agreement of 1924 between the DIAND, Federal Government and the Provincial Government.

QUESTION: Once BCR's are obtained for a new service how can we obtain funding for the service?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Funding for such programmes depends on the needs of the community rather than a proposal prepared by a local agency or organization. The channel would be: proposal, research, documentation, etc. by agency

approval of service, programme, etc. by band council(s)

notification to district DIA

notification to regional DIA

notification to federal DIA

Some of the areas needed to be clarified in the proposal would be the established need of the community, how they intend to fill that need, program identification, and most importantly, documentation.

Mr. Hugh Smith informed staff that the DIA forecasts for a five year period.

Mr. Ross Powless explained that there is more involved in the process than just obtaining a BCR from council. Council has been approached for many programmes and at the end of a five-year period, council is left holding financial responsibility. The government is willing to provide funding in the beginning and then they (government) expect you to carry the service yourself (council) once it gets going and the people begin to need it.

What should be obtained or prepared for, is long-term funding.

Mr. Renson Jamieson stated that a review of Indian services was taken from the Six Nations and New Credit last spring. The review covered the areas we are discussing now.

QUESTION: Who has received copies of the final draft (of the Social Services Review)?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Tap Associates distributed complete copies of the review to the chief-councillors on all the Indian reserves in Ontario. According to information received, in relation to the information gathered in the review, certain services should be worked on depending on their identification in the section of the review that dealt with the problem of distribution of services on other reserves.

The Indian Associations will be responsible for the development of some type of planning unit in order to consolidate their band councils and begin working with various agencies so that the programmes and services are meeting the needs of the people on the reserves. There is a problem in funding these units, as well as speculation in various government offices that there are to be other service cut backs.

QUESTION: Is that going to happen here? Which services will this involve?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Mr. Chopra explained that preventative services are aimed at cutting back on services before they are needed. Because of the success of preventative services we are needing less of the other services.

The DIA is not administering direct programs. These services are channeled through the Ministry of Community & Social Services at the provincial level.

QUESTION: Co-operative nurseries are not a new program, but if this reserve prepared for a co-op and it expanded, would other programs be cut in order to keep the co-op available? Or is it possible that it would be funded for two years and then cut off and council would be told to provide our own funding?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: There are funds available through TRIPARTITE for catch-up programs.

QUESTION: Council must decide whether to take on new programs or to reject them. How can this be done if we cannot be sure of funding?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: DIA will not commit themselves for any amount of funding.

QUESTION: How do we determine our necessities and priorities?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Through research and documentation. With compiled information, projections can be made and a submission to the Toronto DIA. (Before December)

QUESTION: Would the DIA await the submissions of council, or would the onus of responsibility fall back on the council for government cut-backs on some programs due to the lack of a submission?

QUESTION: Government cut-backs are happening throughout the province and we need to know if they will cut back here.

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Mr. Chopra stated that he did not receive any information on any cut backs in this area.

QUESTION: Will the cut backs now effect the programmes we currently have? Will they have any effect on programs allowed now and in two to five years?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: An annual budget is prepared and it is at this time that programs are determined to be cut or continued.

Priorities must be determined. It cannot be helped if a program is seen as a low priority.

QUESTION: How are approved programs followed up on? What justification of the need for such programs has been compiled?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Margaret Bomberry was placed at the CAS office in Ohsweken as the Camp Supervisor for the Preschool Summer Day Camp. The apparent need for a preschool program was realized through this camp. Margaret is currently organizing and preparing for the co-op and has distributed and received back questionnaires filled out by parents whose children attended the camp. The questionnaires document the opinion of the parents regarding the need for a preschool program as a follow up to their child's attendance at the camp. The questionnaires are on file.

The province does not, at this time, have available funding, but a co-op works through local initiative. With the beginning of a Day Care Program, the two could possibly be combined to operate under a single budget.

The first step is to determine the need on the reserve; second, obtain council approval to provide the service; third, it becomes the responsibility of the province to determine the eligibility for license, etc. The apparent enthusiasm of the people

of this reserve would be very important to the continuity and success of any program or project.

Mr. Hugh Smith felt that the staff should be aiming at consulting with the DIA in order to obtain positive support for their programs.

Mr. Sams stated that staff would meet with the DIA offices, both district and regional, prior to their meeting with band council on November 6, to plan for the presentation of programs and funding sources.

Mr. Renson Jamieson advised that Six Nations is not involved with the discussion on TRIPARTITE or the registered Indian organizations as recognized by the DIAND.

3. D OTHER MATTERS

Band Membership and Children in Care

When a child comes into care and is not registered as a band member the financial responsibility of the child cannot be billed to the DIA. Workers make every effort, if there is enough information available, to register the child with the DIA and ensure their status rights. One of the problems we run into in this area is registering children born out of wedlock.

QUESTION: Would any of the new changes in the Child Welfare Act effect a child's entitlement to band membership?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Discussion followed regarding the band status of children and their entitlement to registration with the DIA.

Mr. Smith advised workers to follow the guidelines of the Indian Act for the registrations they are having problems with. It is also possible that the DIA would be able to assist in resolving some of the cases. Regardless, all registrations are subject to protest by the Band Council involved.

Social Security Benefits and Children in Care

QUESTION: What happens to the social security payments of the child(ren) who come

into CAS care and, if they are band members, financial responsibility is accepted by the DIA. As the DIA reimburses the province 100% for the costs incurred, and the CAS also receives the social security payments, is the CAS agency being paid twice?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Mr. Ted Van Overdijk explained that when a child is brought into care in these circumstances, the social security payments are used by the agency to offset the amount billed to the DIA. Authorization for this is given in Section #31 of the Child Welfare Act and the financial reports of the CAS are a matter of public record.

4. ADJOURNMENT