

✓(SPECIALIZED FOSTER HOMES):
SIX NATIONS AND NEW CREDIT RESERVES

Draft Proposal

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, increasing attention is being paid to finding appropriate placements for "difficult to place" children. The Children's Aid Society of Brant has a variety of resources for the care of children. However, it is felt that on the Six Nations and New Credit Indian reserves there is still the need for placement resources for "difficult to place" children of both sexes and different ages. A review of the case histories of several children who either were or are still in care, indicates that special placement facilities and resources on the reserves are necessary. (See appendix 1)

RATIONALE

It should be noted that of the 198 children presently in care of the CAS of Brant, 37 (or 18.7%) are from the Six Nations and New Credit reserves. However, the population (residents) on the reserves is approximately 6,500 (or 6.7%) of the total population of Brant County. This disproportionate number of children in care from the reserves requires that the CAS look closely at its services to the reserves with a view to developing special resources for "difficult to place" children.

It is becoming evident that traditional foster homes on the reserves cannot meet the needs of all troubled youngsters. The foster home programme is faced with a shortage of foster families able to deal with disturbed children. The demands placed upon families fostering disturbed children are often overwhelming, and the support provided by the social workers is, at times, insufficient to meet their needs. Furthermore, knowledgeable people concur that it is in the best interests of Indian children for them to remain within their own social, cultural and religious milieu whenever possible.

It will be necessary for some "difficult to place" children to be placed in group homes and institutions off the reserves.

However, in these times of fiscal restraint and social service cutbacks, placing children in specialized foster homes would be considerably less expensive than these outside alternatives. It is hoped that the development of indigenous resources will assist in alleviating the present need for special care facilities.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed, therefore, that the CAS of Brant:

1. establishes Specialized Foster Homes on the Six Nations and New Credit reserves;
2. hires an additional native worker to become the Foster Home Co-ordinator/Child Care Worker (for both general and special foster homes).

SPECIALIZED FOSTER HOMES

Goals

The goals of these homes are as follows:

1. to provide additional resource facilities for "difficult to place" children in their community;
2. to provide treatment-oriented specialized care for children with multiple needs who are "difficult to place" in conventional foster homes;
3. to provide a modified "crash" and Day Care programme.

Selection

Two or three homes would be selected. It may be possible to screen and select these homes either from the existing approved foster homes or by advertising for new homes. One of the homes would be the emergency "crash" and Day Care facility. It is important to provide adequate compensation to the parents of these specialized foster homes. The specialized foster home

parents would participate in an ongoing training programme on child development, child management techniques, recording procedures and so on, provided by the CAS.

Referral Procedure

Children from the reserves would be referred to the specialized foster homes by the CAS diagnostic and assessment team.

Foster Home Co-ordinator/Child Care Worker

The native Foster Home Co-ordinator/Child Care Worker would be hired from the reserves and assume responsibility for the general foster home programme and the specialized foster homes. This person should be qualified in child care, group work and social casework. He/she would receive a comprehensive orientation programme as well as ongoing supervision from the Director of Services and support from other resource people.

Programme

A team comprised of the Director of Services, Ohsweken office staff (including the native Foster Home Co-ordinator/ Child Care Worker) and the parents of specialized foster homes, would plan and implement treatment-oriented programmes for the individual child.

Administration

The specialized foster homes would be administered by the CAS. The native Foster Home Co-ordinator/Child Care Worker would assume responsibilities for maintaining liaison between the CAS personnel concerned with the foster home programmes both on and off the reserves.