**BIG GRASSY FIRST NATION**

**MEETING AGENDA**

|  |
| --- |
| **Big Grassy Elders Advisory Council (regular meeting)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **March 17 2015** |
| **Time** | **10:00 a.m.** |
| **Location** | **BGRFN Esiiniwab Health Center Board Room** |

**Meeting Chair or Facilitator:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Facilitator: Romeo Duguay** **Daryl Archie Special Assistant to Elders Advisory Council –**  |

**Invited/Expected Attendees:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Elders Advisory Council -**  |

**Smudge: Robert Archie**

**Opening Prayer: Robert Archie**

**Call to Order: 10:30 a.m.**

**Approval of Minutes: March 04/2015 Moved by: Stanley Second: Brian (Carried)**

**Roll Call: Robert A., Geraldine A., Stanley J., Leonard M., Patsy T., Victoria G., Bessie T.,**

 **Brian M., Virginia A., Joe A. Marlene, Bernadine C., Roy Tom**

**Reading of Agenda for: March 17, 2015**

**Additions to Agenda:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda Items:** | **Time Allowance** |
| **Brief report by Brian Major and Stanley Jack regarding their progress with the Pegamigaabo School situation. A disappointment was that the appropriate school staff did not remain with the elders for the presentations. (another staff was delegated that responsibility. Nancy Indian was there as an assignee. Information was provided to Nancy. The new Principle should be apprised of the fact that we have 2 Elders talking to the children. Brian and Stanley are speaking to the classes (2) so far. With personal disclosures of their lives. One young student asked a question about a scar on Brians face. Brian explained that because he did not listen he was injured. The message of listening was well received. Emphasis was on listening to instructions and following them. If you don’t listen then bad things can happen. (Listening, Love, and Hurt) Brian was surprised and impressed with the outcome. Stanley and Brian welcome other Elders to accompany them on School visits. Brian will continue their visits and through teacher interaction will receive reports on child behaviors.**  | **15 minutes** |
| **Notice to Elders that Romeo has spoken to CCP Manager Roy Tom concerning the Customary Care Program. Roy is preparing a presentation for the Elders Advisory for the meeting of March 17. (Will talk about the state of the Family Services Committee and the Customary Care program) Roy addressed the Elders and stated that they are working on the committee and the Service Agreement amending the job descriptions and salary grids. The Service Committee will be receiving training, especially in the privacy of information aspects of their work. Roy explained the sensitive nature of the Family Service Committee’s work. He is working with Wiichitewin Family Services on various aspects of the Service Agreement. Roy will put the power point presentation on a memory stick to show to the Elders in the near future. His unit works with other Family and Children’s services units in Thunder Bay, Manitoba, and Portage La Prairie, Timmins. That amounts to 30 children who are under the care of external agencies and Roy is mandated to keep track of the children even though they are not in Big Grassy. People keep saying I’m out of the office but don’t realize that I have to keep track of children on our Band list and that often involves a lot of travel. All of our staff (9) keep having to take module training to (mandatory) in accordance with the Ministry of Community Social Services or their new name (can’t remember) Roy went on to demonstrate a graph on Care Giver Capacity and demonstrates why their children are in care. An assessment of Care givers. An Elder asked where the referrals are coming from School, neighbors, Police, concerned relatives. Roy said refferals reported to his unit can come from all sources. His unit has to investigate every complaint and referral made to his office. Then passed on to the appropriate staff person to handle. If not enough foster homes on the Rez the children have to be accommodated off reserve. Most importantly the extended families are approached for possible placement of children in care. A BCR is commissioned to order the family to release the child into care (customary) The formal court process is avoided in lieu of the Band Council Authorities. The objective is to diminish children in care stats. Customary care falls under section 10 of the Family Services Act. The scenario for children moved from removal and future adoption to Aboriginal Family Preservation. Question: what are the stages that occur from removal to adoption. Roy knows of cases where the courts and the parents came to agreement on adoption of their children. Customary Care, Temporary Care, Crown Wardship, Adoption. How does a family get their children back? Depends on the parent and if they work on their issues such as drugs (illegal and prescription), alcohol abuse backgrounds (mental, emotional) Assessments are carried out with the parents and a capacity assessment is carried out. Weechi has a special officer (Investigation and Assessment Worker –INA) who carries that out on behalf of our CCP. Largely because CCP needs someone with no familial connections with the family and child under care. The Family Services committee assists the workers in doing their jobs. This is a difficult process and training is essential to ensure that the process is valuable to the CCP rather than contradictory. Roy is anticipating an FCS start up middle of May. Names have to be brought forward and screened by way of a Police check. Need team players and drug free as well as how well they are viewed in the community. At a future meeting Roy will bring in a file to demonstrate a typical process to the Elders. Roy was thanked for his information and respect in showing up to speak to the Elders.** | **.5 hours** |
| **Time pending: Elders to discuss their aspirations and plans for the new fiscal year so Romeo and Daryl can secure some funding to be put in place. (Keep wish list within a $30,000 budget.****Continued to next meeting.****Elder considerations: House Boat Excursion, Retreat, Travel to outside events,**  | **?** |
| **An Elder brought up meeting confidentiality matters. Matters under consideration or discussion at Elders meetings can be shared with the membership excluding any names of individuals who have spoken. Further discussion carried out with respect to the use of social media and sometimes negative results from those who would abuse the facility.** |  |
| **Roundhouse – Glenn Archie to speak on the origin of the Roundhouse****To bring up the issue of starting to use the roundhouse. Bella wants the community to use the roundhouse for meetings and ceremonies. Discussion ensued about the $$ required for potential re-commissioning of the building.****Will invite Glenn A. to the next meeting to explain how it came about. Discussion defered to next meeting.** | **.25** |
| **Chairperson expressed the value of Elders speaking to the children in their learning environment. They need to know where they came from and how they got to where they are now. There is a valuable history of their home territory that they should be aware of. Applauds the work of our Elders Brian and Stanley for taking the first steps in opening those doors.** |  |

**Next meeting: March 31, 2015**

**Adjournment: 12:40 p.m.**