



Family Alliance Ontario

c/o Durham Family Network
20-850 King Street West, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 8N5
Email: familyallianceont@gmail.com
905-723-8111

April 1, 2020

To: Members of Family Alliance Ontario

Dear Members:

Re: Annual General Meeting on Saturday May 2, 2020

You are herewith cordially invited to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday May 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. You are an official member of Family Alliance Ontario and qualify to vote at FAO's AGM. Please find enclosed:

1. FAO's Invitation to Attend the AGM
2. The Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members
3. Agenda for the AGM
4. Nomination Form
5. A list of current Board members for your information.

Due to the coronavirus, we will be hosting our AGM this year via zoom. We ask that you register and complete our membership form prior to April 29, 2020 at which time we will forward you the zoom link to attend the AGM.

If you are unable to join us this year please assign your Proxy Vote by completing the form online [HERE](#)

Membership fees have been waived this year! Membership renewal can be completed by completing the form online [HERE](#)

You can RSVP to familyallianceont@gmail.com or contact Carla O'Neill at 705-783-3012.

We look forward to seeing you on May 2, 2020.

Sincerely,

Carla O'Neill
President

www.family-alliance.com



Family Alliance *Ontario*

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April 1, 2020

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

TAKE NOTICE that the Annual General Meeting of the members of Family Alliance Ontario will be held via video teleconference on **Saturday, May 2, 2020** at **09:00 a.m.** for the purpose of

- a. Receiving Annual Report
- b. Receiving Financial Report
- c. Receiving Nomination Report
- d. Electing Board Members
- e. Enacting any other business in accordance with our By-Laws

Please insure your membership has been renewed for the new year. FAO is waiving membership fees this year. You can renew your FAO Membership for 2020-21 by Clicking [HERE](#)

Any member wishing to have any matter connected with the affairs of Family Alliance Ontario discussed at the Annual General Meeting shall notify Carla O'Neill, President, by email at familyallianceont@gmail.com of such matter by April 18, 2020. Upon receipt by email of such a notification, the matter shall be placed on the agenda of the meeting.

If you are unable to join us on May 2, 2020 please assign your Proxy Vote by clicking [HERE](#)



Family Alliance Ontario Accord

Autonomous Family networks and family directed groups are dedicated to fostering the strengths, dreams, competencies and enthusiasm of their member families to create inclusive, caring lives for all their members.

Vision:

A society where people and their families are fully supported to live a regular life.

Mission:

Family Alliance Ontario is a provincial organization that offers knowledge, resources, tools and networking opportunities to people with disabilities and their families; to assist them to realize a vision that includes having valued relationships; choice and control in their lives; and enables inclusion through meaningful contribution and participation in their communities.

Shared Beliefs:

- Informed, involved and confident families are the most effective agents for social change.
- Families and people with disabilities are an essential source of expertise with respect to each other and to the community.
- People with disabilities must lead all decisions which affect their lives.
- Families are an integral part in supporting people with disabilities in the decision-making process.
- People with disabilities have valuable gifts and contributions to make to their community.
- All people, regardless of disability, should grow up with family and have enduring lifelong relationships.
- All people, regardless of disability, have the right to quality, inclusive education.

Goals:

- Be a strong family voice for positive change as per our beliefs.
- People with disabilities and their families have the confidence and assurance that they or their family members will have individualized, flexible, life long supports to enable them to live valued, productive lives in their community.
- People with disabilities and their families will build capacity towards true citizenship.
- People with disabilities and their families will have access to resources, tools and support that strengthens their capacity.
- People with disabilities will have choice and control of resources through self directed, portable, individualized funding and reflects the current cost of living.
- Autonomous family groups and networks receive ongoing financial support to ensure they can provide a safety net of mutual support for families.
- We will have strong local autonomous family groups and networks throughout the province of Ontario.

Family Alliance Ontario will be a strong provincial voice for families across Ontario.

Family Alliance Ontario

List of Current Board Members

May 2020

Nominees whose term will expire in 2020:

Sharon Bak
Betty Daley (Undecided)
Sue Irving (on leave)
Cindy Mitchell
Susan Popper

Nominees whose term will expire in 2021:

Joyce Balaz
Sharon Gabison
Bill Hiltz
Carla O'Neill

New Board Members 2020:

Minda Bojin
Sherry Caldwell
Roseanne Purnwasie

Last Name	First Name	Status	Board History
Bak	Sharon	Secretary/Treasurer	Board Member since September 2018; Secretary/Treasurer June 2019
Balaz	Joyce	Chair, Uncovering People's History Project	Board Member since May 2010; Vice President April 2013
Daley	Betty		Board Member since October 30, 2017. Founding Member of Family Support Network
Gabison	Sharon		Board Member since October 2017
Hiltz	Bill		Board Member since May 2010
Irving	Sue		Board Member since January 25, 2014 (currently on leave)
Mitchell	Cindy	Vice President	Board Member since June 20, 2009; Vice President November 13, 2011; President April 2013 & September 2018
O'Neill	Carla	President	Board Member since October 2017; Vice President September 2018
Popper	Susan		Board Member since November 13, 2011; Secretary January 25, 2014

17. Board of Directors: Term

A Director shall be elected for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for additional terms.

One half of the number of Directors shall be directed to hold office for a term of one year from the date of their election or until the first Annual meeting after such date, whichever shall occur first; and one half of the number of Directors shall be directed to hold office for a term of two years from the date of their election or until the second Annual meeting after such date, whichever shall occur first.

At each Annual meeting thereafter, up to ten Directors shall be elected for a term of two years or until the second Annual meeting after their election, whichever shall occur first.



Family Alliance Ontario

Board Membership Letter of Interest

Family Alliance Ontario (FAO) is a well-respected, family based, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families and working towards positive social change. We believe that people with disabilities have the right to be included as full citizens and are valued members of their community. We believe that the person must hold choice and control over all aspects of their lives. We believe that all supports are best utilized when individualized and directed by the person. We provide opportunities for families across Ontario to meet, listen and learn, to hear informative speakers and strategize for the future. We support a growing network of affiliated family-directed groups so that together, we can become a stronger voice for change. We join together to co-create a positive future where all belong.

Family Alliance Ontario is an incorporated, non-profit organization governed by the Board of Directors. The membership of the FAO Board of Directors reflects who we are: family members, people with disabilities, and other supporters. The FAO Board of Directors is a working board committed to: promoting family to family networking, the value of inclusivity, and helping people who are vulnerable live everyday ordinary lives as full citizens.

Thank you for your interest in joining the FAO Board of Directors. We acknowledge the diversity of experiences that people bring to any Board. We ask that you submit a brief expression of interest by responding to the questions below. Your responses will help us identify ways in which your gifts, experience, connections, time, and energy could provide better lives for people with disabilities and their families.

Please feel free to contact Carla O'Neill at familyallianceont@gmail.com if you have any questions.

1. What do you know about FAO?
2. What, (if any), has been your experience or connection with FAO?
3. What led you to express an interest in becoming a Director of the FAO Board?
4. What do you think people across Ontario could be doing to improve the lives of individuals living with disabilities?
5. We acknowledge the diversity of experiences that people bring to any Board. What are some contributions, skills or gifts you most look forward to offering?
6. What other organizations have you helped to move forward because of your involvement? How do you feel that you made a difference to the organization?
7. Are you a member of a family network? If so, identify the network and briefly describe your experience.



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Annual General Meeting Saturday June 8, 2019 Durham Association for Family Resources and Support

Minutes

Welcome – Cindy Mitchell, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

Board Members Present: Cindy Mitchell, Carla O'Neill, Susan Popper, Bill Hiltz, Joyce Balaz

Members Present: Minda Bojin, Maggie Bojin, Karen Inwood, Janis Jaffe-White, Rhonda Alcott, Maureen Emmons, Vici Clarke, Helen Dionne, Barbara Burke, Carolyn Dionne, Linda Doran Viscardis, Cora Nolan, Joyce Rivington, Paul Popper, Lynne Leyland, Bonnie Heath, Marieta Dias.

Approval of Agenda

(m) Linda; (s) Joyce R. carried

Cindy spoke briefly about the Importance of Accord and how it guides the work of Family Alliance Ontario and how the Board undertook a revision of the Accord.

Approval of Minutes from AGM September 16, 2018

(m) Cora; (s) Joyce B. carried

Financial Report

Nomination Report

Election of Board Members

Other Business

Motion to Adjourn

Discussion arising from the minutes included autonomous networks; affiliates calling for better engagement with family networks; website. *Questions were asked, answered, and will be incorporated into document for Board to review.*

Annual Report – Cindy highlighted the work of Family Alliance Ontario over past 8 months contained in the report which was previously distributed.

Highlights included:

- **Proud of the volunteers**—commitment of time, energy, knowledge, freely given; kids/loved ones recognize the difference between freely given support and paid support/service
- **Acknowledged the strength of Carla's efficiency**—Carla has been instrumental in leading the charge in keeping the Board focussed and on direction
- **Monthly meetings** – standard format; increased efficiency
- **Meetings of executive-** started to determine action and clarity for meetings
- **September 2018 Gathering**—led to Board planning day bringing people together to work on the direction we received from family network gathering. Work stemming from Board Planning Day
 - Reviewed the accord; determination of the kind of Board wanted to be; created Work Plans; Commitment to Better Family Network engagement; acknowledgement that Policies/Procedures need to evolve as the work continues to effectively guide the work;
- **Process for Affiliation**—criteria created to guide the process
- **Governmental Engagement-**letters written included
 - Welcome to Premier and request to meet
 - Support for the Child and Youth advocate
- **Advocacy Work**
 - Bringing awareness of the disparity created by housing allowance increase

- Pie in the Sky advocacy (cost of housing disparity between MPPs and those relying on Social Assistance)
 - Remember Every Name – highlights importance of maintaining and highlighting Huronia cemetery
 - FAO provided a letter of support
 - commissioned a monument government withholding permission to install;
 - the request has finally been approved
 - Cindy put out a call to families to attend the commemoration ceremony
 - Advocacy Package—adaptable by people and networks
 - Thunder Bay did significant work utilizing this package
- **Budget Consultation-** continue to advocate as we have for individualized direct funding for people and families
- **Collaboration with other Provincial Organizations**
 - **Budget Consultation**– continue to advocate as we have for individualized direct funding for people and families
 - **Collaboration with other Prov. Organizations**
 - SSAH/PC – families not receiving notification re funding
 - Engaged using a survey – 1330 email permission for report back; initial data was disseminated
 - **New Affiliation**
 - Accepted new family group P.A.D.D.D. North Bay—a group of parents of children were in the institution; received some network funding which allowed for significant growth
 - Received two other application—to be reviewed at next meeting of the Board
 - **Affiliated Network Engagement**
 - Network engagement—communication is a key thing;
 - started quarterly meetings 1st meeting had 11 participants; provides for sharing; updates on what family networks are doing with the family network funding;
 - Next scheduled meeting –August 9th
 - Advocacy package – heard loud and clear from family networks were pleased that it could be adapted to their needs
 - **Uncovering the People’s History Project**—Chair of Steering Committee gave brief presentation of project and progress to date

Discussion arising from Annual Report included questions/comments about unpaid members; relationships with Transfer Payment Agencies; autonomous groups; Family Network Funding from the Ministry; Facebook pages; policy/procedures; website; follow up with government; Passport Funding; LHIN-Family Managed Health Care; Power of Attorney; silencing informed families. *Questions were asked, answered, and will be incorporated into document for Board to review.*

Motion to accept annual report as presented

(m) Linda; (s) Susan P. carried

Financial Report—

- **FAO financial** Cindy presented the financial report— discussion about current membership
(m) Paul; (s) Maureen; carried
- **Uncovering the People’s History Project financial—** presented by Joyce identifying that this was an unaudited statement
 - Will undergo audit through the DAFRS process
 - Brief explanation of some of the expenses

(m) Joyce; (s) Barb; carried

Nomination Report—presented by Carla

- No response to letters of interest; conversations with potential Board members underway, but none for this election
- Board members willing to stand for re-election:
 - Joyce Balaz, Sharon Gabison, Bill Hiltz, Carla O’Neill

(m) Cindy; (s) Helen; carried

Election of Board Members—nominations from the floor were opened; having no nominations from the floor; the following were acclaimed as Board Members: Joyce Balaz, Sharon Gabison, Bill Hiltz and Carla O’Neill.

Other Business—

- Maureen Emmons offered gratitude for the work that has been happening
- Linda Viscardis identified a need to get the knowledge out to other families and that FAO has a huge capacity to be the voice for families
- Comment around the need for a marketing strategy to highlight the amount of work that has been done

- Suggestion to connect with the Toronto Star to do a series promoting what FAO does
- Invite family networks to join—Board would be willing to connect with family networks for conversation
- Use of Zoom has proven very useful—a great way to bring resources to family network—suggestion that the Board investigate how to better make use of the forum

Meeting Adjourned

Other Business -Maureen thank you for the work that has been happening;
Linda Viscardis—need to get the knowledge out to other families;
organization has huge capacity to be the voice for families;
Marketing strategy is needed; amount of work that has been done,
Call Toronto Star to do a series;

Promoting what we do; family engagement to join the conversation; Board
would be willing to connect with family networks;

Zoom is very useful; a great way to bring resources to family networks;

Motion to Adjourn - Linda

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