

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc

A large, conical teepee structure is the central focus of the image. It is constructed from light-colored, possibly animal skin or canvas, panels that are laced together. The entrance at the base is a large, arched opening, through which a bright, warm light is visible, suggesting a fire inside. The teepee is set against a dark, dense background of trees, with some foliage visible at the top. The overall lighting is dim, with the primary light source being the fire within the teepee.

Annual Report 2016-2017

Table of Contents

Message from the Board Chairperson

Biographies of the Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

Southeast Communities

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. Vision

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. Organization Chart

Human Resources

Therapeutic Foster Care

Community Specialized Homes

Support Work Program

2016/2017 Audited Financial Statements



Message from Board Chairman

Greetings from the Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. I would like to extend greetings to all, in particular to the citizens of our Southeast Tribal Council communities.

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. is a new organization, and as a Board we are honored to have the opportunity to make a contribution to the well being of our children, families and communities.

I am pleased to present the 2016-17 Annual Report, which provides an overview of the many activities accomplished over the past year.

We thank the staff of Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. for their continued dedication and hard work in building our organization in the Urban, rural and especially in our Southeast communities.

It is our hope that we will all move forward in working to assist First Nations children, families and communities in becoming healthy, empowered and enjoying an enhanced quality of life.



Evelyn Folster
Chairperson



Evelyn Folster

Chair June 2016 to present

Is member of Brokenhead Ojibwe Nation and has lived in Selkirk, Manitoba for the past 25 years, where she raised her children and grandchildren.

Throughout her career, She has always worked for the betterment of our children and communities.

Graduated from Red River Community College with Business Administration, shortly after she started working at the Canada Employment Centre (Outreach) as project Officer in employment and training, working with Métis and First Nation communities in the Southeast and Inter-lake area. Has worked with our leadership in the communities as well as with Federal and Provincial government in the building of the large projects such as arenas in Berens River and Poplar River. These were huge undertakings, of which she is very proud to have been part of.

During this time, she completed her Project Management Diploma with the University of Winnipeg.

When the training dollars were disbursed from the Federal Government to First Nations, Evelyn joined Southeast Tribal Council (Economic Development) and set up and managed the training and employment for the 9 communities. Where she developed and maintained a positive working relationship with community members and the Board of Directors who consisted of the Chiefs and Council members for each of the 9 communities. At this time she also worked closely with Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs staff and leadership.

Evelyn joined Southern Network of Care to set up and manage the training Centre for the 10 agencies, under the umbrella of SFNNC, along with the other 3 Authorities. (North, Metis and General Authorities). This consisted of development of new policies for training relevant to Child Welfare.

Currently is working on contract with Cree Nation Caring Agency in the development of resources for their communities and children in care.

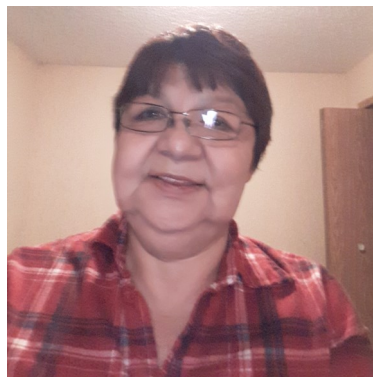
Evelyn also a business owner of a second hand furniture store in Selkirk, which she started to help out single moms in Selkirk and surrounding areas. Evelyn's hobbies are travelling and gardening.



Caroline Travers

Secretary June 2016 to present

Caroline is a member of Bloodvein First Nations. Is a mother of 3 children and grandmother of 7 grandchildren. Currently living in Winnipeg and works in Bloodvein as Educational Assistant for Misskoopiseei School.



Karen Cook

Treasurer June 2016 to present

Karen is a member from Bloodvein First Nations mother of 5 and grandmother of 6 granddaughters. Currently lives and works in Bloodvein as the Health Director and is a teacher by trade.

Harold Crow

Member June 2016 to present

Harold is a member from Little Grand Rapids.



Rhonda Abraham

Member June 2016 to current

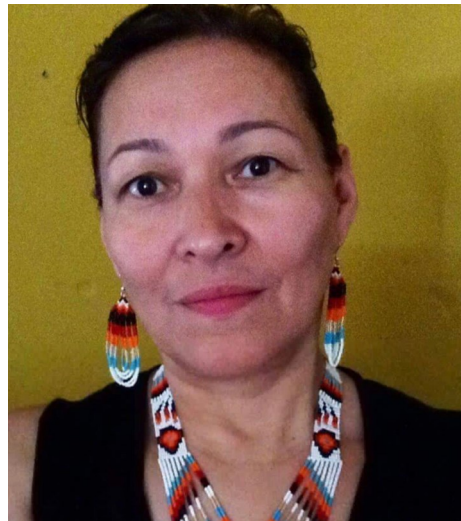
Rhonda Abraham is a member of the Black River First Nation. She is married to Frank Abraham, together they have a blended family of 5 daughters and 5 sons and 16 grandchildren.

Rhonda has always been an active & committed member for the community through work or on a personal level for many community activities or events past & present.

Over the years she has worked in different areas, she worked with childcare at the local daycare, then went on to work at the health center as the brighter futures & building healthy communities program manager. She was also dedicated to being a first responder for the SARAH program on a volunteer basis for 7 years. Rhonda had also represented and worked for Black River members as an elected council members for 6 years (2009-2015). After her departure from politics she decided to take some time off for her family and herself.

Currently she is a board member with Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. She is also back in the work force, employed with Black River First Nation as the Jordan's Principle-CFI case manager.

Rhonda enjoys cooking, baking, music, sports and spending quality time with family & friends.



Tanis Owens

Member December 2017 to Current

Tanis is a member from Pauingassi First Nation.

I have been working at Pauingassi School for twenty two years as an Educational Assistant, mostly in the Nursery and Kindergarten room. I have also been working part time at the Northern Store for the past six years.

I am the proud mother of two wonderful daughters aged 20 and 12 and have raised them alone since their father passed away in 2006.

Outside of my job and my home I do find some time to enjoy other things such as camping and fishing and sports, mainly volleyball and baseball.

Message from Executive Director

Boozhoo! Aaniin! As Executive Director of Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. I am pleased to share our Annual Report containing activities, progress, challenges and strategies for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. The philosophy shared throughout our organization is a child centered balanced approach and the vision of "*mino pimaatiziwin*" which is consistent with traditional values and teachings of the Anishinaabe. Creating an understanding and mobilizing actions towards this desired outcome is an ongoing priority of our organization. Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. shares the sacred duty to love, protect and nurture the children in its care by meeting the needs of First Nation children and their families.

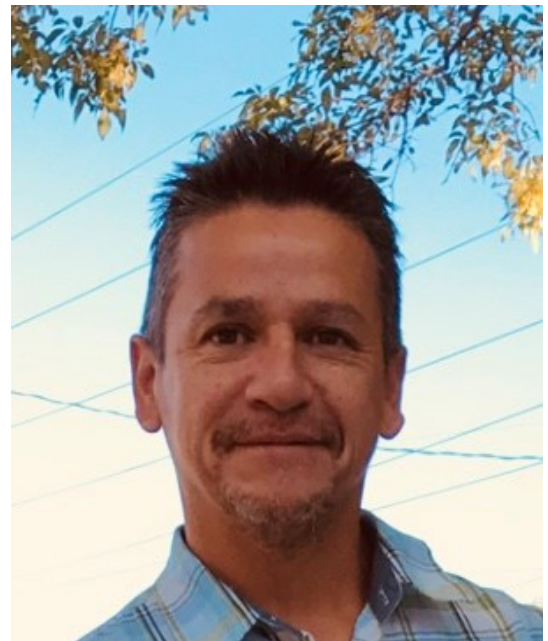
I view the establishment and operation of SAI homes as a short term measure that is lessening the impact of apprehension on the child and their family and that it will evolve to a resource that is community driven, operated and focused on overall family wellbeing. The first priority is to keep children home near their family, supports and homeland of their ancestors. The ability to keep children in their home community is realized through home construction and supporting the initial and ongoing operation of the homes. This is made possible through a tri-party arrangement among: Shawenim Abinoojii Inc., First Nation Leadership and Southeast Child and Family Services. Our report section on Specialized Homes will share progress on homes operating in First Nation communities and activities.

I was recruited as Executive Director in September 2015, at that time direction set by SAI members included several key priorities for the SAI including:

- Governance;
- Finance;
- Relocation;
- Independent operations; and
- Achieving strategic direction.

As Executive Director, I have worked with our Board of Directors and internal Management Team to complete the necessary actions to fulfill and maintain these priorities, internally we have restructured staffing units, increased resources at the community level, invested in human resource development and improved program guidelines. The foundation of SAI was established and has proven to be an innovative model worthy of investing and most importantly creating a resource for children and their families. Throughout the 2016/2017 year, partnerships both new and existing have enabled SAI to provide increase homes and resources leading to added supports for children in care.

Kitchi Miigwetch to our members, directors, leadership, staff and partners for providing completing the important work necessary that allowed Shawenim Abinoojii to grow this year and work towards fulfilling our mandate!



Mission

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. shares the sacred duty to love, protect and nurture the children in its care by meeting the needs of First Nation children and their families.

Background

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. offers exclusive specialized therapeutic home placement options (on- and off-reserve) and support worker services to Southeast Child and Family Services.

Cultural Statement

Shawenim Abinoojii recognizes and respects the importance of unique cultural identities of the children, families, and communities of the Southeast Tribal region. Shawenim Abinoojii supports building strong culturally appropriate and respectful family and home-like environments for children who may not otherwise experience such opportunities.

The term “culturally-appropriate” reflects shared ancestry, history and identity.

Prevention

Shawenim Abinoojii will focus on reducing the risks to children and youth by providing strong supports for the children, families, and communities. The objective is to prevent their ongoing need for care, and provide transition and development for a quality and positive child care that promotes health development of the children, and supports the social, economic and labour market participation of parents and community members.

First Nations Approach

Shawenim Abinoojii focuses on providing culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive services to promote the pride in identity of the children, family, and community.

Intervention and Support

Shawenim Abinoojii provides highly skilled staff to intervene in crisis situations and offer preventative services to families at risk to prevent children from entering care and, whenever possible, reducing the need for long-term and ongoing care.

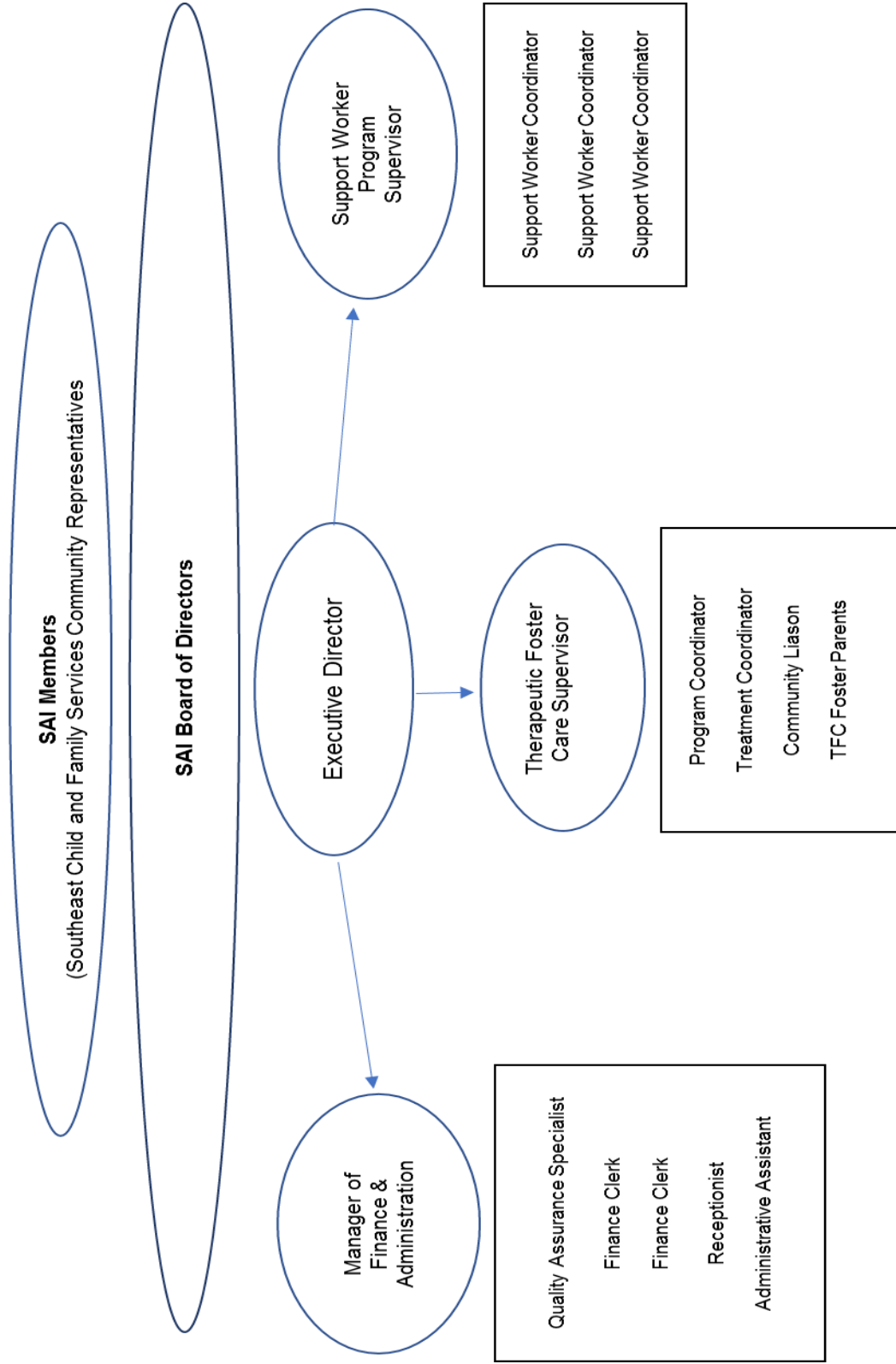
Commitment

Shawenim Abinoojii will provide the highest quality of trained staff who are committed to enhance the lives of the children in their care.

Teamwork

Shawenim Abinoojii embraces a collaborative approach with children, family, community, and agency to meet the goals of the children, youth,

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. Organizational Chart





Placement Services 2017/2017 Annual Report

Therapeutic Foster Care - Program Overview:

The Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Program provides structured and loving homes for youth from the Southeast First Nations, who are currently in the care of Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS). Youth in this program are gifted and resilient, and the TFC program aims to support wellness, positive inter/intrapersonal growth and life-skill development

The TFC Program works with therapeutic Foster Parents to deliver comprehensive supports in a structured, loving and nurturing home environment. The homes are supported by support and respite workers who build meaningful connections, provide positive role-modelling and participate in activities and program opportunities alongside the youth. Program Coordinators support youth in achieving goals and life skills.

Treatment Goal-Setting/Life-Skill Meetings: Through collaboration with the youth, caregivers and supports, TFC Program Coordinators utilize a child-centered approach to facilitate the development of treatment/life-skill goals. These meetings are guided by a medicine-wheel framework. Caregivers and Program Staff work with the youth to support the achievement goals, through ongoing support and follow up treatment/life-skill goal meetings.

Caregivers: In recognition of each child's identity and belonging, TFC Foster Parents support biological families and communities through an inclusive approach guided by Indigenous values and based on the best interests of the child. Foster Parents in this program recognize the inherent connections between youth and their families, and their communities.

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. (SAI) seeks out foster parents and support workers with shared history, identity and experiences as the youth. TFC Foster Parents are guided by empathy and understanding, and supports stronger connection and understanding between youth and caregiver.

Staffing:

TFC Supervisor: Victoria Fisher

Treatment Coordinator: Treatment Coordinator

TFC Program Coordinator: Kerri Johnston

Activities:

The TFC Program Coordinators organize and facilitate monthly group activities for youth and caregivers who are a part of the TFC Program. Family members of youth and caregivers are welcomed to participate.

The activities completed throughout the 2016/2017 fiscal year include:

- » Ice Fishing Trip (Riverton)
- » Medicine Teachings and painting Medicine Boxes (Elder Florence Paynter)
- » Brain Hide Tanning (Manitoba Buckskin)
- » Hand Drums (Robert Caribou)
- » Purification lodges (Elder Florence Paynter and Ovide Caribou)
- » Moon Ceremonies (Elder Florence Paynter)
- » Summer Family Camp (Lake Nutimik)
- » Housing 101 (Eagle Urban Transition Centre)
- » Bear Clan Patrols (James Favel)
- » Bear Clan Presentations (Topics: Gang Risk Awareness, Prevention of Violence, Sexual Exploitation Risks and Awareness)
- » SERDC Hockey Tournament (Squirts Division)
- » Office-based Work Experience Opportunities (SERDC Training and Employment)
- » One-to-one Employment Readiness Sessions



Specialized (On-Reserve) Foster Home Program – Overview

The on-reserve Specialized Foster Home Program was developed in response to the numbers of Southeast First Nation children being removed from their home communities upon apprehension by child welfare agencies. This was due to a lack of local foster home placements, related to barriers to on-reserve foster homes being licensed to provide care. The objective of this program is to have children remain in their home communities.

The on-reserve Specialized Foster Home Program seeks out First Nations Caregivers from the Southeast First Nation communities. This is to support a knowledgeable, connected and empathetic approach to working with children, youth and families. This approach provides opportunity for community members to develop and/or use their skills to engage in meaningful opportunities to provide care for their children in these homes. Community-based homes allow for community connection, ongoing relationships with their immediate and extended family, retention of language and way of life. The aim is to reduce the impact of apprehension on children from the First Nation communities, to support positive connection to community, and to support reunification.

Staffing:

Specialized Homes Supervisor: Victoria Fisher

Community Liaison: Darryl (DJ) Spence

Community Coordinator (Little Grand Rapids): Glenda Keeper

Community Coordinator (Bloodvein): Myrtle Pronteau

Community Coordinator (Pauingassi): Suzanne Keeper

Foster Parent Recruitment:

Over this year, Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. has increased the number of local First Nations Foster Parents:

Pauingassi: Four (4) Foster Parents recruited from Pauingassi First Nation

Little Grand Rapids: Two (2) Foster Parents recruited from Little Grand Rapids First Nation

Bloodvein: One (1) Foster Parent recruited from Bloodvein First Nation and One (1) First Nation Foster Parent from the Southeast region.

Achievements

The SAI Therapeutic Foster Care Program developed two new homes between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017

Effective Date	Type of Home	Location	Number of Homes
November, 2016	Male Youth	Winnipeg	1
December, 2016	Female Youth	Winnipeg	1

The SAI Specialized (on-reserve) Program developed eight new homes between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017

Effective Date	Type of Home	Location	Number of Homes
December, 2016	Children	Bloodvein First Nation	3
March, 2017	Children	Pauingassi First Nation	1
November, 2016	Children	Little Grand Rapids First Nation	1
March, 2017	Children	Little Grand Rapids First Nation	1
November, 2016	Children	Little Grand Rapids First Nation	1
August, 2016	Children	Black River First Nation	1

Effective Apr/01/2016	Foster Homes	Children	Federal	Provincial
First Nations Communities	19	74	65	9
Rural (TFC)	3	9	4	5
Winnipeg (TFC)	6	22	6	16
Total	28	105	75	30

Effective Mar/31/2017	Foster Homes	Children	Federal	Provincial
First Nations Communities	27	110	105	5
Rural (TFC)	4	12	6	6
Winnipeg (TFC)	7	27	15	12
Total	38	149	126	23

Foster Parent Recruitment: It has been a challenge to recruit Foster Parents. Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. seeks out First Nations Foster Parents, with priority given to Southeast First Nations community members (Brokenhead, Bloodvein, Hollow Water, Black River, Berens River, Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids and Poplar River). We encourage qualified applicants to contact Shawenim Abinoojii to explore the possibility of becoming a foster parent. First Nations community members have greater knowledge of the histories, communities and families of the youth living at the homes, which supports positive caregiver attachment and increased empathy and understanding.

Proactive vs. Reactive: The development of some on-reserve Specialized Foster Homes was based on immediate need, to prevent children from being removed from their First Nation upon apprehension. This required collaboration between the First Nation, SECFS and Shawenim Abinoojii Inc to quickly respond to the need. A preferred approach would be to have placement resources available to reduce the impact apprehension has on children and families.

Activity Resources: Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. had limited resources to cover costs of group activities for the TFC homes. Program staff utilized donations, free and low-cost activities and recreational space to provide activity opportunities. Expanded activity resources near the end of the fiscal year allowed Shawenim Abinoojii to provide an increased number of group activities for the homes, based on the interests and backgrounds of the youth.



Support Worker Program

SUPPORT WORK PROGRAM 2016/2017 REPORT

Shawenim Abinoojil Inc's (SAI) support worker program provides several support services for children and families, exclusively to the Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS). These support services can be on an on-going basis or as a one-time situation if required. While mentoring and family enhancement services are typically an on-going service, supervision of family visits and transportation services can be provided as either on-going or as a one-time service. SECFS social workers request support worker services by emailing completed request forms to the Support Worker Coordinators. They can request one-to-one mentoring, family enhancement, supervision of family visits, or transportation of children.

Mentoring – Mentoring services provides a child or youth one-on-one time with a support worker. The support worker will engage the child or youth in healthy recreation, help the child or youth acquire needed life skills, facilitate culturally appropriate activities, or to assist in achieving any other goals as needed.

Family Enhancement – This support service is designed to help prevent children from entering into care. The support worker will help the family in building a healthy home environment. Support workers may help families develop parenting skills, budgets, how to maintain a healthy home environment, or in accessing community resources that may help assist the family.

Family visits – Support worker services can be accessed to supervise and support visits between children, siblings, and parents. These visits can happen at the Shawenim Abinoojii office visiting rooms, at hotels, parents' homes or facilitated in the child's home community. Support workers may be responsible for transporting children and possibly their family members, as well as providing periodic check-ins or constant supervision during the visit.

Emergency – A support worker's service may be requested on an emergency basis. This could include, for example, providing support or supervision for a brief hospital stay, supervise a family visit, or transporting or escorting a child.

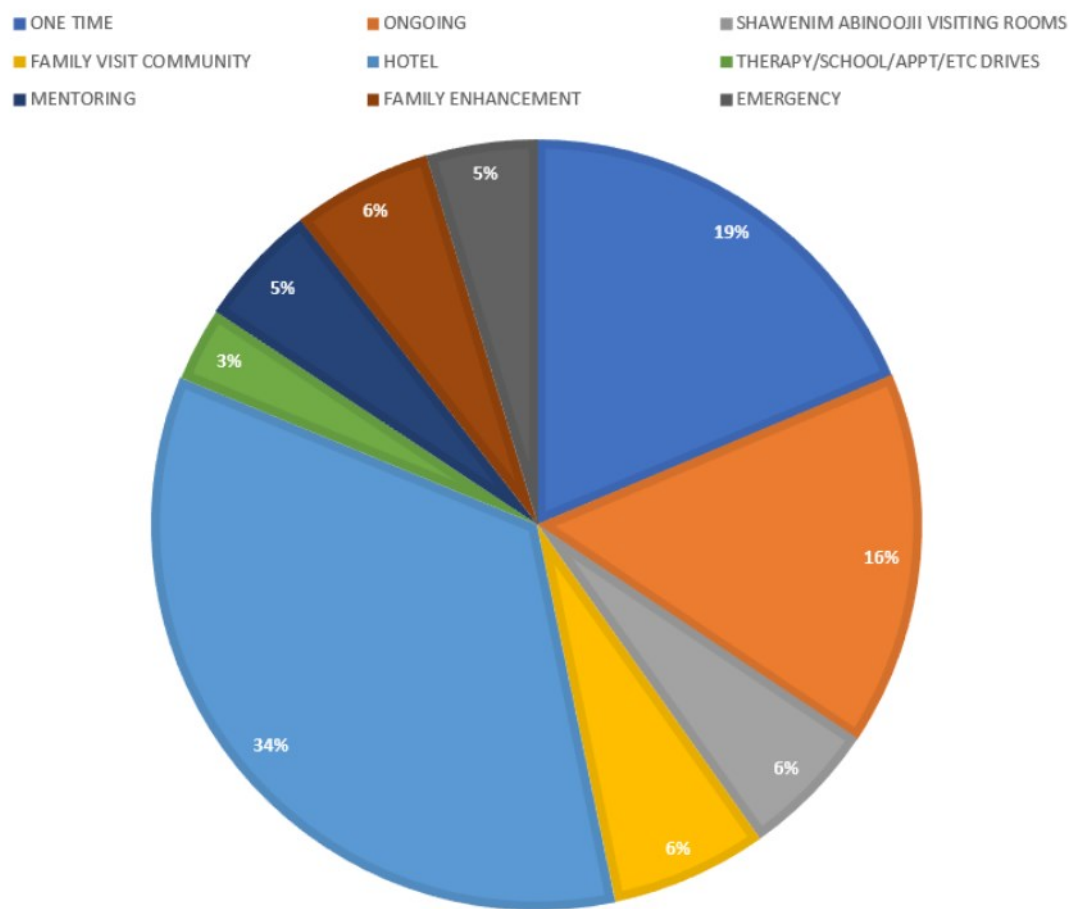
As of March 31st, 2017 the Support Work Program had 112 support work staff.



Annual Report 2016-2017

Support Worker Program

SUPPORT WORKER REQUESTS 2016-2017



888 family visit requests:
 Hotel **654** Community **124** Visiting rooms: **110**

298 on-going requests

354 one-time requests

Breakdown of requests:

Emergency	88
Family enhancement	111
Mentoring	98
Family visits	888
Transportation	59

Achievements

In October 2016 Shawenim Abinoojii Inc opened two visiting rooms at 360 Broadway for day, evening, and weekend visits.

The Support Work Program hired two additional coordinators during this reporting period.

Challenges

Ensuring support workers are knowledgeable in family services and youth care, and are trained accordingly. Learning of provincial systems, resources, and proper delivery of services often comes with time and hands-on experience, as some new support workers may not have this base of knowledge.

Recruitment and retention of quality support workers can be challenging. As support work is typically an entry level position within Child and Family Services, it can be difficult to find support workers with adequate experience and training. Once support workers become well trained and experienced, they may be lost to other opportunities.

Lack of program funds for family enhancement and mentoring can be challenging for support workers. Support workers need to become familiar with and know how to locate and provide free resources to families and youth. There are often no extra dollars to fund life skills development or recreational activities. Delivering long-term Mentor programming can become repetitive.

Strategies

The Support Work Program will aim to offer and provide its support workers a wide range of training relevant to working with children and families. By having minimum training requirements such as Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and CPR/first-aid, as well as on-going training opportunities to expand our workers' knowledge base, the goal is to ensure Shawenim Abinoojii Inc support workers are trained efficiently and have continual opportunity for professional development.

Hiring of support staff will be on-going to ensure there is a surplus of support workers and that the program can maintain the ability to fill possible seasonal surges in requests for support work.

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. Finance Report 2016/2017

Shawenim Abinoojii Inc. (SAI) is exclusive to Southeast Child and Family Services (SECFS) in providing services for the Support Work Program, Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and Specialized Foster Home Program. The finance department invoices SECFS monthly on all aspect of services provided by SAI.

The finance department duties include:

- Bi-weekly payroll
- Accounts payable
- Human Resources
- Account Receivable
- Quality Assurance

The finance and administration department staff consists of:

- Manager of Finance and Administration
- Two Finance Clerks
- Quality Assurance Specialist
- Receptionist

SAI purchased 374 Church Avenue for four male youth as the foster parent was retiring. The home was purchased to keep the youth in the stable home, school and neighborhood.

Throughout the year SAI worked with the Southern First Nation Network of Care on getting new efficient rates approved from the Province of Manitoba and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for the TFC/ Specialized Foster Homes on February 1, 2017 the rates were approved.

The 2016/2017 audited financial statements were approved by the SAI Board of Directors in October 2017.