

SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT

OF

SASKATCHEWAN

KA PA CHEE

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

FORT QU'APPELLE, SASKATCHEWAN

A Program of Ka Pa Chee Institute
Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan
sponsored by
The Association of Metis and Non-Status
Indians of Saskatchewan, South East Area

September 20, 1983

INTRODUCTION

The existance of social problems among Native people is recognized and undisputed. It is also recognized that the problems are becoming increasing serious and affecting major portions of the Native population. The impact is devistating on the native family. Family life in the Native community is under greater and greater pressure. This has impacted on the care and raising of children, there is an increase in crime and delinquency and a general breakdown in the moral and social control of the communities. It is our desire and responsibility to deal with the situation.

Statistical analysis details that the approximate number of Native people in the Southeast area represent approximately 20% of the total population. Statistical review shows that although we are 20% of the population, we represent 65% of the unemployed. In the correctional centres for men and women, we exceed 75% of the inmate population. In civil matters dealing with child custody, child support, foster care, adoptions, welfare appeals, deserted wives act, juvenile act, etc., the caseloads for Native people exceed 65% the total by average. All this is at the expense of the taxpayer and human resource waste.

PROJECT SPONSOR

The sponsoring organization is the Area Board of the Southeast Area of the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians of Saskatchewan. The AMNSIS area director for this

area is Mr. Napoleon LaFontaine. The area covers AMNSIS locals from Raymore to the Manitoba border, south on #6 highway to the American borders and includes thirteen locals in twenty-one communities.

The Association is incorporated as a non-profit organization under the Non-Profit Corporation Act of Saskatchewan. The area board itself is an incorporated body and functions as a regional unit of the Provincial Association.

The proposed project would come directly under the supervision and direction of the Ka Pa Chee Board which would appoint the Ka Pa Chee Certificate Social Services Program Board. In regards to the area programs, the area board is autonomous in terms of its policy and decision making role regarding area services. The area board will employ a project coordinator who will be responsible for planning and overall training program to provide direction to the trainees.

RATIONALE

There have always been and there may always be problems in the delivery of services to people, regardless of the need, the nature of the service, and the efficiency of the delivery system. Many variables intervene between need and response which often render the service inappropriate, inaccessible, or untimely. Hence, certain 'public' services are not truly public simply because whole segments of the

population are excluded. Exclusion, whether by ignorance, prejudice, frustration, a combination of these factors and a myriad of other socio-cultural factors renders 'available' services, essentially unavailable. Further, those who are receiving services may have characteristics which are not completely understood by those delivering the services.

In the course of advancement of Social Service Delivery Systems, it becomes necessary at some point to include the recipients of a social service in the policy, planning and even in the delivery of that service. With recent advances made through social awareness, the delivery system, by using indigenous workers, lay board or committee members and paraprofessionals, can address itself to improvement of that service. The education and training of members of the community to the 'professional' worker level, further insures accurate and appropriate policy formation, interpretation and practice on behalf of those people they represent.

The Kapachee Training Center, by virtue of its unique character, as a neighborhood center, may well be in a position to assist the Government of Saskatchewan, Department of Social Services in examining and addressing many of the problems that might arise with the formation of a District Office in Fort Qu'Appelle. Obviously, the rationale for such an office must surely be, the improvement of social services for the area. Therefore, it seems wise and prudent

to have an organization that can effectively speak to and for roughly 65% of the recipient group (native) and work with the Department of make the service more meaningful and successful.

The Department of Social Services is well aware of the Kapachee Social Work Certification program. In December, eight students will graduate from the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work with a Certificate in Social Work (C.S.W.). Further, Kapachee has in place a Social Planning Committee whose expressed purpose is to improve social services to the native people in the "South-East Area".

THE PROJECT

It is proposed that the Kapachee Center and the Department of Social Services will jointly provide special social services in the Fort Qu'Appelle area. We are aware that the Department is constantly searching for resources that are appropriate to serve the needs of Saskatchewan residents. Further, we are also aware that the Department is concerned with finding more high quality native resources. Therefore, it is the concept of Kapachee, to find, maintain, support and train specific child welfare, family services and geriatric resources.

Kapachee will act specifically as a contract service providing professional social service personnel who function it will be to interface between the indigenous community and the Department. As indigenous people, Kapachee

will offer the Department, a credible and accurate interpretation of need and response.

AREAS OF INTEREST

(a) The Establishment of Group (Foster) Homes for Teens.

Staffed by trained indigenous people. Group therapy would be offered by Kapachee to the children and their families. This is to facilitate, where possible, the re-entry of the child into his/her own home.

(b) The Establishment of Emergency Receiving Homes for boy Teens and Sub-Teens.

Also staffed by fully trained indigenous people. The logic for a local receiving home is obvious and only in the case of severely disturbed children, would they be transferred to the holding unit at Dales House.

(c) The Establishment of a Parent-Aide Program
In a time when social services should be actively engaged in seeking alternatives to apprehending children in marginal Protection homes, the placement of a trained, indigenous Parent Aide or Assistant in those homes seems appropriate. The designation shifts from "Protection (of children from abuse)" to "Prevention (of child abuse)". A subtle but significant turn of direction. The key is the treatment of the Family in its natural setting by a resident expert.

The Parent Aides will be trained by the Kapachee Social Work program with a special emphasis on crisis intervention, child development, psychopathology, cross-cultural relations, alcoholism and drugs and family dynamics. University credit will be negotiated and supervision will be provided by Kapachee through a trained social work supervisor. Kapachee will also offer Group sessions for (i) children who can benefit, (ii) parents, and (iii) families where appropriate.

Special training will be given to the Parent Aides in case they find themselves in the unfortunate dilemma of having to testify in family service court against the very families with whom they are working. A professional, yet intimate atmosphere can prevail.

FIRST PHASE OF RESOURCE SUPPLY

- Two Receiving Homes -- for pre-teens.
Available on a twenty-four hour basis.
- Two Adolescent Receiving Homes
Also available on a twenty-four hour basis.
One for boys and one for girls.
- Two adolescent Group Homes
One for boys and one for girls
- Six regular foster homes
- Four Geriatric homes
- Ten parent Aides

Total 26 Units of Resources

Staff -

1 - Social Worker II - Supervisor and Case Worker

1 - Welfare Worker I - Case Worker

1 - Clerk Typist

CLOSING STATEMENT

The ultimate well-being, self-respect, and dignity of the individual is the only real way to heal the family and rehabilitate members of that family and their community. By placing the responsibility of the care of families in the community ON that community, the process of intervention aimed at bringing about desired changes in Human Relations and Social Institutions can occur.

The Cree phrase surely must
sum up the key for this and
all success:

OMAMAWI - ATOSKEWIN
(Working Together)

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