

HIGHLAND SHORES CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

SENIOR STAFF – DISTURBING BEHAVIOUR



By: Brenda Overall
May 15, 2013

Recently, I was alerted to a photo that was posted to Facebook by Mr. Angus Francis, allegedly employed as a 'Manager for Service for Children in Care' at the Highland Shores Children's Aid Society. The image above of a small child in a cooking pot is a screen shot of Mr. Francis' Facebook profile.

Historically I've seen Social Workers post a number of outrageous comments and/or photos, often conflicting with the moral code of the general public, however; this particular post by Mr. Francis is, by far, the most disgraceful and pathetic post that I've seen from a Worker to date. I was absolutely horrified to ponder the mindset of someone who finds this material suitable for a Facebook profile display photo. My mind then literally twisted with disgust knowing that this mindset is placed in such a position of trust, directly involved with the community's most vulnerable youth.

What is further disturbing, to me at least, is the number of people on Mr. Francis' Facebook Friend's List who have, seemingly, encouraged or condoned such a post by failing to remove him as a Facebook friend or otherwise protesting his questionable behaviour. This man has 221 friends, some being obvious child welfare workers, who seemingly have no concern for such a deranged and preposterous image shared by their 'professional' peer. It is shameful behaviour, to say the least, especially given the hyper-vigilant mode that the community should be in since the recent Foster Care sexual abuse scandal in Prince Edward County! Let's not forget the how many professionals stood idle through

that inexcusable crisis. Few people, if any, stood up to CAS executives back then and there seems to be more of that very same inaction now.

Mr. Francis happens to appear on the 'Sunshine List' of Ontario Government employees. In 2012, he earned \$121,260.68. This data is made public by the Ministry of Finance.

In Mr. Francis' current role of Manager of Children in Care Services, he cannot possibly be acting in a capacity other than that of a Social Worker. To practice social work in Ontario, one must be registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) Many workers employed by Ontario Children's Aid Society Corporations often use the title 'Child Protection Worker' as opposed to 'Social Worker' to evade accountability measures, however; a Child Protection Worker can only apprehend child(ren) and take child(ren) to a place of safety, whereby their duties then cease. (See excerpt of the Child and Family Service Act of Ontario below.)

ONTARIO CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

**PART III
CHILD PROTECTION**

Interpretation

37. (1) In this Part,

“child protection worker” means a Director, a local director or a person authorized by a Director or local director for the purposes of section 40 (commencing child protection proceedings)

Mr. Francis' duties obviously call for the application of social work skills that he trained for and was hired upon. He is NOT performing the duty of mere child protection, his involvement is much more complex. Below is a basic job description for an entry level 'Service Worker' copied from the HSCAS website.

CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS

After Hours, Family Services, Children's Services, Resources, Kinship & Adoption

- Bachelor of Social Work Degree from a recognized University or similar degree with a focus on working with Children & Families
- Effective assessment, interviewing, relationship building, problem solving & organization skills
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Valid Class G Ontario Drivers Licence, \$1M Insurance Liability and daily access to a vehicle
- Excellent computer and keyboarding skills
- Public speaking or presentation skills are desirable

As a Children Services Worker, would be responsible for ensuring the provision of service to children/youth in the care of the Society. The Children's Services Worker is responsible to ensure all legislative, Ministry and Society policies and regulations, respective to the child/youth are met. The incumbent will formulate case plans and develop strategies of intervention and collaboration with the caregivers and other Society staff. This position collaborates with other Society staff, a variety of foster care providers and community service agencies to ensure that children/youth's needs are met.

Considering his substantial earnings, there should be no doubt that Mr. Francis is a Registered Social Worker. I have recently requested Mr. Francis' registration status with the OCSWSSW, available through a public registry service provided through the OCSWSSW, as per the Social Worker and Social Service Worker Act of Ontario. I expect to receive Mr. Francis' registration status from the OCSWSSW within the next 14 days. I suspect that Mr. Francis may very well possess a social work degree but that he fails to be a registered member of the OCSWSSW, as is the trend with many employees of Ontario's privately owned Children's Aid Society's. How the public fails to continuously overlook this atrocity of massive law violations by public servants is beyond me, however; should I stand corrected regarding Mr. Francis' accreditation, I sorely apologize in advance and commend him for setting a strong example for his staff and colleagues.

If a social worker (not child protection - remember child protection workers are only authorized to apprehend children) were called to investigate a case whereby a baby was put into a pot and set purposely on the burner of a real stove, that Worker would be completely justified, in my opinion, to question the mindset of the person who took and/or posted the picture, especially if that person were charged with caring for vulnerable children! Further to that, what about the individuals who 'liked' the picture that Mr. Francis posted? (See image below)



This issue must not go unnoticed by the public. Regardless of what context Mr. Francis posted this photo in, it is disturbing, to say the very least.

Highland Shores Children's Aid Society claims to be committed to restoring public faith, employing 'accountable' staff, and protecting all children equally. I was recently promised all of this by Mark Kartusch, the HSCAS Executive Director, at a public meeting where he admitted that children were harmed in the care of the Children's Aid Society, further apologized for such and subsequently guaranteed a professional and accountable approach by his staff here on.

I have shared the image in question with several friends and/or associates who agree that this was a matter of poor judgment on the part of Mr. Francis, to say the least, and that there should be measures of accountability for such misconduct.

Finally, I wonder whose child is portrayed in the image. Is this child safe? I believe an immediate investigation is necessary to make this determination.

Please help ensure this child's safety and hold Mr. Francis accountable for his actions by demanding accountability for his very questionable behaviour, especially while he earning big bucks from the public purse. Section 72(1) of the Ontario Child and Family Service Act clearly states that we all have a duty to report: physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, and risk of harm to a CAS or to the POLICE. You may decide whether you report to the Police or to the CAS, however; the law clearly states that you are obligated and bound by duty to report this image to the authorities if you feel the image suggests that the child is at risk of harm in way, shape or form. What has been seen cannot be unseen!

Complaints about Mr. Francis ethic and/or behaviour can be sent to the Highland Shores Board of Mangers, and/or the MPP's for the region.

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[ANGUS FRANCIS FACEBOOK](#)

References:

1. [Ontario Child and Family Services Act](#)
2. [Ontario Social Worker and Social Service Worker Act](#)
3. [Ministry of Finance: Public Sector Wage Disclosure \(pg. 2 for Mr. Francis\)](#)
4. [Highland Shores Children's Aid Society](#)
5. [Direction from Ministry of Child and Youth Services – risk of harm](#)
6. [Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers – Public Registry](#)
7. [CHILD ABUSE is wrong: What can I do? Department of Justice Canada Publication](#) (excerpt below)

How do I report abuse?

Every province and territory has a law that says any person who believes a child is being abused must report it. You can call the police or your local child protection office. We all have a role to play in stopping child abuse. We need to be alert to the signs of abuse. Friends, family and professionals all need to do their part.

Call the police

You can call the police if you believe a child is being abused. The police will come and help. Many police officers are trained to deal with abuse in families or relationships. Some have special training to deal with child abuse. **Call 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

The police may arrest the person who abused the child if they believe that person has broken the law. If this happens, the abuser may stay in jail for a few hours before a bail hearing.* It's possible they may stay longer, if the judge decides that would be better.

If you are afraid for your safety or a child's safety, ask the police or victim services to let you know before the person is let go. Be sure the police know how to contact you.

For more information on what a crime victim needs to know about the criminal justice system, visit the Government of Canada's website at <http://www.victimsmatter.gc.ca>.

Contact your local child protection office

You can call your local child protection office if you believe a child is being abused. You will not get in trouble for making the report if you have reason to believe a child is being abused, even if it turns out you were wrong.

-DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CANADA

FOR THE RECORD, MR. FRANCIS CLAIMS TO HAVE A YOUNG SON

LOOKING FOR...BELLEVILLE, TRENTON, NAPANEE & SURROUNDING AREA 2...

Open Group



Angus Francis

looking for big boxes of legos!!! My son loves to play with them and use his imagination. Can be sets with pieces missing. Can be old boxes full. dont need the fancy ones but open to all suggestions.

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