Across Boundaries works with racialized individuals with mental illness and/or addictions, who require support to live and work in the community. We promote independence and quality of life for individuals by responding to their multiple and changing needs. We provide ongoing support as needed by our service users for them to stabilize, achieve their goals, and improve the quality of their life.

Racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ people may be “harmed” by mainstream mental health services because they operate out of heterosexist norms and values and have little understanding of how race and issues relating to racism should be incorporated into programs and service delivery.

Our board members and employees are members of the various communities we serve. We speak their languages, understand their cultures and their current social realities.
OUR MISSION

To provide equitable, inclusive and holistic mental health and addiction services for racialized communities within an anti-racism, anti-Black racism and anti-oppression frameworks.

OUR VISION

Dignified, inclusive and compassionate mental health and addiction services for racialized communities.

OUR PATH FORWARD

Our strategic plan for 2019 to 2022 is built on three, mutually supportive goals:

**DEEPEN SERVICE RESPONSES TO THOSE MOST MARGINALIZED**

We will: Build our plan for our service approaches and responses in context of the evolving sector, and drive service-user and family engagement in Across Boundaries' programming and systemic change work.

**BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY TO MEET OUR FUTURE**

We aim to: Strengthen our infrastructure, systems and processes to support our strategic efforts and improve the health and safety of our staff.

**AMPLIFY OUR VOICE AS A LEADER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS**

We will achieve this by: Enhancing the strategic profile of Across Boundaries with multiple audiences, and creating an Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, resisting Anti Black Racism institute for the mental health and addiction sector.
What a year 2020-2021 was! As we look back to make sense of a world that is no longer the same as we all knew it, it is astounding that as an organization, not only did we survive, but we also thrived.

There were numerous challenges, fears, and tragedies that occurred. COVID 19 and its related outcomes were just the beginning; the disparities in health for racialized and Black communities, food insecurities, increase in isolation, increase in mental health and addictions issues and the damaging separation of families and friends. For us, there was even more. We also saw at least three deaths of individuals in mental health distress killed in interactions with the police. The deaths of D’Andre Campbell, Regis Korchinski Paquette and Ejaz Choudhry cannot be forgotten. And the tragedy that shook the world - the very public murder of George Floyd, from which anti-Black racism movements erupted worldwide - the impacts of which are still being felt today.

Yet, we rallied, came together, and continued the work for which we were founded. We were present for our service users, for our staff and our communities.

We were present for our service users, our staff and our communities.

We were the first in the community to immediately implement a daily warm food program for our isolated and older service users. We did not close our doors and moved to hybrid remote work. Our leadership and staff continued to be on site every day as our community knocked daily on our doors. These were people who were homeless, didn’t have food, a phone, a data plan, access to masks and sanitizers and needed our supports to manage during these challenging times.

We saw ourselves sitting at a multitude of tables at the municipal, provincial and national levels. We brought our unique insights to inform the rollout of policies and programs for our communities.

We grieved our losses and celebrated our “wins”.

Thanksgiving saw our staff make and deliver over 200 meals and eat “together” over zoom. We saw a dip in the COVID numbers, and we came “together” in a park. Staff came together as an entire group for the first time in six months, on a beautiful September day to enjoy pizza and wings, and yes, each other.

We have an amazing staff, they are great at their job, but the priceless gift of kindness, compassion and care that continues to be provided to our service users cannot be measured or reimbursed.

Throughout the year, we were supported by our funders with emergency funds, by donors who gave generously from their pockets, by corporations who donated phones and data plans, by those who came to our doors to drop off hundreds of PPE’S, by those who applauded us, thanked us and encouraged us to keep going – we are truly grateful to you.

The aftershocks of the pandemic and the fallout of many harms continue to reverberate. We will continue to give our best for whom Across Boundaries was created to serve.

And as we move forward, we hope to see a world where everyone can once again enjoy health and safety, healing and recovery and reconnect with loved ones wherever they may be.

ASEEFA SARANG
Executive Director
On behalf of the board, it gives me great pleasure to provide my reflections on the last year at Across Boundaries. As I stepped into the first year of my chairmanship, the world changed around us. Instead of overseeing the usual board responsibilities of an agency, I and my colleague board members had to step up to ensure our staff were safe, the service users were well provided for and the emotional toll of working in a changed environment was addressed. We partnered with many organizations and worked collaboratively to support and learn from each other in these uncertain times. We saw a recognition of the work we do in the monetary as well as in kind donations we received.

With the diligent work of our staff under the guidance of our Executive Director, we are pleased to report that Across Boundaries continued to meet its deliverables, put in policies and practices to ensure safety for all. The agency had no disruptions in service at any point. We are proud that staff followed public health guidelines for themselves and the service users while providing supports.

Along with a deterioration of mental health and overall wellbeing of our communities, we saw a de-stigmatization to some extent of mental illness, resulting in an increase in the demand for our services, to which we quickly and effectively responded.

While this last year provided many challenges, we worked together to do our due diligence as a board. We are a wise and robust board, and we have a resilient and courageous staff team, and I am proud to have been a part of this journey.

As we move forward, I am confident our work will continue to speak for itself, and we will continue to do better and more for our communities.

Thank you for the honour of being your Board Chair,

DR. BABATUNDE FAKUNLE MD
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Across Boundaries would like to thank everyone who donated personal protective equipment both to our staff and the vulnerable communities we serve. With your help, it allowed us to provide safe, effective service to our clients during this most challenging of times.

- Conquer COVID-19
- City of Toronto
- Front Lines
- Judy & Deanne Collinson, Founders, The Warmth Initiative
- Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) - Black Resilience Cluster
- York Weston Pelham Cluster
- Addiction Services Central Ontario formally known as Addiction Services for York Region - ASYR

ACROSS BOUNDARIES’ IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>59</th>
<th>1,629</th>
<th>23,026</th>
<th>8,273</th>
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<td>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</td>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED IN A FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021</td>
<td>EXPECTED AND ACHIEVED CLIENT TOUCHPOINTS</td>
<td>ADDITIONAL CLIENT TOUCHPOINTS DURING COVID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PAGE 05 | ACROSS BOUNDARIES 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT
STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating seven plus years with Across Boundaries. They have been an essential part of our organization's journey and success.

- 26 years of service
  - Sarang, Aseefa
- 20 years of service
  - Vyramuthu, Perinbanathan (Peri)
- 15 years of service
  - Hadizai, Qudsia
  - Li, Han Yi - Olivia
- 14 years of service
  - Payne, Lorraine
  - Policarpio, Genoveva
- 13 years of service
  - Miller, Dorrett
- 12 years of service
  - Emiru, Tegeste
- 9 years of service
  - Mendoza-Reyes, Katherine
- 7 years of service
  - Adachi, Shen
  - Kirkham, Devi

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lorraine Payne

This is staff choice award is presented to Lorraine in recognition of her outstanding performance, superior dedication and overall positive attitude. Congratulations!

Perinbanathan (Peri) Vyramuthu

I have enjoyed working at Across Boundaries as a Case Manager for more than twenty years. It has allowed me to utilize my lived experience, multicultural customs and anti-racism and anti-oppression framework.

Qudsia Hadizai

Life becomes beautiful and meaningful when you are on the side of those who need you. I am glad to have been a part of the Across Boundaries Team for many years, supporting those with mental health challenges to achieve their goals and recover.
Language is key for connection. For those who's mother tongue is not English, finding mental health services can be challenging. Across Boundaries believes in employing professionals and working with clients from racialized, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Being understood is essential.

We provide services in:

- Somali
- Tamil/Sinhalese
- Amharic
- Creole
- Spanish
- Farsi/Dari/Pashto
- Japanese
- Twi/Ga
- Vietnamese
- Cantonese
- Mandarin
- Malayalam

YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD BY CHANGING SOMEONE’S WORLD.

ANOOP - MALAYALAM

MARIA - SPANISH

Tu puedes cambiar el mundo cambiando el mundo de alguien

MIRLANDE - HATIAN CROELE

Ou ka chanje mond lan pa chanje mond yon moun

AYAN - SOMALI

Qof aduunkiisa haddaad badasho, aduun waynahana wax waad ka bedeli kartaan.
CONVERSATION WITH PSYCHIATRIST DR. TED LO

Dr. Ted Lo has been with Across Boundaries providing psychiatric services for about 15 years. He has seen a lot of changes over the years, but he claims one thing always remains the same. “One of the best things about Across Boundaries is the staff”, acknowledges the doctor. “They are from the community and very dedicated to serving the community. I enjoy working with them. And I think without them, I wouldn’t be able to do the job I do here.”

Dr. Lo shares that racialized people serving racialized people is essential. “While the staff looks like the various communities they serve, it is more than looks,” shares the psychiatrist. “It is whether they are part of the cultures. They have a deeper understanding. Also, they’re so well in tune with what resources are available in the respective communities. And I think that’s very important.”

VOICES FROM RECIPIENTS OF OUR SERVICES

“I really appreciate the program. It's been a great help. I'm retired and I am not hundred percent healthy enough to go out and shop. So, I really appreciate the fact that it (food) was delivered.
I really enjoy the persons who delivered it. They are very sociable and I like them, they always have a pleasant smile. They make my day”

- A.N.

“I am a wife and a mother of three children. My husband worked at a movie theater, he lost his job due to the pandemic. I got introduced to Across Boundaries because of the food hampers that they were giving to people. Now I do the online exercise program. I am thankful for that during this pandemic, I get to interact with other people.”

- S.M.

“My English is not the best but my case worker understands me. She is a very nice and helpful lady. Sometimes I get upset but I am not upset with her. It’s the fact that there is not much that she can do for me because of the limitations due to my problems. She tries to fix it and for that I am a bit happier with my issues. My problems are not so bad anymore. I thank Across Boundaries, for the help that she has given me.”

- S.V.

“I was on the drugs, I was homeless, and many of my family members were scared and worried for my life. I now understand the other opportunities I have in life and how important it is to make changes in my life. Now that I am sober, I know how it is to feel normal again, and I feel better about my life.”

- D.T.
FOOD AND MENTAL HEALTH

Food insecurity negatively impacts mental health outcomes, such as higher rates of depression, stress and anxiety, and poor self-perceived mental health. A disproportionate number of Black, Indigenous and racialized Canadians identify as food insecure due to enduring income inequality. Across Boundaries believes everyone deserves access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

A recent study* conducted by PROOF and FoodShare found the best predictor of food insecurity among Canadians was their race. In Toronto, Blacks experience food insecurity 3.5 times more than whites even after adjusting for immigration status, education level, and homeownership.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a more significant impact on Black and racialized people. Black people experienced increased joblessness, which led to a lack of food support, housing instability, and an elevated risk of mental health issues. We also saw undocumented individuals fall through the cracks due to challenges navigating government-led support and not meeting CERB, CEBA and other emergency relief eligibility criteria.

Across Boundaries decided to address the situation head-on. Our agency began offering weekly food hampers, hot meals, masks, and hand sanitizer to our service users. Staff delivered food to shut-ins, while others picked up meals and Personal Protective Equipment at our door.

Across Boundaries also launched the ABC Program, an initiative with the City of Toronto to provide outreach and food to African, Black, and Caribbean members in the community. New participants enrolled in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation program through this project. Across Boundaries delivered an average of 150 hot meals and grocery hampers daily to participants. This program continues to maintain our service users’ physical and mental health and other vulnerable members in the community.

We are thankful to Second Harvest that also partnered with us to help us provide hampers and cooked meals.

*Black-White Racial Disparities in Household Food Insecurity from 2005 to 2014, Canada
Meet Celine Sherwood.

She has been the Chef at Across Boundaries since the pandemic was declared, and the agency planned to provide hot meals for the service users. Celine was asked to step in, and since that day, she has continued to support the hot meal program at Across Boundaries. While her relationship with Across Boundaries in this capacity is almost two years old, she has been in the cooking business for over 40 years.

She has a degree in the culinary arts and sees the meals she creates as tasty creative expressions. “Cooking is something I love. I love experimenting with food. It is like art,” says Celine. “It’s like when you paint a picture. The same way you put together the ingredients, it’s colourful. I enjoy cooking. I love it. I’m never tired of cooking.”

Every day she creates edible creations out of whatever ingredients are provided for her but refuses to duplicate meals. “I don’t like to give the people the same thing over and over. That would be evil, the same vegetable and stuff. I tend to change it up. If we have a lot of carrots, I will sometimes make a carrot cake, but the next day I will make banana bread,” says the creative cook. “Our people deserve the best. I tend to do my best.”

Celine’s meals form the 150 hot meals that Across Boundaries delivers daily, and she has received rave reviews from our service users.

Celine has a Jamaican background but believes variety is the spice of life, so she cooks food representing all the different communities Across Boundaries serves. “I cook West Indian, Italian, Indian, Chinese, and so much more. My only constraint is time. I try to make sure food is ready for whenever someone comes to our door.” Says Celine.

Her love for cooking and who she is cooking for is evident in each of her tasty dishes.
Our Addictions and Wellness services and programs at Across Boundaries, in partnership with the Wellness Collaborative, looks at the intersections of mental health, criminal injustice, and substance use through the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and racialized people throughout the GTA. Using a holistic approach, we emphasize the importance of self-advocacy and agency within our participants' recovery and healing journeys.

We acknowledge how the impacts of cultural stigmas, societal pressure and surveillance affects Black, Indigenous, and racialized substance users and we provide an honest space for participants to speak openly and create community based on these shared experiences.

We practice harm reduction. Our goal is to prevent the negative consequences of substance use and to improve health. We provide a non-judgmental and accepting atmosphere that empowers clients instead of stigmatizing them based on their addictions.

Our Addictions services address substance use like cocaine, opioids, marijuana and alcohol, but can also apply to gambling, food and sexual addictions.

Whether they are focused on sobriety, decreasing consumption, safer ways to engage with substance use, or still figuring it out, we are here to provide space and build community throughout the process.

**TESTIMONIAL**

“This program has helped me remember how I came to use drugs as a young person and a person in the judicial system, and things I've done to myself to get drugs like steal from stores steal from people and loved ones. I robbed many people. This resulted in me going to jail with some heavy charges. Even when I was in prison, I was still using drugs. When I got out of prison, I was back doing the same things I was doing before I was in prison. I felt like I had no problems in the world. Even though I was on the drugs, I was homeless. You helped me by letting me understand the other opportunities I have in life and how important it is to make a change in my life. It helped me remember where I was in life and where I am today. Some people I know can't believe I'm sober. I plan on buying a bike soon to go out and keep my mind off the drugs and cravings; when I have a craving, I can hit the bike paths. I used to think nothing of my life and other's lives. Now that I am sober, I know how it is to feel normal again,”

- Participant
TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH PROGRAM (TAY)

Transitional Aged Youth program provided meaningful activities for our youth (ages 15-24), especially during the early onset of the pandemic lockdown.

Using a Peer Lead model, young people had opportunities to showcase their leadership skills, plan, implement, and facilitate their own group activities.

Participants shared that these programs helped them to cope with social anxiety. Their depression improved, and their confidence and self-esteem increased. Other impacts included the youth reporting changes to their daily structure and routines, creating new friendship circles, networking, and the ability to speak out in the virtual environment.

TESTIMONIALS

“Yes I found the program vital to my mental health. It was nice to be a part of a group who are conscious of mental health. It was nice for the Across Boundaries team to be patient with us and finding all those facilitators.”

-Participant

“Thank you, I appreciate the 8 - week session that got me through. I'm very much humbled by the stuff that I've learned and the quality of life that I can now maintain. I appreciate that I still have something to look forward to in my new life. It is like my life was given back to me.”

-Participant
Psychosocial Rehabilitation
(Social Rehab)

Psychosocial Rehabilitation uses activities, knowledge, and skills to aid individuals recovering from mental health issues. It focuses on group activities, features daily routines, community participation and other social activities to improve functioning and maintain wellness.

It helps individuals build and maintain social and therapeutic relationships, increase networks, share skills, and have leadership opportunities.

At Across Boundaries, Social Rehab programs provide opportunities to create networks, allowing participants to connect with their communities, foster a sense of belonging and have means of cultural expression.

Our participants have thrived through social interaction, shared learning, wellness, and educational skills, demonstrating increased self-confidence and self-esteem. Many can maintain independent living, successfully return to school, work, and other meaningful activities that foster a strong sense of well-being.

Digital Programming

Psychosocial Rehabilitation programming continues to evolve year after year and is considered to be the heartbeat of the agency. Social Rehab was thriving before the Covid 19 Pandemic; it was well attended, with each program seeing as many as 30-50 participants daily.

Once the world proceeded to lockdown due to COVID, we quickly pivoted online, and virtual programs were introduced, offering the following online activities like:

- Roll and Recycling Project/Art and Crafts
- Get Up and Move
- ESL
- Mindfulness
- Yoga
- I AM (Motivational Program)
- Pro-Family Support
- Music
- Tamil Peer-Support

Virtual Programs continue to provide social engagement, skills and wellness strategies for participants to cope with isolation, provide stress management strategies and improve participation and confidence.
Inhale/Exhale

FEEL-GOOD, HEART-CENTRED, AND FREE PROGRAMMING FOR QTBIPOC — QUEER & TRANS BLACK, INDIGENOUS, & PEOPLE OF COLOUR

In the spring of 2020, as COVID-19 set in and people stayed firmly in their homes, Inhale/Exhale was born. It features free, feel-good online programming for QTBIPOC (Queer and Trans Black, Indigenous and People of Colour). The webisodes and virtual meet-ups focus on art, body, and spirit and create self and collective care opportunities.

The series was created and curated by Rodney Diverlus.

This program would not have been possible without the support provided by TD Bank.

From May 2020 until April 2021, there were 26 fun-filled, virtual sessions with 5,483 viewers/participants. “This series was, in many ways, a rapid response project developed to provide some antidotes to this moment we find ourselves in,” says Diverlus. “Simply put, we wanted to provide some things to do.”

This endeavour took an artistic collective to pull it off, with 30 artists/facilitators and guest hosts sharing their gifts.

CONGRATS TO YOU ALL FOR COORDINATING SUCH A NEEDED SPACE! CONNECTION IS SO IMPORTANT DURING THIS TIME.
-M. C.

I’ve participated in two recent virtual sessions in the Inhale/Exhale series; it’s meant so much to be a part of soul-stirring, heart-centred conversations during these challenging times.
-J. R.

Much needed, especially the movement. I’ve never done this movement before, so thank you. My body feels much more fluid after the movement.
-K. K.

The session I attended was very healing. Thank you for hosting these series!
-T. A.
REVENUE AND EXPENSES BY CALENDAR YEAR

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021
THANK YOU!
Your support has helped us make our programs the success that they are:

OUR FUNDERS:
- Central– Local Health Integrated Network-(C-LHIN)
- Addiction Services Central Ontario formally known as Addiction Services for York Region - ASYR
- Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto (CMHA)
- City of Toronto

OUR FORMAL SERVICE PARTNERS:
- Addiction Services Central Ontario formally known as Addiction Services for York Region - ASYR
- Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto (CMHA)
- COTA Health
- Mainstay Housing
- Malvern Employment and Social Services
- Ontario Shores
- The Institute Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS)
- Toronto North Service

COVID COVERAGE - TELUS

The COVID-19 Pandemic has done a great job of showcasing Canada’s digital divide. As the country headed home to work and go to school online, lack of hardware and Wi-Fi made it increasingly difficult for marginalized populations to stay connected during the COVID-19 crisis.

Many of our service users were impacted and we are extremely grateful to TELUS Mobility for the gift of hardware and cellular coverage.
DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who supported Across Boundaries this year. It is because of you, that we were able to support and aid the communities we did.

2020-2021 MAJOR DONORS

- Michael Warkentin
- Adam Popper
- Jason Naworynski
- James Wells Stringham
- Daniel Schwartz
- High Aura Productions Inc.
- Boylesque TO
- Lucy Kpiebewieng
- Mariam Sarkis
- Mind On
- Shaquille Baptiste
- Sticker You
- Joshua Nagel
- 2482081 Ontario Limited
- Blood Opera
- Costco Wholesale
- Dustin Jones
- Royal Sun Alliance
- The Beverevity City Fund
- WayPay Inc.
- Kaitlyn Kostiuk
- Curlshoppe
- Brendan Ross
- Thomas Mosher
- Tremayne Leach
- Experimental Jewellery Inc.

- Natalie Slusarczyk
- Maria Sidlo
- Michele-Anne Vennat
- Ivan Lewis
- Aron Scholl
- Kristina Kyser
- Susan Cringeant
- Natasha Ardill
- Laura Nelson-Hamilton
- Deanna Grant
- QE Trivia
- Robert Weaton
- Juliet Di Carlo
- Brodie Robers
- David Waitzer
- TOP Desk Canada Inc.
- Brodie Roberts
- Jasmyn Asuro
- Christine Briggs
- Olivia Baggett
- Kai Rietbed
- Suture Sound
- Saturn Power Inc.
- Allison MacKellar
- Marian Persaud
- Foyston, Gordon & Payne Inc.

- Georgianna Ilyusheva
- Jamileh Shaffaf Medicine
- Robert Weaton
- Stephanie Hanna
- Whimsical Illustration & Publishing
- Sara Froese
- Susan Munn
- Kristina Kyser
- Lauren de Freitas
- Metrix
- Sara Froese
- Michelle Salter
- Jennifer Dowding
- Kyle Acton
- Saturn Power Inc.
- Carly LeCocq
- Zena Sharman
- Leandra Correale Ferguson
- Deirdre Callery
- Whitehorse Liquidity Partners
- Lori Baines
- Taylor Smith
- Wiebe Marketing Ltd
- NEXT Supply
- Yann Robard
- Playground Inc
- Phillip Johnston
- Stony Yyynotsart
- Ruth Sullivan
- The Colony Project LP
- Mariam Al-Lami
- Madeline Wilde
- Jane Nyman
- Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd
- UTE Local 00013
- Keisha Lewis
- Andra Owen
- Lynn Keane
- Elizabeth Wallace
- Katrina Castro
- Alex Dobuzhinskis
- Doron Sommer
- Serotonin Studio
- Tamils In Public Service
- Hopgood Family
- Jawaria Karim
- Cavinona Inc.
- Katie Allen
- Serine Warwar
- Lauren Toyota
AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Previous Year’s Minutes
4. Executive Director’s Report
5. Treasurer’s Report
   - Acceptance of Financial Report
   - Appointment of Auditor
6. Nominations Committee Report
7. AB By-Laws Amendments
8. Guest Speakers:
9. Adjournment and Thanks

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Hugh Williams, chairman of the board, Chaired Across Boundaries’ 25th Annual General Meeting and welcomed over 65 attendees via Zoom. Hugh thanked the Board of Directors, Members of the organization, Funders, Service Users for their support to Across Boundaries over the past year especially during the pandemic. Hugh acknowledged the hard work and the dedication of the staff and management for delivering high quality services especially during a year of hardship and uncertainty across the globe.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the meeting was approved and
Moved by: Tunde Fakunle
Seconded: DawnMarie Harriot
CARRIED
3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS YEAR’S MINUTES

The minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting held on December 5, 2019 were approved and
Moved by: Maryam Ebrahimpour
Seconded: Tunde Fakunle
CARRIED

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Aseefa greeted and welcomed everyone to the 25th AGM and presented her report, as follows:

- An update on the strategic plan 2019-2023 was presented. It was noted that despite the pandemic a number of goals were met in the strategic plan.
- Across Boundaries hosted a visit from the UN Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, in partnership with IRIS.
- Across boundaries continues to provide leadership and input at various provincial and national tables related to mental health, addictions, alternatives to police responses in distress calls etc.
- Continued expansion of programming in the 2SLGBQT++ communities, engagement with families and service users.
- Update on shifts to virtual supports for all services, including addressing food security and technology access so service users can stay connected.
- Received accreditation with commendation from Accreditation Canada (Q-Mentum 2019-2023) and a Bronze Status in November 2019 from Excellence Canada.
- Service User satisfaction survey- nothing to present this year as focus on pandemic response.
- Aseefa thanked TELUS for providing 100 devices and lines to support our service users who did not have access to technology.
- Aseefa announced the resignation of Wangari Muriuki, Director of Operations, who had been with the organization for five years. Wangari came on board as the Accreditation Coordinator and stayed on in many different senior leadership roles. Aseefa thanked Wangari for her support, leadership, and insights over the years, and for being such a trusted colleague.
- Aseefa concluded her report by expressing gratitude to everyone for their continued support and dedication to the organization.
5. TREASURER’S REPORT

I. Presentation of Financial Report
Simone Atungo, Treasurer of the Board, presented the audited financial statement for the year ended March 31, 2020, which has been reviewed by the Board of Directors. Simone stated that Across Boundaries was very engaged and effective in times of COVID-19, has been very strong and stable receiving the bulk of its’ funding from Central LHIN, funds from CMHA Toronto and ASYR, as well as some income from donations and other revenue. Simone moved a motion for approval of the Audited financial Statements for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
Moved By: Simone Atungo
Seconded: Sirene Qureshi
CARRIED

II. Appointment of Auditor
Simone made a motion to appoint the firm of Hogg, Shain & Scheck Professional Corporation, to be the auditors for Across Boundaries for the fiscal year 2020-2021
Moved by: Simone Atungo
Seconded: Tunde Fakunle
CARRIED

6. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The slate of nominee for the Board (2020-2021) was proposed as circulated. The following slate was tabled:

New Members
1- Mahedar Mellkamu
2- Roger Love

Returning Board:
3-Simone Atungo
4-Fay Sun
5-Maryam Ebrahimpour
6-Dawnmarie Harriott
7-Hugh Williams
8-Fiza Khalid
9-Nadia Aleem
10-Robbie Ahmed
11-Tunde Fakunle
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT-CON'T

Moved By: Tunde Fakunle
Seconded: Dawnmarie Harriott
CARRIED

7. ACROSS BOUNDARIES BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Simone presented the proposed AB By-Laws Amendments which had been provided to the membership in advance of the AGM as per the by-law requirements. The original wording of the by-laws were presented against the amendments. At the conclusion, Simone moved a motion for the proposed changes.

Moved By: Simone Atungo
Seconded: Fizza Khalid
CARRIED

8. GUESTS SPEAKERS

- Emily Rowe from Home Depot Foundation
  Emily presented Across Boundaries a grant of 20 000.00 and stated that they were pleased to align with the agency and its mandate of providing services and supports to racialized and Black communities.

- Justin Taylor, COO, Green Rock, Real Estate Advisor
  On behalf of Green Rock, Justin presented a $20 000.00 cheque in recognition of the work being done by Across Boundaries and looking forward to additional partnerships in the future.

9. ADJOURNMENT AND THANKS

Aseefa thanked everyone for attending Across Boundaries' first virtual Annual meeting, and recognized the hard work of Genie Policarpio, Office Manager and her team for coordinating everything so perfectly.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Moved by: Rowena Jamal
Seconded: Fizza Khalid
CARRIED