



**Best Start Network**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
 April 2, 2015  
 9:30am until 11:30am.  
 OEYC: Brant

**Present:** Melodie Spencer, Kim Romano, Maria Timpener, Barb Mitchell, Luisa Pappert, Rita Stratford, Anca Gaston, Barb Mitchell, Jane Angus, Karen Calligan, Deanna Searle, Marg Barr, Dale Kern, Cathy Medway (recorder)

**Guest:** Melanie Mears, City of Brantford, Child Care Services, Jen McDonald, GEDSB

**Regrets:** Anabela Imbeault, RNFL, Kathy Dickens, Sharon Brooks, Adele Gawley, Brenda Blancher, Connie McCallister

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.0	Success story –	<p>Melodie reports the Action Research project is moving forward with 20 participants from various community agencies. They are now promoting the fourth of five sessions. The group has been able to utilize an online platform as a tool for discussion, goal setting and strategies and review sessions.</p> <p>Dr. Maria Cantalini-Williams will be presenting at the Change Conference and Debby and Melodie will be attending the global conference at Lakehead University. The CARE project is being promoted through an article in the Best Start magazine, through the college of RECE. Dr. Pascal is the key note speaker.</p>	
2.0	Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes	Melodie welcomed the group and introductions were made round the table.	<p>THE MINUTES OF THE January 8, 2015 meeting was approved</p> <p>Moved by Jane Angus</p> <p>Seconded by Marg Barr</p> <p>Carried</p>

	<p>Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Approve Minutes of January 8 &amp; February 5, 2015</p> <p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>3.1 <u>Review and Discuss:</u></p> <p>Best Start Updates</p> <p>4.1 <u>Service Update: Receive Report:</u></p>	<p>No additions to the agenda.</p> <p>The letter of support for Anabela Imbeault, RNFL is still pending. Melodie will draft a letter and share for the next meeting. There has not been a request for planning dollars from this group.</p> <p>Karen Calligan reports from the Ministry of Education that Bill 10 has reached royal assent. Proposed changes have been posted on the Education website. Changes will focus on clarification through licensing for private homes, licensed homes and licensed day care centres. Bill 10 will give the ministry authority to lay fines and close programs. Also included is a piece on special needs children. Karen encourages everyone to review the proposed changes and respond as a group before May 11<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The DNA will continue to be in effect until all the updates are complete.</p> <p>Agencies have recently received licensed child care packages which includes a USB and publications from the Ministry of Education. They are raising public awareness through radio ads, Ministry-You tube videos and are finding that today's parents are coming prepared to make informed choices on their child care.</p>	<p>THE MINUTES OF THE February 5, 2015 meeting was approved</p> <p>Moved by Luisa Pappert</p> <p>Seconded by Maria Timpener</p> <p>Carried</p> <p><a href="http://www.eycbrant.ca">www.eycbrant.ca</a></p> <p>Or</p> <p><a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/">www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=17882&amp;language=en">http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=17882&amp;language=en</a></p>
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		<p>Dale Kern (Mohawk College) added the ELECT document is mandatory for students and Mohawk College integrates How Does Learning Happen? in all areas of the curriculum. If you “google” Think Feel Act, you can see the videos posted there.</p> <p>A link can be found on the eyc brant home page and the ministry web site.</p> <p>Tia Szak is retiring from Child Care Services after 33 years with the City of Brantford. Kim wishes to thank Tia for her years of dedication and expertise in the child care field.</p> <p>Wage Enhancement Grant is coming. A training session has been set for April 13 offering a morning and an afternoon session. Agencies will view a power point which will show how the forms need to be completed. Information about WEG will be posted in the near future on the City website under Child Care.</p> <p>GEDSB will be having gradual entry for new kindergarten students. Half the group will attend Wednesday, half the group Thursday and all attend on Friday. Returning students will begin on Tuesday.</p> <p>No change with BHCNCSB school entry.</p> <p>Child care centres and agencies support parents as they transition into the school boards. We need to put children at the centre of education so that we consider the impact on children and families and partner with school boards to work collaboratively.</p>	
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	<p>4.2 Subcommittee Reports:  <u>Receive Information:</u>          Aboriginal Advisory, SIC          Committee, Best Start          Magazine, Best Start Parent          Fair, Child Care Advisory          Committee, Recruitment and          Retention Committee</p>	<p>Staggered entry into school often affects parents who are working or in school. Many need to make special arrangements for these days and many day cares cannot accommodate these days due to regular September enrolment.</p> <p>In future when decisions are made, the child care sector needs to be considered in the process so that we can work as partners with school boards.</p> <p>Jennifer McDonald will bring our feedback to Brenda and share with GEDSB.</p> <p>Two storage cabinets have been purchased for Best Start Parent Fair materials and equipment.</p> <p>The working group for planning dollar requests will be meeting in April. If you have any requests for funding please send them in.</p> <p>Kim will bring report for planning dollar expenditures to next meeting.</p> <p>Melanie Mears: Best Start Parent Fair report: The parent fair will be moving to the larger space in the Civic Centre and is currently full to capacity. The fair committee is very pleased with the response from the community and thanks Best Start for helping fund the larger space. Melanie passed out the evaluation survey to the group and asked for feedback to ensure that all necessary information is captured. The group is also very pleased with the entertainment schedule which promises to keep parents and children engaged with creating and engaging acts. Melanie asked for a co-chair for the Parent Fair Committee. If anyone is interested in contributing in this role, please contact Melanie. Each agency has been asked to bring an</p>	
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		<p>activity to the fair in order to increase parent engagement. Kim thanked Melanie and her team for leading the Parent Fair committee and echoed Melanie's request for assistance.</p> <p>Barb Mitchell reported for the SIC. The SIC is devoted to increasing community collaboration and is composed of a number of key agencies. Doreen Decker has been replaced by Patrice Kean as chair. Poor attendance was one of the tasks the committee identified as something to work on. In order to increase this, the concept of project work was introduced. The topics are: increasing communication with parents (e.g., How does learning happen workshop in September 2014). Currently working on how to engage families. Best Start funds will be used to put on 2 half-day workshops on this topic. Another initiative is to explore where the families served by OEYC, PFLC, and BCHU are coming from. For the month of April, postal code data will be collected from everyone attending the drop-ins in order to see what neighbourhood they come from. A final activity that is being discussed is the production of a video to orient families in the community to the benefits of parent-child drop-ins.</p> <p>Maria Timpener: Retention and Recruitment committee to put in a request for funding. Melodie confirmed receipt of this request.</p> <p>Melodie Spencer: The magazine committee has met and come to a consensus to which articles to go into the Best Start Magazine. The magazine will be ready a week before the Parent fair and will be available at the fair.</p>	
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5.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>5.1 <u>Discuss and Decide</u> ; Annual survey for Best Start and Sub Committees</p> <p>5.2 <u>Receive Information</u>: Annual in-person updates from Sub committee</p>	<p>Melodie explained that an online learning platform is being explored so that school boards and other childcare agencies can be part of an online system which would give individuals access to a supply list. Luisa discussed the difference in pay and how if given the choice, individuals would take a job with Grand Erie as it pays more than as an ECE which pays less.</p> <p>Luisa suggested an online calendar with schedules and information about the different BS subcommittees. Melodie to talk to Kevin about getting more information online about the purpose of the committees.</p> <p>Annual Survey: Anca to revisit 2014 survey results and survey and make recommendations moving forward. One idea Anca suggested was additional open-ended questions to elicit suggestions for 2015 from the group. Group to complete survey around year-end (by end of June?), Anca to compile results over summer and present to 2015-2016 Best Start group for discussion around how to move forward at the first Best Start meeting in September.</p> <p>See under 4.2</p>	
6.	<p>Adjournment &amp; Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>6.1 Success Story</p>	<p>Barb shared that the PFLC had a field trip which was a successful adventure!</p> <p>Melodie reported that the CHANGE conference registration has exceeded their expectations and over 150 individuals</p>	

	6.2 Next Meeting	<p>are enrolled. The symposium features some great speakers which have drawn very good crowds.</p> <p>Next meeting, May 7, 2015 scheduled to be a joint meeting with the Children's and Youth Services committee with lunch provided.</p>	
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