



**Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes**
February 7, 2013
9:30 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.
Ontario Early Years Centre Brant

Present: Anca Gaston, Karen Calligan, Kathy Dickens, Rita Stratford, Paula Thomlison, Melodie Spencer, Doreen Dekker, Deanna Searle, Sue Norden, Debbie Carson, Maria Timpener, Cathy Medway (Recorder)

Regrets: Sherry Lewis, Marg Barr, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Jane Angus, Luisa Pappert, Adele Gawley, Kim Romano, Shelley McCarthy

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.0	Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda Approve Minutes of January 17, 2013	Melodie welcomed everyone to the table. Introductions were made. The meeting started at 9:15am Additions to the Agenda: 4.4 <u>Receive</u> sharing success stories 4.5 <u>Receive</u> Hub meeting information – Innovation Fund 4.6 <u>Receive</u> Information Brantford Public Library	THE MINUTES OF THE January 17, 2013 meetings was not approved due to lack of quorum. There were no changes noted by those present. Defer approval to March meeting.
2.0	Business arising from Previous Minutes 2.1 Receive update: Training and Consultation for Best Start Network and Subcommittees, set date and topics.	Have had another consultant that was recommend as she works with many Networks across the province. She is better suited to our needs. Consensus at table was to proceed with her. Looking at planning a half day of training including lunch with Jenn Kirkham.	Melodie will send a doodle link to all members looking at the last week of March and will make it for a date that is best suitable for most.

3.0	Best Start Updates 3.1 Ministry of Children and Youth Services 3.2 Ministry of Education –	<p>Karen reported on behalf of Florence. Karen provided an overview of the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework which was released jointly on January 23, 2013 by MCYS and EDU.</p> <p>The Ontario Early Years Policy Framework provides a vision for the early years to ensure children, from birth to age six have the best possible start in life. The framework is built on a set of principles intended to provide strategic direction both within and outside of government:</p> <p>Key priority areas for action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To continue with the full implementation of full-day kindergarten by September 2014.2. Create an effective approach to implementing Best Start Child and Family Centres by September 2014 (e.g. establish a common governance structure, mandate and identity for family supports programs – including OEYCs, PFLCs, Family Resource Centres, Better Beginnings/Better Futures)3. Improve delivery of speech and language services through re-engineering led by MCYS.4. Stabilize and transform the child care system. <p>Guiding principles to support the vision are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Programs and services are centred on the child and the family❖ Programs and services are of high quality❖ Strong partnerships are essential❖ Programs and services are publicly accountable <p>Roles:</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Municipalities will act as system managers to plan and deliver community-based early years programs and services governed and funded by the Ministry of Education ❖ School boards will be active agents involved in early years program planning and delivery and providing space where possible for a seamless service delivery experience ❖ Community partners must continue to come together to engage in dialogue and partnerships with the goal of creating a shared culture and commitment to quality and accessibility for families regardless of where the program/services are physically located <p>A memo was sent to Early Years partners by Minister Broten which accompanied the framework and confirmed that OEYCs, Data Analysis Coordinators and funding for Best Start will move from MCYS to the Ministry of Education in the Early Learning Division to support the vision of a seamless and cohesive system for full-day kindergarten, child care and family supports programs. For the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2013- March 31, 2014, these programs will continue to be funded through MCYS.</p> <p>During the next year, the Ministry of Education and MCYS will be working closely with Early Years Partners to develop a plan for the implementation of Best Start Child and Family Centres.</p> <p>Karen reported on the new funding formula. The new funding formula is intended to ensure transparency, efficiency, adaptability, equity and flexibility to enable municipalities to manage the service system in response to changing needs and demographics.</p> <p>The new funding formula and framework was developed in collaboration with a provincial/municipal working group and</p>	
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		<p>through the input from the modernization discussion paper. Principles were established to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ No municipality would lose more than 10% of their current funding level <p>Three components for the funding includes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Core services (e.g. general operating can be used for a broader range of operating costs such as staff wages, lease and occupancy costs, utilities, transportation, nutrition, supplies etc)2. Special Purpose (e.g. cost factors for rural or northern populations; capacity building, repairs and maintenance)3. Minor Capital (e.g. retro-fitting for younger age groups – 0-3.8 years) <p>This information is available on the Ministry's website at: http://faab.edu.gov.on.ca/CCMemos.htm</p> <p>Kathy Dickens spoke regarding the Resource Centres moving to MEdu - our role as CMSM in identifying and continually bringing forward our pressure within resource centres to both Karen at Medu as well as with Florence at MCSS. There are ongoing pressures identified by both CAS and FCC in resource centres, i.e. no back-up staff causing closures and serious incident reports to MCYS. Kathy and Kim met with Karen the day prior to the announcement and discussed ways we may be able to utilize Medu Cc funding to meet the pressure within the Resource Centres, and the difficulty in managing Childcare pressures with the 2 funding silos. We are hoping the new direction will provide for the ability for flexibility for CMSMs</p>	
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4.0	<p>3.3 Service Update</p> <p>3.4 Subcommittee Reports: <u>Receive</u> information: Aboriginal Advisory Committee, SIC, Best Start Magazine, Best Start Parent Fair, Child Care Advisory Committee, Recruitment and Retention Committee</p> <p>New Business 4.1 <u>Receive</u> and approve Best Start Planning dollars form</p> <p>4.2 <u>Receive</u> information on Best Start website re: Best Start Minutes</p>	<p>Child Care Services Update: An information session is being held February 22nd for owners and operators</p> <p>SIC -No report at this time as have not met since last BSN.</p> <p>Aboriginal Best Start Network report no new news.</p> <p>CCAC report looking at the issue/benefits of centres/providers offering 24/7 care. Also will be having more discussion around transformation after February 22nd.</p> <p>Recruitment and Retention working with school boards to target high school students who may be a good fit for ECE program, or apprenticeship programs. Discussed success of Job Fair (same attendance as last year, jobs already secured as a result).</p> <p>Kim has developed a new Best Start Planning Dollars Application Form. Form was circulated among members.</p> <p>Applicants will now be required to complete the two page form with their funding request. This will provide consistency in requests and make it easier for BSN to make decisions on funding. No feedback when circulated so will be taken as final copy.</p> <p>Approved Best Start Network Minutes are now posted on the website under stats/reports.</p>	<p>ACTION: Send feedback on website additions to Melodie by March Break so we can have them done and funds spent by March 31.</p> <p>ACTION: Please contact Anca, complete information form (request from Anca) and respond by February 22nd.</p>
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	<p>4.3 <u>Receive</u> information from BCHU on Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI)</p>	<p>Discussed Google analytics to pull stats on how long people are using the website (already there). Suggestion made to look at an online evaluation/feedback tool for visitors to see how user friendly and visually appealing the web site is to users.</p> <p>Discussion around the \$3000 one time funds for Planning through MCYS was had and the fact that the training day would not cost the full \$3,000. Kathy advised that some of these funds could be used to better the BS website and advised Committee members that if there were areas in the website that they feel we could improve to let us know.</p> <p>If there are any suggestions for website changes or developments please contact Kim or Melodie asap.</p> <p>Anca presented a PowerPoint presentation informing Network of Baby Friendly Initiative which promotes breast feeding.</p> <p>BCHU is developing policy and procedures towards accreditation as part of the BFI.</p> <p>Anca is looking for members; one person per agency to form a working group who will set goals, form partnerships and increase awareness within the community.</p> <p>First meeting to be held at OEYC in April.</p> <p>BCHU provides a breast feeding clinic on Fridays at the OEYC and it is very well attended.</p>	<p>ACTION: Deanna is confirmed for one 'success story' slot in March. Interested members to let Melodie know if they want on the agenda.</p>
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<p>4.4 <u>Receive</u> sharing success stories</p>	<p>Discussion on having more accomplishments from broad early years sector shared as a start and end to our meetings. Five minutes each one. This will help us all be more involved, form potential partnerships and keep us aware of the great things happening just outside of the operations of the Network.</p>	
	<p>Success stories will be shared at the beginning and end of Best Start Network meetings.</p>	
	<p>If you have accomplishments or successes to celebrate please contact Melodie to be included on the agenda. This month we shared the Job Fair success and BPL success in 4.6</p>	
<p>4.5 <u>Receive</u> Hub meeting information – Innovation Fund</p>	<p>Two community meetings will be held February 15 at Major Ballachey School from 12:30 to 3pm and Bellview School 9:00am until 10:30pm Please contact Kathryn McIntyre if you are attending. If you did not receive an invite but want to attend, please let Melodie know asap.</p>	
<p>4.6 <u>Receive</u> Information Brantford Public Library</p>	<p>Paula from Library shared her success story regarding the community collaboration is assisting clients, and spoke about how helping the parent and/or siblings or other family members with supports helped to move the client forward to success. Kathy followed up on the conversation to recognize both the Best Start Network and Florence/ MCYS in supporting the Community Hub plan with the Innovation funds through MCYS and it was this type of holistic support that the Community Hub would provide.</p>	

5.0	Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting 5.1 <u>Discuss and Decide</u> – Next meeting dates and frequency	Discussed keeping monthly meetings as is until we discuss more with consultant in March. Next meeting March 7, 2013	ACTION: Templates for approval on next agenda.
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