



**Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2014
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Ontario Early Years Centre Brant**

Present: Deanna Searle, Kim Romano, Luisa Pappert, Melodie Spencer, Brenda Blancher, Adele Gawley, Barb Mitchell, Maria Timpener, Rita Stratford, Jane Angus, Rosemary Whitehouse, Sue Norden, Marg Barr, Marie Josee Baril, Patrice Kean, Christina Rajsnik, Doreen Dekker, Karen Calligan, Paula Thomlison, Cathy Medway (recorder)

Regrets: Lisa Kyper, Shelley McCarthy, Anca Gaston, Kathy Dickens, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Sharon Brooks

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.0	Success story –	Barb Mitchell shared about an activity that the parents at Major Ballachy PFLC came together and created an art piece made out of fingerprints of each child who attended the program. The art piece made of canvas, depicts a tree and travelled from family to family without the direction of staff at the centre. Each family painted their child's fingerprints to the tree branches to represent the leaves of the tree. The art was then presented to staff of PFLC	
2.0	Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes	This is an example of how parents can take the lead at their respective sites. The art piece will be displayed at the PFLC Major Ballachy site.	
	Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda	Kim welcomed everyone to the table introductions were made. A special welcome to our newest member Patrice Kean, Manager of Child Health at BCHU	THE MINUTES OF THE January 9, 2014 meeting was approved
	Approve Minutes of January 9, 2014	There were no additions to the agenda	Moved by Luisa Pappert Seconded by Jane Angus Carried

<p>3.0</p>	<p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>3.1 <u>Receive information and Vote:</u> Dolly Parton Imagination Library, request for funding</p> <p>3.2 <u>Receive request for Funding and Vote:</u> Your Guide Brant</p>	<p>Kim reviewed a synopsis of the Imagination Library program submitted by Sharon to share with the Network as she was unable to attend due to a media event.</p> <p>Discussion followed that we need to review the priorities in our Best Start Strategic plan to make sure that funding requests align with these key priorities.</p> <p>We also need to ensure applicants build in a plan to report on “evidence impact” for each funding request. For example how are families finding out about programs? ie Your Guide, BS Magazine etc.</p> <p>We also need to consider that requests for funding link back to policy framework and support program curriculum to link with kindergarten. We need to educate parents about the changes in philosophy and practice as we continue to move towards play based learning. Communication with staff, teachers, principals and parents needs to be ongoing to help parents see the value of learning in play</p> <p>Ministry of Education has released the Think, Feel, Act Series – learning through research which promotes reflective practice. This approach moves away from a checklist for quality assurance in favour of research-based indicators which intentionally link theory to practice.</p> <p>This led to some discussion about Raising the Bar. It was suggested that new operators may benefit from Raising the Bar type quality assurance checklists to develop policies and procedures that they may not have had previously.</p>	
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	<p>3.3 Receive Information and Discuss: Child Modernization Act</p>	<p>Discussion followed that we need to create a small focus group to establish criteria for grants, report back on impact of funding so we remain transparent in which agencies receive funding requests.</p> <p>Marg, Sue, Melodie and Kim will look at forming the working group. If anyone else is interested please contact a group member.</p> <p>Therefore a motion was made by Luisa Pappert that the following funding requests be approved, as previously funded in 2013.</p> <p>Contact Brant – Your Guide - \$1500, Kids Can Fly ECE Banquet - \$500.00, OEYC: RTB - \$1500.00, OEYC: Recruitment and Retention - \$1500.00, Kids Can Fly – Post Partum - \$1500.00 for a total of \$6500.00 in funding.</p> <p>Discussion followed</p> <p>All in favour: Carried</p> <p>Here are a few bullet points from Karen Calligan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Child Care Modernization Act Bill 143</i> had its first of three readings in legislature on December 3, 2013. If passed, the Act will see the repeal of the <i>Day Nurseries Act</i> to be replaced by the <i>Child Care and Early Years Act</i> for children birth-12 years. The <i>DNA</i> was first enacted in 1946 and has not been reviewed since 1983. It is important to note that in the interim, the <i>DNA</i> and Regulation 262 are still in effect. 	
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	<p>3.4 <u>Receive Information:</u> New funding - Kim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These proposed regulatory changes would also pave the way for broader system transformation if Bill 143 is passed. • The proposed regulatory changes were posted on December 19, 2013 for public comment until Feb. 28, 2014. • Feedback can be provided on the Regulatory Registry website at: http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=14762&language=en • Last year the Ministry of Education released the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework (OEYPF), which provided a road map for our work in transforming and strengthening Ontario's early years system. One of the key priorities of the OEYPF is to support the early years sector in providing high-quality programs and services for children and their families. To move forward on this commitment, the Ministry of Education is developing an early years curriculum framework. To support the development of the document, the Ministry is conducting small focus group discussions with CMSMs and ECE college faculty to seek input on the draft document. More information about this document will be available in the coming months. <p>Kim, Rita and Melodie continue to work on Capacity Funding. Information was sent out regarding online learning programs including First Aid, Triple P, Handle with Care. We currently have fifty online users. Other programs coming include Introduction of ELECT, Uniquely Yours and Parents as Partners.</p>	
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4.0	<p>Best Start Updates</p> <p><u>4.1 Service Update: Receive Reports: Spending from 2013 planning</u></p>	<p>Online learning is open to all ECEs working in a licensed day care and early learning care ie Resource Centres (not board operated programs at this time). May be open to ECE not working for a fee of \$50.00. All fees would be used for future course development with Desire2Learn.</p> <p>Kim announced that Professional Development Capacity funding will increase to \$65.00 from \$50.00 per FTE, for centre staff to take part in their own PD.</p> <p>Some centres did not access the funding for staff training but many did, up to 95% of centres.</p> <p>Centres receive 75% lump sum of general operating dollars with 25% held back for contingency funds.</p> <p>We are in the process of advocating to the Ministry to have the cap lifted as we could have supported our centres with the remaining 25%, but were unable to in 2013.</p> <p>In 2013 we served of 900 families and approximately 1148 children broken out as 53 infants, 88 toddlers, 188 preschool 53 JK, 42, SK and 107 school age and 16 recreation.</p> <p>We are in the process of working on our new purchase of service agreements. The new agreements will include clauses speaking to the provision of early learning and Child Care Services to children identified as having special needs and will include a statement with respect to planning networks and professional associations as well as agency's participation in a quality assessment and improvement program.</p> <p>Kim and other CMSMs were invited to participate is a regional focus group on a draft framework to guide curriculum and pedagogy in the early years.</p>	
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5.0	<p>4.2 <u>Subcommittee Reports:</u> <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>New Business</p> <p>5.1 <u>Receive information:</u> Culture Kits Showcase – Sherry Lewis</p>	<p>The new document is the result of current research and knowledge from other jurisdictions, Ontario educator practices, discussions with ministry staff and experts and ECE organizations and system learners.</p> <p>We are continuing to move toward an agreement with Laurier University. One of the areas they would like to see is an infant program, we are also interested in creating a Hub type atmosphere, maybe an observation booth. Kim asked the group for feedback to form a wish list.</p> <p>Other suggestions from Network members include creating a meeting space, research space for students, classroom, workroom with two way windows for observation, camera and audio capabilities, therapy room for one to one work. There was support for infant spaces in the core.</p> <p>There have been no talks with Nipissing.</p> <p>Report from BS Parent Fair was sent out to membership prior to meeting and reviewed by members.</p> <p>They are looking for new members please contact Melanie Mears at mmears@brantford.ca if interested</p> <p>Sarah VanEvery and Dee presented 4 Aboriginal kits to the members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language Bin 2. Story Telling Bin 3. Music Bin 4. 7 Grandfather Teachings Bin 	
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	<p>5.2 <u>Receive information:</u> <u>Next Steps:</u> Transfer of Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) – Ministry of Education</p>	<p>Each bin was beautifully put together and comes with a list of contents and explanation on how to use the kits. Sarah and Dee have made several bins for each category and are available in lending library at OEYC.</p> <p>Future kits may include Greetings or Family Members bins.</p> <p>Paula has offered digital media lab at the library should Sarah decide to video tape the kit demonstrations or record language samples or create a digital movie.</p> <p>It was suggested that Sarah and Dee could promote kits at next Supervisor's Network meeting</p> <p>Funding for these projects may run out March 31st. The Aboriginal program at Bellview school may be ending as well.</p> <p>There are other programs through Brantford Native Housing.</p> <p>There still is an aboriginal advisory group</p> <p>Kim received a letter in from Ministry of Education in January stating that funding for Early Development Instrument (EDI) and Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) will be transferred to Ministry of Education.</p> <p>There will be no EDI data collection in 2013/14 to allow the EDI Working Group the time that is requires to plan appropriately.</p> <p>EDI collection will resume 2014/15.</p>	
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6.	Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting 6.1 Success Story	<p>The Job Fair was very successful with 100 participants, there was a nice mix of committee members represented at the job fair. 16 agencies participated.</p> <p>The event was sponsored in part by Haldimand Norfolk</p>	<p>Next meeting March 6, 2014 at OEYC</p> <p>April 1, 2014 will be a joint meeting with Children's Services Committee and the Best Start Network for some joint planning.</p> <p>Lunch will be provided.</p> <p>Held from 10:30am until 2:00pm at Contact Brant, on Park Road</p>
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