



**Best Start Network  
 Meeting Minutes  
 February 5, 2015  
 9:30am until 11:30am.  
 OEYC: Brant**

**Present:** Melodie Spencer, Kim Romano, Maria Timpener, Barb Mitchell, Connie McCallister, Marie Jose Baril, Luisa Pappert, Paula Thomlison, Marg Barr, Brenda Blancher, Dale Kern, Cathy Medway (recorder)

**Guest:** Anabela Imbeault, French Language Regional Network of Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand and Brant

**Regrets:** Kathy Dickens, Sharon Brooks, Karen Calligan, Adele Gawley, Deanna Searle, Jane Angus, Rita Stratford

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.0	Success story –	Paula Thomlison reports it was a very successful skate exchange this year at the library. The event actually finished with a surplus of skates. Paula estimates there were probably 150 people in attendance.	<p>Today we did not have quorum so the minutes from January 8, 2015 were not approved.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Cathy will send out January revised minutes with February’s minutes</p>
2.0	Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes	Kim welcomed the group and introductions were made round the table. Welcome to Anabela Imbeault Co-Chair, French Language Regional Best Start Network of Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand and Brant	
	Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda	5.6 Special Needs visioning day – was added to the agenda	
	Approve Minutes of January 8, 2015	There was a last minute revision to the minutes and Kim shared this with the group.	

<p>3.0</p> <p>4.0</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 outstanding items.</p> <p>Already for 2015 we have begun with some of our plans and improvements for child care services</p> <p>This year so it is easier for our operators and more reliable dollars... we have done their payments so that they receive their legacy wage dollars, and the new General Operating dollars on a monthly basis. Operators will still meet one on one with Kim to discuss their plan. Operators were sent admissible and inadmissible expenses in a letter form as well. As in the past we continue to support our existing operators and also child care operators serving 0-3.8, this was a community decision. I am pleased to say that in 2014 our operators received 100% of their funding. In 2014 we flowed over \$695,425 to our operators for General Operating dollars to offset things like operating costs, nutrition, etc.</p> <p>We have already circulated our 2015 Capacity plan to child care operators, we continue to support all our child care staff and centres to build the capacity of their program. We are offering again this year, Triple P for the ECE, Handle with care, our CARE program that Melodie spoke about last meeting the Community Action Research with Educators. We now have over 11 courses on the Brantlearnece (online) with out newest offering "Down Syndrome".</p>	
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	<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>Most likely will resort to this amount for the beginning and may increase should funds be available.</p> <p>Moving ahead for 2015 we will be allocating new dollars, revamping our policy book for our operators and beginning to work on a child care plan.</p> <p>Reports from Best Start Part Fair Committee (date of report should read January 30, 2015), Child Care Advisory Committee and Systems Integration Committee have been received and circulated to the membership via email. Luisa reported on behalf of CCAC. Next meeting is March. (check with Luisa for date and time) The meeting will probably follow the supervisor's network meeting. They are looking at setting up an email address though OEYC. Tara McPhee and Luisa Pappert can be contacted if you have questions or require more information.</p> <p>Paula Thomlison reported on behalf of the Best Start Magazine Committee which is getting ready for proofing near the end of February. The Magazine is expected to be circulated in April.</p> <p>Melodie reported on behalf of the Recruitment and Retention Committee. 35 people attended the job fair this year with 12 agencies participating. Lower attendance may be due to inclement weather. Many new graduates are looking at using the job fair as a stepping stone to other full time permanent positions. Some discussion followed that the event could be moved to May to line up with graduates.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Please contact Luisa for date and time for next meeting</p>
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5.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>5.1 <u>Healthy Communities Forum</u> – March 5, 2015</p> <p>5.2 <u>Discussion: Planning Dollars Request</u></p> <p>5.3 RFLN – letter for financial support request</p> <p>5.4 Best Start Parent Fair Storage</p>	<p>Healthy Community Forum sponsored by the BCHU will be held March 5, 2015. The forum will provide opportunities to develop a common vision in redefining health and plan strategies to build a more vibrant and prosperous Brantford.</p> <p>If you are interested in attending please contact Aaron Wallace.</p> <p>Kim has asked that agencies submit funding request as soon as possible. The form is attached to this email.</p> <p>Kim shared a letter from Anabele Imbeault from the Best Start Regional French Language Network requesting funding to support and promote services for French language children and families' to support their cultural identity. Discussion followed to suggest that Anabele contact local working groups such as Canadian Parents for French, Haldimand/Norfolk French language region and perhaps Dave Levacs office to see what organizations are already in place that may assist her. The Best Start Network has offered to send a letter of support to MCYS and Ministry of Education. Brantford has a less than 1% French language population and based on that this Network has offered to send the funding request to the working groups to consider and the request will be revisited in April. Anabele has been invited back in April.</p> <p>Kim shared with the group that we are in need of a storage units for Best Start Fair items. Looking at one or two units. Kim will be using Best Start planning dollars to purchase a storage unit for Best Start Parent Fair items. Kim will also look at storage at OEYC</p>	<p><a href="#">BEST START PLANNING DOLLARS APPLICATION FORM.docx</a></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Letter of support for FLRN to MCYS and Ministry of Education</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Send request to working group for funding consideration</p>
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	<p>5.5 Fostering Growth in Brant – Melodie (Power point)</p>	<p>Melodie shared a powerpoint on the rebranding of the Quality Measures Tool to raise the standards on quality care. This tool will incorporate succession planning, peer review, reflective practice and will engage families.</p> <p>It focuses supporting child development, maintains a promise of excellence, inclusion of all children and uses external reflections of third party reviews. Practices will identify goals based on feedback.</p> <p>Also included will be a continuous learning practice with valuable staff professional learning where staff will keep a portfolio with goal setting and impacts on their own professional growth and programs. (What is important to them, what do you value, including memberships) Tips/Tools Check boxes will be included to make sure the portfolio is complete.</p> <p>There is no pass or fail completion is based on participation. Agencies who participate may receive accreditation or window decal TBD.</p>	
	<p>5.6 Special Needs Visioning Day: Jane Angus</p>	<p>Jane Angus asked Kim to share information on the Special Needs Strategy Visioning Day February 23, 2015 which is targeting youth with special needs, families of children with special needs as well as service providers delivering services to children with special needs. If you have any questions please direct them to Jane.</p> <p>Kim reports that the new Licensing person is Kari-Lyn Burkholder. Kim has advocated on behalf of our community to voice concerns over no contact information. Kim hopes to have the other name of licensing person by next month.</p>	



