



**Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 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, Anca Gaston, Rita Stratford, Jane Angus, Rosemary Whitehouse, Sarah Robertson, Sue Norden, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Cathy Medway (recorder)

Guest: Sue Evenden

Regrets: Lisa Kyper, Sharon Brooks, Christina Rajsic, Marg Barr, Sherry Lewis

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.0	Success story –	<p>The online learning program created with Desire2Learn is now up and running. Melodie gave a brief overview of site which is currently open to staff in licensed child care agencies and in family resource centres under Best Start.</p> <p>In future may be open to other early learning partners ie. School board staff with user fee.</p> <p>After each module is completed the user must complete a quiz before moving onto next module, the user will receive a certificate upon completion.</p> <p>On line learning counts as an event not hours for professional development. No time limit to complete the learning.</p>	
2.0	Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes	Melodie welcomed everyone to the table introductions were made	

3.0	<p>Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Approve Minutes of November 7, 2013</p> <p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p><u>3.1 Receive information:</u> Smart Community presentation – Sue Evenden</p>	<p>Additions to the agenda include:</p> <p>3.2 Safe Spaces Overview – Casey Mecija (deferred)</p> <p>3.3 At Risk Neighborhood Analysis formerly 3.2 on agenda</p> <p>5.4 Receive information MCYS</p> <p>5.5 Joint meeting with Children’s Services Committee</p> <p>6.1 Success Story : Sharon Brooks</p> <p>3.1 Sue Evenden from Ontario Works presented City of Brantford: Smart City/Intelligent Community.</p> <p>The initiative is to encourage, support and identify those communities who have accepted the challenges of the “Broadband Economy”. City Council supported the resolution on March 25, 2013 council meeting.</p> <p>Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) www.intelligentcommunity.org has identified key indicators that communities will use for assessment and planning to become a “Broadband Economy”. They include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadband Connectivity 2. Knowledge Workforce 3. Innovation 4. Digital Inclusion 5. Marketing and Advocacy <p>Intent is to make WIFI accessible and affordable and to increase knowledge and access to government services and to assess if people have to knowledge to access</p>	<p>THE MINUTES OF THE November 7, 2013 meeting was approved</p> <p>Moved by Rita Stratford Seconded by Deanna Searle Carried</p>
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	<p>3.2 <u>Receive Information:</u> A look at declining KPS Scores in the four specific neighborhoods – Anca Gaston</p>	<p>technology.</p> <p>Part of the plan is to increase digital access points on city properties and create digital labs and educating parents and communities as to how much we are “plugged into” technology.</p> <p>School boards have been included in the planning process regarding knowledge of the workforce (indicator # 2)</p> <p>One member raised information that in Europe WIFI is being removed from schools and libraries in some countries due to the health concerns of lifetime exposure of low frequency waves.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised concerning brain development in young children and early lifetime exposure becoming detrimental to health.</p> <p>Discussion that there needs to be a balance between promoting digital technology and good health.</p> <p>3.2 As a result of KPS (Kindergarten Parent Survey) completed by parents, four neighborhoods have been identified as declining neighborhoods and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holmedale/William, 2. Eagle Place, 3. Terrace Hill and 4. Core. <p>There was a response rate of 70% and survey areas included</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demographics 2. Child Health & Development 3. Child Care 4. Prekindergarten Experience 	<p>Sue will share our feedback with her working group.</p>
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4.0	<p>Best Start Updates</p> <p>4.1 <u>Service Update: Receive Reports:</u> Spending from 2013 planning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Kindergarten 6. You & Your Child 7. Your Neighborhood/Community <p>Survey shows that conclusions can be drawn that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demographics 2. Child development 3. Child Care <p>are key factors in the response from parents. Detriments may be due to social inequality, and demographic variables which may include income, mobility, parental status and education.</p> <p>Survey results show parents are advocating for increase in fee subsidies, pressuring employers to offer parental leave for part time jobs, an increase in child's physical activity, greater neighborhood safety, increasing awareness of existing programs, improving school/parent relationships and access to more neighbourhood hubs</p> <p>Kim approves requests for funding up to \$1500.00, any higher amounts comes to BSN table</p> <p>2013 brief overview of spending: Grants & Organizations \$6,500.00 (includes R & R) BS Magazine \$18,000.00 plus Parent Fair \$1500.00 Promotional Items</p> <p>Kim will provide a year end report at the next meeting in</p>	<p>Details to follow at February BSN Meeting</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 and Vote:</u> Dolly Parton Imagination Library, request for funding</p>	<p>February.</p> <p>Kim has new guidelines for funding and will share changes from 2013 at next meeting</p> <p>Laurier University is continuing to discuss a partnership with Beryl Angus Municipal Children’s Centre, nothing is formalized as of yet.</p> <p>No reports received.</p> <p>Request for funding for \$3000.00 was introduced however we no longer had quorum so membership was not able to vote.</p> <p>Some questions and concerns were discussed by members which includes how recipients of the books are chosen whether income is considered, how is the waitlist for books managed, how many families are receiving the books, maybe consider covering first year for free books then parent assume cost of books. Members knew of two families that applied for books but did not receive any further communication.</p>	<p>Sharon will be invited to return to meeting in February to share ideas and discussions with BSN group.</p> <p>Defer vote/discussion to next meeting</p>
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6.	<p>5.5 <u>Receive Information:</u> Joint meeting – Jane Angus</p> <p>Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting 6.1 Success Story</p> <p>6.2 Next Meeting Date:</p>	<p>with same access to programs just one Ministry managing</p> <p>Children’s Services Committee is looking at revitalizing the Infants Living at Risk – Babies First Protocol and would like to review with Community partners. Jane would like to recall the original steering committee and find out what is happening with committee and discover how the committee links to other partners.</p> <p>It was suggested that a joint meeting of the CCS committee and Best Start Network be held within the next few months in an effort to better link these tables and explore if joint meetings may be beneficial to both. The intent of the first meeting is to share our visions and plans as well as discuss possible options for meeting together.</p> <p>Jane and Melodie will be sending out invites shortly. Lunch will be provided. It was suggested by Jane and Melodie that we invite the Neighbourhood Hub group as well.</p> <p>Kim reported on behalf of Sharon Brooks that the Post-Partum Depression Telephone Support initiative received a two year grant of \$79,400 from the Ontario Trillium Grant to proceed with the model of a Post-Partum Depression peer mentor telephone support.</p> <p>Kids Can Fly is the lead agency and is partnering with HN OEYC and HN Public Health Nurse and the Brant Working Group on PPD.</p> <p>Dr. Tracy Woodford has been hired to find/screen/train women who have had PPD as mentors and to collect data to develop handbooks and policies. Roll out of this project is scheduled for March.</p> <p>Congratulations to Sharon and her group!</p>	<p>February 6, 2014</p>
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