



**Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2014
9:30am until 11:00pm.
OEYC Brant – 30 Bell Lane**

Present: Kim Romano, Luisa Pappert, Melodie Spencer, Maria Timpener, Rita Stratford, Jane Angus, Kathy Dickens, Marg Barr, Anca Gaston, Shelley McCarthy, Brenda Blancher, Christina Rajsic, Karen Calligan, Dan Temprile, Cathy Medway (recorder)

Regrets: Adele Gawley, Barb Mitchell, Deanna Searle

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.0	Success story –	Luisa shared that this year marks the 30 th Anniversary of the Wee Watch Organization. They have decided to celebrate children so each child will receive a memory book which will be given to them at the end of the year. With the help of operational dollars they were able to purchase “Rainbow Fun” a book which promotes Healthy Eating and Activity guide/CD. In July and August they will be celebrating each Friday in the park “Together we Can” a theme related event which will be celebrated across Ontario. Some themes include Going Green and Let’s Get Moving. They will be planning a Licensed Child Care Conference in November.	
2.0	Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda Approve Minutes of April 1, 2014	Kim welcomed the group to the meeting. Jo Cupoli Atanas was unable to attend today’s meeting due to vacation but looks forward to meeting with the Network in September. There was one addition to the agenda Add to <u>New Business 5.4</u> : Joint Children Services Committee Information sharing.	THE MINUTES OF THE April 1, 2014 meeting was approved Moved by Rita Stratford Seconded by Marg Barr Carried

<p>3.0</p>	<p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>3.1 <u>Receive information and Discuss:</u> Welcome to Jo Cupoli-Atanas and Thank you to Dan Tempriple and Sue Norden</p>	<p>On behalf of the network Kim thanked Dan for his contribution to the Best Start Network over the years and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.</p> <p>Dan shared that because of the work of the Network table the importance of child care has gained a higher profile within the community. We may have to tell our story a few times to agencies and City Councils but we are always converting more people to be aware and support our vision and mission for this community. People are beginning to understand just how important the investment in early years is.</p> <p>Kim updated the network on some staff changes at Social Services due to Dan's Retirement.</p> <p>Jo Atanas will be taking on Dan's role.</p> <p>Sue Evenden will be a new Director of Ontario Works and Aaron Wallace will be replacing Sue Evenden as Manager of Strategic Planning</p> <p>Other Network Member News: Sue Norden has officially resigned as community representative and will begin her new role as "Glama" thank you Sue for sharing your knowledge and expertise with us</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Best Start Updates</p> <p>4.1 <u>Service Update: Receive Report:</u></p>	<p>Kim circulated/shared the Best Start Planning Dollar report as of December 31, 2013.</p> <p>There were no questions concerning document.</p> <p>It was discussed that we should develop a survey to determine the impact of the investment of the magazine has had on parents, families, full day kindergarten teams, Councilors. Anca said she will be available to help with</p>	

		<p>this.</p> <p>Parent Fair update. Members received copies of Parent Fair report with the report from the Chair. Thank you to Anca for a great job on the survey and the extensive report. Some discussion followed that we need a bigger venue for next year. Agencies would like to engage parents and families while they pass through the aisles. Many families were unable to do so do to space constraints in the aisle. Agencies would like space where a child could be engaged in a game while they speak with parents. We want parent fair to be more than just a “hand out” or“ giveaway” event.</p> <p>It was also suggested that parents could be engaged though stage presentations or announcement taking place as families walk around.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the increase in cost to use the ice floor of the Civic Centre. Having corporate sponsors and applying for a grant from a community foundation and Best Start Dollars may offset these costs.</p> <p>Kathy Dickens has offered to assist the group who applies for funding from the city foundation.</p> <p>A letter will need to be prepared which we could use to promote sponsorship.</p> <p>The Network also wants to consider whether it is better to have a small venue that is full or a large venue that looks empty.</p> <p>Also the event needs volunteers from agencies to help as a working group to coordinate the event. Jane Angus has volunteered a representative from Contact Brant and Brenda Blancher said high school students who need volunteer hours can be contacted through guidance departments. Please contact Melanie Mears if you can assist with this.</p>	<p>Action Item: Format letter for sponsorship</p> <p>Chair of Parent Fair: Melanie Mears mmears@brantford.ca 519-756-3150</p>
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5.0	<p><u>4.2 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><u>5.1 Sharing information:</u> Planning Dollars</p> <p><u>5.2 Receive Information:</u> How Does Learning Happen? Overview</p>	<p>Therefore a motion was put forth to explore and book a larger venue for next year particularly the Civic Centre floor space.</p> <p>Motion by Marg, Seconded by: Jane Angus All Agreed, Carried</p> <p>Laurier Child Care Update: Kim is pleased to share that we now have a preliminary contract with Laurier University. Next steps will be for City Council approval and then put out an RFP for the building construction. This is the first of several contracts to come.</p> <p>SIC Update: Group has not met, will meet in June.</p> <p>Luisa Pappert and Tara McPhee have offered to co-chair Child Care Advisory Committee and will report back to supervisor's network to share information.</p> <p>There were no new reports from any committees</p> <p>Aboriginal Planning dollars have supported the pull out section on previous best start magazines and the cultural learning kits which are now available at the OEYC.</p> <p>Karen Calligan gave an over view of the new document "How Does Learning Happen" this is a new way of Pedagogical thinking where multiple perspectives are considered where we learn through relationships so children can become competent and experience new enriched learning. It includes goals for children and expectations for programs.</p>	
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6.	<p>5.3 <u>Receive Information:</u> Planning Day for Operators in September 2014</p> <p>5.4 <u>Receive Information:</u> Joint Children's Services Committee</p> <p>Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting 6.1 Success Story</p>	<p>There are four foundations for learning for every child and include a sense of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belonging • Well-Being • Engagement • Expression <p>It is designed to think beyond our current practice and develop new quality assurance tools and discover what energizes us to be the best we can be.</p> <p>All children, including those with special needs will benefit from being in an inclusive environment where they are able to participate and collaborate in meaningful ways and form authentic, caring relationships</p> <p>Kim is planning an Early Learning and Care Symposium in the Fall. Stay tuned for more information. She will send out a save the date.</p> <p>At the joint meeting held back in March it was decided that the Best Start Network and Children's Services Committee will meet jointly again. Please save September 4th in your calendars. We will meet at Contact Brant at 10:30 am. Invites will follow and lunch will be provided.</p> <p>Marg shared a success story regarding Northland Gardens drop in Centre. There was a serious occurrence where police were involved with the agency. They were able to enlist the help of Police Chief Nelson. His philosophy is to treat the cause of the problem not the symptoms of the problem. With his guidance and with the help of Parks & Recreation and City of Brantford agencies they were able to refurbish the playground area. Police officers began to engage the neighborhood using the centre in recreational</p>	<p>Action: "Save the date." An early learning and child care symposium save the date email will be sent out shortly.</p> <p>Action: Joint committee meeting September 4, Contact Brant, lunch will be included.</p>
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	6.2 Next Meeting Date	<p>activities on their own time. This was very successful.</p> <p>Later when the officers returned in uniform when on duty they were well received as they had formed new trusting relationships at the drop in centre. Now the participants have someone to talk to if they need to without feeling uncomfortable.</p> <p>This is a true collaboration of community agencies working together</p> <p>The second success story is from Melodie at OEYC. They have built a partnership with Immigrant Settlement Services and host a Communication Circle so people can practice their english and connect with the drop in programs at OEYC. This circle has now begun to connect with the Mothers in Motion, the physical activity group. With this connection Melodie was able to secure additional funding for the new group call Circles in Motion. Congratulations on connecting!</p>	<p>Next meeting September 4, 2014 at Contact Brant at 10:30 am</p>