



Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes
 June 4, 2015
 9:30am until 11:30am.
 OEYC: Brant

Present: Kim Romano, Maria Timpener, Barb Mitchell, Luisa Pappert, Rita Stratford, Anca Gaston, Jane Angus, Deanna Searle, Marg Barr, Dale Kern, Adele Gawley, Brenda Blancher, Connie McCallister, Cathy Medway (recorder)

Guest: Randy Basset, Opening Hearts

Regrets: Kathy Dickens, Melodie Spencer, Karen Calligan, Deanna Searle

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.0	Success story –	<p>Jane Angus shared that Children’s Youth Services Committee has launched its new website for youth in Haldimand, Norfolk, and Brant who need assistance or information about mental health, coping strategies, and well-being.</p> <p>www.hopemore.ca</p>	
2.0	<p>Welcome/Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Review of Meeting Notes</p> <p>Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda</p> <p>Approve Minutes of April 2 & May 7, 2015</p>	<p>Kim welcomed the group and introductions were made round the table.</p> <p>One addition to the agenda, Rita Stratford has a query to share, to be added as 5.3 on the agenda.</p>	<p>THE MINUTES OF THE April 2 & May 7, 2015 meeting was approved</p> <p>Moved by Jane Angus</p> <p>Seconded by Dale Kern</p> <p>Carried</p>

	<p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>3.0 3.1 <u>Future meeting dates discussion</u>: Set dates for Fall 2015</p> <p>4.0 Best Start Updates</p> <p>4.1 <u>Service Update: Receive Report</u>: Capital dollars</p> <p>4.2 <u>Subcommittee Reports: Receive Information</u>: Aboriginal Advisory, SIC Committee, Best Start Magazine, Best Start Parent Fair, Child Care Advisory Committee, Recruitment and Retention Committee</p>	<p>Next BSN meeting, September 10, 2015 and Tuesday October 6, 2015 scheduled to be a joint meeting with the Children's and Youth Services committee with lunch provided, then November 1st and first Thursday of each month onward.</p> <p>Capital dollars will be coming from the Ministry of Education for school expansions for day cares in schools. CMSM.s will be meeting for joint planning. Dollars will be flowed through school boards</p> <p>Luisa Pappert shared her report from the Child Care Advisory Committee. The report was circulated electronically and discussed at the meeting. Members of the working group will be touring different centres. On October 7th, they will be visiting Montessori Children's Academy in Paris from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. Luisa will look into inviting ECEs from school boards to attend and vice versa to visit the school board classrooms. May contact Connie McCallister or Brenda Blancher.</p> <p>Luisa requested that maybe Capacity dollars be used to offset costs of refreshments.</p> <p>This led to discussion around quality child care in the licensed and unlicensed sectors. CMSM (Child Care Management System) promotes licensed private home but also considers parental choice. With the Modernization Act coming out now is a good time to promote licensed home child care and licensed day care centres.</p>	<p>www.eycbrant.ca</p> <p>Or</p> <p>www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/</p> <p>http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=17882&language=en</p>
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	<p>4.3 <u>Receive Information</u> – Best Start Parent Fair – Anca Gaston</p>	<p>Kim advised group the City of Brantford Private Home Day Care (PHDC) will be closing effective July 1st. Historically the City has supervised as many as 25 private homes, currently we have six. To support the families these existing homes will be transferring to Wee Watch with no disruption to children and families. Parents and operators were given notice end of May.</p> <p>Brenda Blancher indicated she had attended an “Unconference Education Camp” This was a free flowing open conference for discussions. Attendees could attend any topic and participate in discussion, share ideas and reflection. Attendees were free to move between rooms.</p> <p>The school boards and CMSM are looking at doing this for Early Learning Child Care Staff in the fall on a Saturday</p> <p>No other reports at this time.</p> <p>Anca shared this was a very successful event. There were 759 people in attendance with 51% of attendees coming from the target area. There were very positive feedback from the community regarding space and activities.</p> <p>Next year’s fair will be April 23, 2016 from 9:00am until 1:00pm.</p> <p>Jane mentioned there may be funding to support the event though the Brant Community Foundation. Jane can help with the application process but another agency will need to apply.</p>	<p>Action: Brant Community Foundation Funding Application. Follow up at next meeting for an agency interested in doing this.</p>
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5.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>5.1 <u>Receive Information:</u> Randy & Susan Bassett, Opening Hearts</p>	<p>Usually due in November with the funding released by March.</p> <p>Kim welcomed Randy Basset from Opening Hearts. This is a non-profit organization that focuses on helping families with children with special needs. Some issues common to many families of children with special needs can include: Stress of hospitalizations, Caregiver burnout, Challenges with/for the siblings of the child with special needs</p> <p>The primary focus is to create awareness of the challenges of raising a child with special needs and create programs that support all members of the family.</p> <p>Opening Hearts is currently working on a video project tracking the progress of children and families through the years. They provide “Hope Totes” which are tote bags for families who are having extended stays at children’s hospitals. May contain gift cards for parking or good or toiletries.</p> <p>Also provide “Sibshops” for siblings of the sick child. These workshops are fun filled for 8 to 12 year olds where it is 75% fun and 25% encouragement. Children can open up and have a chance to express their feelings. The workshops are staffed by facilitators and volunteers.</p> <p>For more information please contact Randy Basset at www.openinghearts.ca.</p>	
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6.	<p>5.2 <u>Receive Information – CARE report, Melodie Spencer</u></p> <p>5.3 <u>Receive Information – Rita Stratford</u></p> <p>Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>6.1 Success Story</p> <p>6.2 Next Meeting</p>	<p>Rita Stratford mentioned that Lansdowne Children’s Centre also runs a sibshop which is facilitated by social workers.</p> <p>Jane suggested that maybe an article can be written on this program for the next magazine to keep parents informed of what is out there.</p> <p>Deb Eberth (OEYC: Brant) provided an update on Community of Action Research with Educators (The Care Project). They have received lots of positive feedback from community agencies who have taken the course so far.</p> <p>Rita Stratford shared that PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) training is available if agencies are interested in signing up for the two day course. There is a cost involved. Please call Rita for more details.</p> <p>Next regular BSN meeting, is Thursday September 10, 2015 and Tuesday October 6, 2015 will be a joint meeting with the Children’s and Youth Services committee with lunch provided, then November 1st and first Thursday of each month onward.</p>	
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