



**Best Start Network Meeting Minutes**  
**May 7, 2015 10:30 a.m.– 11:30 am**  
**at OEYC: Brant**

Present: Melodie Spencer, Kim Romano, Barb Mitchell, Jane Angus, Karen Calligan, Deanna Searle, Dale Kern, Connie McCallister, Kathryn Drury, Luisa Pappert (came in later), Cindy Landry (recorder)

Guest: Jennifer Huxley, Lansdowne Children's Centre and Sarah Robertson, Brant FACS

Regrets: Maria Timpener, Rita Stratford, Marg Barr, Sharon Brooks, Anca Gaston, Adele Gawley

Absent: Anabela Imbeault, RNFL, Kathy Dickens, Brenda Blancher

1.0 Success Story

Round table introduction.

Jane shared that it is Mental Health Week and a lot of activities are planned throughout the week.

There is a new website [hopemore.ca](http://hopemore.ca) which is developed for young people in BHN who want to access assistance or information about mental health and personal wellbeing.

In development is a mobile phone app, which will be available for youth hopefully in June.

2.0 Call to Order, Additions to the Agenda

The Minutes of April 2, 2015 were –

Did not meet quorum.

**ACTION:** Correction to April 2 minutes under 4.1.

Dale Kern (Mohawk College) added the ELECT document is mandatory for students and colleges integrate How Does Learning Happen? in all areas of the curriculum. If you "google" Think Feel Act, you can see the videos posted there.

When mentioned about HDLH – should say Mohawk College not all colleges. Should read as follows.

Dale Kern (Mohawk College) added the ELECT document is mandatory for students and Mohawk College integrates How Does Learning Happen? in all areas of the curriculum. If you "google" Think Feel Act, you can see the videos posted there.

3.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

3.1 Update information: RFLN - letter for financial support request, review request

We have sent procedures and forms and we have not heard back from them. If they want funding then they will need to complete the forms and submit.

3.2 Receive: Kim, report for planning dollars expenditures

Kim submitted the Best Start Planning report and reviewed.

Question: around impact of the magazine.

Answer: There is a survey regarding what do you think of the Best Start Magazine? There was not a great response from the first survey so we are running again and it is posted on the back of the magazine. If people complete the survey they have a chance to win a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card. Please promote to families to take the 5 minute survey. [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BestStartMagazine](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BestStartMagazine)

We also receive responses and feedback from our Information and Job fair from our community agencies. The planning dollars also support how we have changed from Raising The Bar to Fostering Brants Growth.

Any verbal comments we are receiving from the Best Start Fair we are sending to Anca.

## 4.0 Best Start Updates

### 4.1 Service Update, Receive Report:

There was a meeting on April 13 with the operators. We have had a lot of questions and if we did not know the answer, we are following up with the Ministry. We have met our legislation.

Q&A are approved to post and put on the City of Brantford Child Care Services website. If you have any questions please direct them to the website.

Karen commented that she visited the website and was impressed that it was very inviting, user friendly, including memos and correspondences. It shows that Brantford is really supporting the child care community.

Summer Camps – starting registration and a lot of requests. This year is probably the highest number of school age children that child care services has seen There are new programs at B&G Club in the age group that is needed.

Planning this year -This year we had a working group to review the planning requests. We had no different agencies apply for support. All applications were reviewed and allotted amounts. Noted that there are extra expenses for Parent Fair and Storage Units. Consideration will have to be given again for the Parent fair next year as we will require more funding again for the arena floor.

### 4.2 Subcommittee Reports: Receive information:

#### **Aboriginal Advisory Committee**

Circulated our plan amongst the members. Need to submit by the end of May. Looking at supporting BS Magazine, Parent Fair and Information Sessions. It's about providing information to how to support families and now doing frontline with operators. We may have sessions at the OEYC: Brant and the online learning is almost ready to launch.

#### **SIC Committee, Best Start Magazine**

June – looking for articles. Feel free to submit and always welcome feedback.

#### **Best Start Parent Fair**

Verbal – over 761 people in attendance.

Cathy has report.- from Melanie

Consider applying to City of Brantford Foundation Grant or United Way Community Impact Fund. The cost to rent the Civic Centre is higher.

#### **Child Care Advisory Committee**

The CCAC is getting back together, led by Luisa Pappert from Wee Watch and Tara McPhee from A Child's Paradise Too.

Reviewed the letter of response to the proposed regulatory changes.

A couple of suggestions were made and handed to Luisa to fix.

Motion to accept with changes by Jane Angus

Second by: Dale Kern

All in favour – CARRIED

**Recruitment and Retention Committee**  
**No new reports.**

5.0 New Business

5.1 Receive Information:

May 1, 2015 George Zegarac, Deputy Minister - Community Hubs, Regarding Framework.  
Kim read letter re: Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group.

**Copy attached to minutes.**

The OEYC is drafting a response but it was suggested that we get a subgroup together to submit a response for our community and as a BSN.

Include presentation from Ginnette.

This is a broader provincial strategy – target focus approach to look at community assets. How to support people and bring voices of citizens? Gathering data together.

**ACTION:** Send out invitation to sit on working group –  
Melodie, Marg (Sarah), Connie expressed an interest. Kim will check with Tom Hodgson (Major B Hub) and Barb will check with GEDSB.

Question regarding whether we should have a strong focus on the early years? Suggest that a strong focus on Early Years makes sense, but having how it will fit in the broader community and make that connection is strategic planning (health communities and neighbourhoods).

**ACTION:** Melodie will send out a doodle link.

6.0 Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting

6.1 Success Story

Deanna shared a success story about the Boys and Girls Club.

Summer – 4 levels of leader development. Presidents Choice Charity gave a sizable donation for spiral herb gardens. Level 3 leaders and youth will be responsible for this. Working with the cook to implement herbs into the menu. The leaders are required to go out and do the shopping, read labels, get their Food Handlers. Youth are working with preschools, working with day cares, working with cooks. It is full circle, unique and strong, bringing in so many age groups. BGC is very excited that everyone in the agency is working together.

6.2 Next meeting date is June 4, 2015 starting at 9:30 a.m. – Melodie to do a presentation regarding CARE Project.