



**Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2014
9:30am until 11:30am.
OEYC: Brant**

Present: Melodie Spencer, Maria Timpener, Rita Stratford, Jane Angus, Debbie Carson for Brenda Blancher, Adele Gawley, Barb Mitchell, Anca Gaston, Christina Rajsic, Karen Calligan, Connie McCallister, Marie Jose Baril, Luisa Pappert, Paula Thomlison, Cathy Medway (recorder)

Regrets: Jo Atanas, Kim Romano, Kathy Dickens, Aaron Wallace, Shelley McCarthy, Marg Barr

Guest: Japneet Sidhu, Financial Analyst, EDU

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1.0	Success story –	<p>Melodie on behalf of Kim Romano shared a success regarding a student from W Ross MacDonald School who is currently completing a placement at Beryl Angus Municipal Children’s Centre. Gen lost her sight at the age of fourteen. The student is a member of the National Goal Ball Team and introduced this game to the preschoolers. Children wore blindfolds and had to find a ball which had bells in the centre of it by using their other senses. Everyone had fun. The student also wants to introduce braille books and blind sticks to the children as well. This interaction is a prime example of “How Does Learning Happen?”</p> <p>Paula Thomlison shared a success story where the community was asked to share in a skate exchange and the program was so successful it is now in its third year.</p> <p>Paula also shared that this year the library held a Halloween costume exchange.</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 September 4, 2014</p>	<p>It was so successful that 63 costumes were donated. One parent was very grateful as she had no extra money to buy a costume for her daughter but thanks to the generosity of others her daughter wore a fairy costume trick or treating this year.</p> <p>Melodie welcomed the group to the meeting.</p> <p>There were two additions to the agenda. 5.5 Special Needs Resourcing – Rita & Jane 5.6 Video Exchange</p>	<p>THE MINUTES OF THE September 4, 2014 meeting was approved</p> <p>Moved by Jane Angus</p> <p>Seconded by Maria Timpener</p> <p>Carried</p>
3.0	<p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p><u>3.1 Review and Discuss:</u> Strategic Plan</p>	<p>The strategic plan was reviewed. It was discussed that keeping existing connections and making new connections is very important to the success of the Network and Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Some extended ideas to connect the plan to Pedagogical Documentation including collaborative study on how we study, think and work together. We need to capture the accessible path to services. Consider asking the SIC committee to create a video showing pieces of programs, parents speaking, voices from the field, voices from children and connecting this back to the strategic plan to make it meaningful and post on best start website.</p> <p>Kim and Melodie will meet again to finalize the document so please send your reflections, success stories and ideas to them.</p> <p>Discussion following that Paul Johnson, Director of Neighborhood Development, City of Hamilton, may be able to share some insights about the photo voice project that was done in Hamilton.</p>	

	<p>3.2 <u>Review</u>: Joint Children's Services Meeting</p>	<p>It was discussed that the Child Care Advisory Committee is a subcommittee of the BS Network and can report to the Network. Currently the committee is co chaired by Luisa Pappert and Tara McPhee at A Child's Paradise Too.</p> <p>The Supervisor's Network is a stand alone network. Discussion followed that it could be linked to the BSN to be more systematic in our planning. Consider having a representative sit at the table.</p> <p>Adele is the contact for the best start network orientation committee. She welcomes anyone interested in joining her committee. Adele sends out a very thorough document to new members which was created with Sue Norden and Doreen Dekker before they retired.</p> <p>Dale Kern is our new representative from Mohawk College.</p> <p>Japneet Sidhu, Financial Analyst with the Ministry of Education attended the meeting today to learn more about the work of the Brantford Best Start Network. .</p> <p>With Japneet's arrival introductions were made round the table.</p> <p>Next joint meeting will be January 8, 2015 at OEYC: Brant. Anca will provide mapping profiles by neighborhoods with an overlay of EDI scores.</p> <p>Aaron Wallace will be asked to present Update on Neighborhood Hubs and Healthy Kids Initiative as well as any existing programs.</p> <p>Anca has new maps for the website. It was suggested that</p>	<p>Action: Cathy will forward Dale Kern's (Mohawk College) email address to Adele</p> <p>Action Item: Aaron Wallace will be asked to present Update on Neighborhood Hubs and existing programs.</p>
--	---	---	---

4.0	<p>Best Start Updates</p> <p>4.1 <u>Service Update: Receive Report:</u></p>	<p>maybe new maps could be included as a pop for quick references to web site visitors.</p> <p>Melodie reported on behalf of Kim as she is in Kitchener on a working group for ONELIST. Currently the working group is looking at ways to use the system more and to teach operators how to accurately use the system. Many operators are removing family from waitlist instead of placing them in the programs so numbers on waitlist are very low. We are looking at hosting online training for our operators.</p> <p>Child Care Newsletter has gone out to all child care centres and best start network. Included were highlights around our forms and appendices making them easier for operators to interpret. Hoping to use OCCMS (Ontario Child Care Management System) to input expenses such as health & safety and capacity dollars etc.</p> <p>OMSSA Children's Services network meeting highlights: Modernization paper is in second reading Regulation 262 Amendment to the DNA, there were over 500 submissions, EDU currently reviewing Wage Enhancements for ECE and will be enrolled in the Guidelines and our provincial contract effective January 1, 2015.</p> <p>Ministry is currently reviewing eligibility-scope. The policy intent is to close the gap between licensed child care sector and the school board sector. EDU was able to share that there will be a bench mark, programs that are paid above the bench mark will not be eligible for increases.</p> <p>Many programs have requested per diem increases for their programs for January 1st. We will be reviewing them and signing contracts with our operators, Special Needs resourcing agency and resource programs in the month of</p>	<p>Action: Anca send updated maps to Cathy for website</p> <p>Here is the link regarding Bill 10 status and debates</p> <p>http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=3002</p>
-----	---	---	--

	<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>December.</p> <p>We have many new city council members so Kim has been actively involved in providing them information regarding child care services and the good things that happen in child care.</p> <p>In December we are going to council for approval of the RFP for our community room/child care room for the Laurier build. It will be one room that is built for future growth and will be the size of a children's room.</p> <p>A Best Start Parent Fair committee report was sent out prior to the Network meeting for members to review.</p> <p>Melodie reported on behalf of Kim Romano. Recruitment and Retention is busy planning the next job/education fair on January 29 from 5 to 7pm at OEYC. The group has reviewed their goals and looking at revising some for 2014. In addition to recruiting staff, we need to continue to look at ways to retain staff to avoid burnout.</p> <p>A goal is to invite guidance counsellors back and provide them with more information on ECE as a career choice and then also visit the schools if needed. Discussion also followed around having an ECE day when they have bring your child to work day so see what the ECE field offers.</p> <p>The Best Start Magazine Fall edition is out please remember to pick up your copies. More copies are available if you need them you can contact OEYC or Cathy Medway at Child Care Services.</p> <p>No other subcommittee reports have been submitted.The</p>	<p>Action: Attach goals to minutes here.(Kim)</p>
--	--	--	--

5.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>5.1 <u>Sharing Information:</u> Let's Start the Conversation – September 26, 2014 – overview of the day</p>	<p>community forum was very successful with 88 people registered for the day long event. Feedback on the day was excellent and there was lots of good discussion. There was a recommendation for more ECE to participate including licensed home care providers.</p> <p>Reflection booklets were discussed where partners can reflect what we have changed, how we are moving forward and what don't we want to do next time. Everyone one would like continuous professional learning.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the need to rethink terminology and how we refer to each other in our profession. There is a notable difference of respect in the classrooms. For instance while in the classroom a student would refer to a teacher/ECE with a title or proper name. And in the before and after school programs they will refer to staff as Miss and use first name. Often ECEs are referred to as front line workers but teachers are not called front line teachers.</p> <p>There is inequality among teams and everyone needs to have conversations to help make these changes without judgments.</p> <p>FDK is now referred to as "Kindergarten" as all kindergarten programs (JK and SK) are now full day every day.</p> <p>GEDSB and BHCNDSB are aware of educator teams and are working towards closing the gaps between teachers and ECEs.</p> <p>Congratulations to Debbie Carson who is retiring in December. The network would like to thank her for her support and dedication throughout the years.</p>	
-----	--	---	--

	<p>5.2 <u>Receive Information:</u> Recruitment and Retention Survey Report</p> <p>5.3 <u>Discussion:</u> Early development Instrument (EDI) for 2015</p> <p>5.4 <u>Receive Information:</u> Nipissing Research Project</p>	<p>Anca reviewed recruitment and retention staff survey results. Generally the comments were very positive. Parts of the survey show how ECEs recognize the importance of professional learning and on the practices of ECEs.</p> <p>ECEs need to be validated, not praised on the work they do. They need to have their work recognized.</p> <p>The survey will be posted on the website as well</p> <p>Anca's role as DAC (Data Analysis Coordinator) is under EDU as of April 2014. EDI runs on a three year cycle. Last EDI was completed in 2012 so it will be completed in February and March 2015.</p> <p>KPS (Kindergarten Parent Survey) is on hold, EDU is looking at it critically. They feel that the voluntary response rate of parents is too low, however in Brantford the response rate was 70%.</p> <p>Maria Cantalini Williams on behalf of Nipissing University has partnered with Network in Action Research.</p> <p>Nipissing Research project is a project where partners will engage in reflective thinking...that is ask a question, observe, reflect, then take action. Also known as CARE (Community of Action Research with Educators)</p> <p>They are currently developing proposal questions looking at community champions to measure whether professional learning has impact on learning. This research will emulate the research of a Mohawk College ECE Professor which looks at the practice of ECE connecting theory to practice.</p>	<p>Action: Attach Executive Summary from Anca</p>
--	--	--	--

	<p>5.5 <u>Receive Information: Special Needs Resourcing</u></p>	<p>Rita Stratford and Jane Angus report. Contact Brant and Lansdowne Children’s Centre have partnered with Haldimand Norfolk, CCAC and school boards at a common table. There will be separate proposals but key stakeholders are expected to be part of the discussion and collaboration.</p> <p>The challenge is to look at an integrated plan with coordinated services and try to create a seamless entry system for parents and families. One waitlist from age zero to school exit. It has been identified that we need to coordinate multiple services, make sure there is not conflicting eligibility and identify families challenges. We want families to avoid having multiple intakes, lengthy waitlist and avoid telling their story many times.</p> <p>There are multi ministries involved in the Ontario Special Needs Strategy including MCYS, EDU, Ministry of Health, LTC and Community and Social Services . MCYS is the lead Ministry for this initiative.</p> <p>The goal of discussions is to put the child and family at the centre of discussion.</p> <p>They will be meeting again in March and June.</p>	<p>http://specialneedsstrategy.children.gov.on.ca</p>
6.	<p><u>5.6 Video Exchange</u></p> <p>Adjournment & Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>6.1 Success Story</p> <p>6.2 Next Meeting</p>	<p>Club G – you tube video - Ges is an autistic child who became involved in a buddy system where he is befriended by his classmates to ensure that he never played alone.</p> <p>Next meeting January 8, 2015 will be a Best Start Network Meeting first followed by joint children’s services committee meeting at OEYC.</p>	<p>Next meeting January 8, 2015 at OEYC 10:30am until 11:30am followed by lunch and Joint Children’s Services Committee meeting.</p> <p>Lunch will be provided.</p>