




**Best Start Network
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2015
9:30am until 11:30am.
OEYC: Brant**



Present: Melodie Spencer, Maria Timpener, Barb Mitchell, Anca Gaston, Karen Calligan, Connie McAllister, Deanna Searle, Kim Romano, Adele Gawley, Marg Barr, Patrice Kean, Cathy Medway (recorder)


Regrets: Dale Kern. Luisa Pappert, Tracey Thomas, Jane Angus, Shelley McCarthy, , Luisa Pappert

Guests: Jennifer Huxley (for Rita Stratford) Leigh Savage (BFACS)

| | Agenda Item | Discussion/Decision | Action |
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| 1.0 | Success Story/Lessons Learned | <p>The Best Start Network is beginning a new format where we can discuss success stories and lessons learned and the start of each meeting.</p> <p>It was shared that we need to nurture resilience in ourselves and our children to help overcome adversity.</p> <p>Looking for positive possibilities will be good for health & collective wellbeing in ourselves and in our working groups/teams/community.</p> <p>Best start members have attended community forums where networking is taking place across the region and everyone is being called to action to enhance personal reflection, share experiences and strengthen each other.</p> | |

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| <p>2.0</p> | <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 October 6, 2015</p> <p>6.1 <u>Receive Information:</u> Diversity & Inclusion – Community Call to Action, Leigh Savage BFACS</p> | <p>Kim Romano welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>No additions to the agenda, Leigh Savages presentation moved from 6.1 to 3.1</p> <p>Leigh Savage is a Community Development coordinator with the Brant Family and Children’s Services who is leading the Community Call to Action for Diversity and Inclusion.</p> <p>Leigh presents to the Network today as a result of recently having many challenging and difficult conversations regarding racism, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging within our community.</p> <p>Leigh is asking community members, social service agencies and businesses to join in a discussion about how we can collectively create communities where everyone is celebrated and included. Everyone who lives in Brantford/Brant deserves to feel like they belong and it is time to think about long term, sustainable, systemic change.</p> <p>If interested, Leigh invites you to join her on <u>Tuesday December 1st at 9am</u> at the Arthur Binkley Family Resource Center located at 14 Henry Street. Please RSVP directly to Leigh at 519-753-8681 ext.438 Leigh.savage@brantfacs.ca.</p> <p>If you’re interested but not able to attend Leigh will send minutes your way and keep you in the loop.</p> <p>TOR Has been approved at previous meeting. Please</p> | <p>Minutes were approved by Maria Timpener, seconded by Deanna Searle,</p> <p>All in favour: CARRIED</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>call to action - leigh savage bfacs.docx</p> </div> |
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| <p>3.0</p> <p>4.0</p> | <p>Business arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>3.1 <u>Receive Information:</u> Child Care Advisory Committee – TOR - revised</p> <p>Best Start Updates</p> <p>4.1 <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>remove watermarks and resend to network. Thank you Luisa and Tara</p> <p>Aboriginal Committee has not yet met. Tracey Thomas is new representative.</p> <p>Journey of Life poster was revised to reflect that there are five separate sessions. You can attend one or you can attend all. Thank you to Tracey Thomas and Cyerra Martin. Barb Mitchell attended the November 4th session and reports it was a very positive experience.</p> <p>OEYC is working on Aboriginal resource packages using an aboriginal supplier “Good Minds” and “Iroquois Crafts” Woodlands Cultural Centre is having a craft sale this weekend.</p> <p>SIC report was sent electronically prior to meeting.</p> <p>Best Start Magazine has been distributed. Reminder to programs to pick up your copies at OEYC.</p> <p>Best Start Parent Fair. Melanie Mears and Erica DiFederico (co-chairs) are preparing the draft application for funding for a grant to cover the cost of the ice space at the Civic Centre</p> <p>Parent Fair survey from April 2015 has been posted on the Best Start Website at www.ourbeststart4brant. Child Care Advisory Committee (CCAC) sent their report electronically prior to meeting and have revised their TOR.</p> <p>Recruitment and Retention, working on the job fair, it has been a challenge setting the date. Based on information they have there is no real shortage of ECEs in the city however outskirts of city (Burford) are facing</p> | <p>Action: Attach revised TOR for CCAC and send out electronically to membership</p> <p> Terms of Reference CCAC 2015.pdf</p> <p> journey of life 2 .pdf</p> |
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| 5.0 | 5.1 <u>Receive Information</u> : Current and Future Planning | <p>challenges. Finding ECEs for before and after school programs has presented a challenge.</p> <p>Karen Calligan reports that the school-based before and after school programs in Waterloo Region are booming. The CMSM and school boards partnered with Conestoga college recreation leadership program to develop a youth development curriculum for 8-12 year olds. This program is licensed and operated by community organizations. Karen has offered that Ministry of Education support is always available.</p> <p>Marie Josee Baril and Franklin Leukam are representing at the Best Start Network table and we have been advised that Joanne Dupres will be attending the Strategic Planning Day in February 2016.</p> <p>Karen will touch base with Regional French Language Network (RFLN) for any new updates.</p> <p>New standing item. Jen Kirkham has been secured for the strategic planning day. Save the date was sent out for February 4, 2016 See above Report</p> <p>As discussed in sub committee reports 4.1</p> <p>Jennifer Stewart, new program advisor, is very busy and under a lot of pressure due to roll out of the first tier of the CCEYA Child Care Centres were asked to create program statements which support policies, practices, professional learning, children's learning and what is meaningful to children, families and staff.</p> |  <p>SAVE THE DATE. 2015.docx</p> |
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| 6.0 | <p>New Business</p> <p>6.1 <u>Receive Information:</u> Diversity & Inclusion – Community Call to Action, Leigh Savage BFACS</p> <p>6.2 <u>Receive Information:</u> Aboriginal training and funding</p> <p>6.3 <u>Updates</u> Child Care Early Years Act (CCEYA)</p> | <p>Licensees (formerly known as operators) whose licenses expire between now and March 2016 were invited on October 7th to London to discuss new licensing directives/information. There were lots of questions and the session was very informative.</p> <p>Ministry of Education now has a new “Enforcement Unit” due to recent issues in unlicensed private homes.</p> <p>Expect tier two for the CCEYA to roll out early in the new year. We can expect new postings on regulatory website regarding ratios, and changes in the roles of CMSMs.</p> <p>Karen feels the BSN Brant is well positioned to work with potential provincial frameworks for Best Start Child and Family Centres/Community Hubs given the work that has been done to integrate child care spaces and family support programs (hubs) within schools and other parts of the community where families reside.</p> <p>Once the proposed regulations for the second tier of the CCEYA is posted on the Ontario Regulatory website, the public will have 45 days to respond with comments.</p> <p>It was suggested that feedback may best be discussed at the Supervisors Network to provide a collective response to the proposed regulations.</p> <p>The CCEYA has gone to print. Karen will update us on how we can get copies, may be through Edu website.</p> <p>E modules are being developed by the Ministry and will be available to help programs develop their program statements.</p> | |
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| | | <p>Wage Enhancement Grant (WEG) forms for 2016 are expected to be released and posted to the City's website by January 1st.</p> <p>Attestation forms will be going out to programs. This is where the programs show how they spent WEG.</p> <p>Currently there is no waitlist for child care. Families may choose to remain on W/L if they are requesting specific programs.</p> <p>Factors affecting lack of a waitlist is due to the creation of JK/SK spaces in school boards and one billion dollars in funding for licensed child care spaces. Anca reports that the census reports support the population's growing need for access to child care.</p> <p>Kim shared chart which shows the steady increase of child care spaces from 2005 to 2015. Chart is attached.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding spaces for special needs children. It is important that these children are provided with the supports they need to be successful.</p> <p>Jennifer Huxley suggested that transition planning for some children two or three years before entering JK/SK could be helpful.</p> <p>The annual ECE Banquet is tonight. Tonight we celebrate Early Childhood Educators.</p> <p>Kim shared that she attended the Child Care After Hours tour put on by the CCAC. The tour was well attended and there was lots of positive interaction, sharing of ideas, learning and networking within the group. The tour visited Montessori Children's Academy, A Child's Paradise Too</p> | |
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