

**Minutes**  
**Best Start Working Group**  
**November 14, 2013**  
**9:30 a.m. to noon**

**Lanark County Administration Building/Council Chambers**

*All children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. There is increased accessibility for all children 0-6 and all families; parents have access to supportive resources which aim to increase parenting capacity. There is a seamless system of services; there is increased coordination of services and service integration. Families are provided with options for supports. The initiative is driven by community need, evidence-based research and best practices.*

Website: [www.lanarkkids.ca](http://www.lanarkkids.ca) or [www.lanarkkids.com](http://www.lanarkkids.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lanarkkids>

Twitter: [@lanarkkids](https://twitter.com/lanarkkids) <https://twitter.com/lanarkkids>

Present: Nathalie Daoust, Jacquie Leach, Emily Cassell, Karen Moore, Jane Torrance, Mary Lou White, Beverly Toderian, Rachel Warren, Judi Kaiser, Alexis Green, Tom Jordan, Penny Pitcher

Regrets: Margaret Van Beer, Kelli Cassidy

**Approval of Minutes –**

Correction: Marked Audrey VanSickle as present on October's minutes but was absent

**Approval of Agenda –**

The agenda was approved as written.

1. CASE STUDY – no issues at this time
2. Early Learning Program (Min of EDU/CMSMs)
  - CMSM and EDU met on Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>. – They presented the group with Think Feel Act – Lessons from Research about Young Children. This resource can be located on the Ministry of Education website along with a number of other helpful resources
  - Mary Lou showed one of the video that that is on the website on brain development which compliments the document Think, Feel, Act
  - There will be a new web based new licensing system to be launched in December, to make licensing and reporting easier, accessible and centralized.
  - EDI funding and DAC are currently in the process of being transferred to the Ministry of Education with OEYC moving over from MCYS next year.

- School Boards and CMSMs will be collaborating on some professional development projects, they will be including off site child care programs

### 3. Aboriginal Initiatives

- Update: Jane has attached resources from our previous meeting to our LanarkKids website.
- Had a presentation at last meeting from the CDSBEO, unfortunately the UCDSB cannot attend our meetings due to a conflict on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Jane noted that we hope to have an event in 2014 focused on our Aboriginal communities
- In the interest of information sharing Tom is going to double check with the school board to see if they can link our lanarkkids website to the school boards, as we have a number of resources noted and families could also have access to the community services through the board website link. Mary Lou is going to bring the information to the Welcome to Kindergarten working group to see how they can share the information as well.

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### 4. Service Integration – nothing to report

### 5. Website update- Jane

- The information is staying up-to-date and thank-you to everyone for sending information and next the focus will be on the calendar.

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### 6. Innovation Fund – Jane

- Parent Engagement Project (PEP)
- Jane showed the results from the 2 minute exercise from October's meeting on the meaning of Parent Engagement which identified a number of perspectives and interpretations of what parent engagement means.
- Hired a consultant (Theresa Dosteler) – she was consultant for the Centre of Excellence and she is well known in the community.
- Registration will be coming out next week for a Parent Engagement Symposium to be held January 15, 2014 in Frankville, in case of snow alternate date will be January 22, 2014
- Focus: Definition of Parent Engagement
- There is a limit of approx.40 people.
- If you cannot attend either of those dates there will also be a meeting in Kingston on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>.

### 7. Committee Reports

- Early Years Partners(ELP) Committee
  - We will be starting to book the dates for WTK nights.
  - Ensure communities were not all on the same night.
- 18 Month Enhanced Well Baby Visit Committee – Alexis Green
  - Tanis Brown will be taking over for Jamie Ferguson while she goes on Maternity leave.

- Unconditional Grant Committee – next meeting Dec 4<sup>th</sup>
- Child Care Providers – Jacquie
  - The child care conference was well received with approx. 135 in attendance.
  - Jacquie had an opportunity to hear Craig Alexander speak on the economic benefits of child care, suggested in may be an opportunity to enlighten communities given next year is an election year. He was very clear about the large returns on the investment of child care
  - County Approved Funding for Transformation, Health and Safety, Capital Retrofits and Mitigation Funding.
  - 120 families on the currently on waitlist
- Lanark Children's Librarians – update
  - Perth – New newsletter is available both in print and online.
  - PA Day Movie on DEC 20 –
  - Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Family Game Night (Saturday)
  - Friends of Library – Bake Sale
  - Information on Newsletter
  - Baby Time and Story Time are full started again in November.
  - If you know someone that requires computer help it is available at the library.
- Service Integration (Joint with Planning Council)
  - Looking to move forward with the community plan but at this time will be providing information to the Ministry on the Deliverables as per their request
  - The committee is going to focus more on data day in spring (March 6<sup>th</sup>) and apply for grant for an innovation fund.
- Regional French Language Network
  - The French Language Coordinator will be attending December's meeting.
- Special Needs Reference Group
  - The group met a few weeks ago.
  - Margret is no longer the chair but Karen Moore has taken her place.
  - The next meeting will be in February/March with the focus on serving children with FASD.
  - Karen will be attending a training session in Ottawa next week.

8. Healthy Babies, Healthy Children –nothing to report

9. Planning Council - update-Jane- attached

- Key Messages – will be sent out following the meeting
10. Community Issues – nothing to report
11. School Board –  
UCDSB- Judi – Nothing to report  
CDSBEO-Tom
- i. Process of development an phone APP called “EMPOWER” set to launch Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - a) The app will be used as another tool to help gather parental input/ engagement. It will feature a safe schools button (students can report anonymously) and a good news button
    - b) Tom noted that the UCDSB is considered something as well
  - ii. The school board has signed on with Mood Disorders Society of Canada, supporting the Blue Elephant-Anti-Stigma Campaign
12. Ministry of Education – no report.
13. Ministry of Children and Youth Services – no report
14. Other Business – no report
15. Brief Info sharing/Announcements
- Karen:
    - In process of 2<sup>nd</sup> stage interviews for the Parent Engagement position. Hopefully they will have a person in place soon.
    - There is also a casual drop in at Family Health Team in Almonte Nov 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm for those interested in networking with other individuals involved with early learning.
  - Penny identified some concerns with service gaps in Lanark County, there are some pockets in Lanark where there is no service and confusion as to who provides service for OT and PT, Ottawa CTC or Hotel Dieu and the boundaries for service. Penny will get a group together to discuss options and bring it to Planning Council next year.

**NOTE: Next Meeting – December 12, 2013 @ 9:00 (Breakfast) RSVP**  
**9:30-12 Meeting**  
**Lanark County Admin Bldg/Council Chambers**

**Agenda items to be forwarded to Casey Munro**  
**[munroc@lanarkcounty.ca](mailto:munroc@lanarkcounty.ca) or at 613-267-4200 x2302**