

**Minutes**  
**Best Start Working Group**  
**December 12, 2013**  
**9:00 am (Breakfast)**  
**9:30 - Noon- meeting**  
**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: Hinda Goldberg, Jacquie Leach, Leah Fournier, Margaret Van Beer, Karen Moore, Rachel Warren, Sheena Dunham, Mary Lou White, Angele Blaskie, Judi Kaiser, Penny Pitcher, Kathy Boelsma, Sue Cavanagh

Regrets: Cindy Goodfellow, Rachelle Blanchette, Nathalie Daoust, Jane Torrance, Bev Toderian, Tom Jordan, Debra Keuhl, Alexis Green, Emily Cassell; Audrey Vansickle

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were approved as written

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved as written

1. Think, Feel, Act- Lessons from Research about Young Children- video
  - Mary Lou showed a quick 5 minute video from the Ministry of Education website.
    - i. Self-Regulation – Impacts of Stress
  - The video was well received and going forward we will show a different video from this series at the beginning of each meeting.
2. Promotion/Key Messages – Reminder that the Parent Engagement Symposium (located in Frankville) is scheduled on Jan 15, 2014. The snow day is scheduled for January Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration closes Friday.
3. CASE STUDY – nothing to bring forward..
4. Early Learning Program (Min of EDU/CMSMs) –no report
5. Aboriginal Initiatives -
  - Kathy –Would like to work towards better embedding aboriginal initiative available at WTK nights. One idea would be to have a separate brochure at the table. She will bring this forward at the next Transition to School meeting.

- The Catholic Board will be creating a link from their website to the Lanark Kids website.

6. Service Integration

- Tumbling Together is showing some great integration with multiple programs coming together. (Language Express, Infant Child Development, Connections and LEAP)

7. Website update – no update at this time.

8. Innovation Fund – no update

9. Committee Reports

Early Years Partners(ELP) Committee

- Meeting January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Transitions to School- WTK Evaluation- Kathy B

- The WTK Report is attached
- Kathy is currently confirming this year's dates with the schools and will bring the schedule to January's meeting.
- Going Forward Best Start will be its own station at each school
- Kathy to send out the current resources to Casey who will forward them out to the group.

18 Month Enhanced Well Baby Visit Committee – Tanis Brown

- no report

Unconditional Grant Committee

- Karen Moore brought forward some of the discussions surrounding the criteria and approval process for the Unconditional Grant.
- There will be a \$30,000 max funding for each project.
- There will be an initial call for proposals and all submissions that meet the criteria will be entered into a lottery. Proposals will be pulled randomly until either the \$200,000 is spent or all proposals are accepted.
- If the application does not meet the set criteria then those involved would have a chance to explain/ expand on the application so it can meet criteria.
- The group confirming that an application meets the criteria would involve County Staff and members of the Unconditional Grant Working Group. The County is responsible to ensure the funding is spent appropriately. Also, some members of the Unconditional Grant may be part of an application.
- Karen posed the following questions to the group,

- 1) Criteria – does the group want just new, or new/ enhanced
  - 2) Feedback on proposed decision/ approval process Please send any feedback to Hinda by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January.
- The Unconditional Grant Working Group, based on feedback from today's meeting and any further feedback received by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, will bring back either a draft application for approval or further ideas/ recommendations for discussion to January's Meeting.
  - All meeting notes, draft criteria, etc will be sent out to the Best Start Working Group so all members can further reflect and send their feedback by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January .

#### Child Care Providers – Jacquie

- A new licensing system was introduced from the Ministry called CCLS.
- The Carleton Place Mayor is speaking with other municipalities to get together and speak at the Good Roads Conference.
- RECE Linda McGill from Carleton Place Children's Services received Prime Ministers award, and is being recognized as a community hero in Carleton Place..
- Best Start will send a card. of congratulations. Mary Lou and Hinda to do this.
- In the coming future the Day Nurseries Act will be replaced with the Child Care Modernization
- Children are now going to be provided with an education/ student number once they enter a program (playgroup, childcare) not just school.

#### Lanark Children's Librarians – Rachel Warren.

- Heidi – 2 story time session on Wednesday. Need to register - Carleton Place Library
- Baby time to start up again Jan 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Perth – Had a bake sale to raise funds.
  - Family story time will happen on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Baby time and Story time will start up again in the New Year.
  - Create festival media arts had 40 kids attend.
  - Elizabeth received a grant for a digital lab. Currently just for teens from Grade 7up. Maria Caswell is new head librarian at CP

#### Service Integration (Joint with Planning Council)- Hinda

- Putting together a set of questions to help plan and populate the data day and move us forward on the development of the community plan
- January's Planning Council meeting will be discussing this further

Regional French Language Network - Angele Blaskie-

- Morgane Navarot- Regional French Language Coordinator – Could not make it and will come at a later time to present to the group.

Special Needs Reference Group – Karen Moore

- Meet again in Feb. - March

10. Healthy Babies, Healthy Children – Alexis Green – no report

11. Planning Council – Hinda

- Planning council had a presentation on 211.
- Reminder Data Day: April 3<sup>rd</sup>

12. Community Issues

- 1) Regional MCYS clumped from Oshawa North
- Community Issues will draft a letter (for Planning Council to send) to keep regional offices and meetings, as issues are not the same across the new larger region
- Sue – what is the capacity of emergency rooms in Lanark County? What is available to those in the County? Suggested this might be a good presentation or include this with the health focused at LCPC meeting
- Kathy – suggest that this presentation also include Mental Health services available

13. School Board

- Judi – PDCI will be under renovations during the summer
- Leah: - Multiple elementary schools are going to be under renovations during the summer. She is meeting with facilities in January and will exclude those schools from the booking system.

14. Ministry of Education:

- No report

15. Ministry of Children and Youth Services:

- New Director: Dave Remington

16. Other Business

17. Brief Info sharing/Announcements.

- Sue – would like to do a survey to the network on parent education in the new year. Kathy – would like to send out a survey on what training Best Start members/ organizations could provide as part of Raising the Bar.
- Forming a literacy council to develop plans for each neighbourhood.

18. Key Messages from Meeting

- 1) Unconditional Grant discussion and Feedback
- 2) WTK report and plan
- 3) Discussion on new childcare legislation
- 4) Data Day on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 5) Do not forget to register for Parent Engagement Symposium

**NOTE: Next Meeting – January 16, 2014 @ 9:30- 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**