

Minutes
Best Start Working Group
January 16, 2014
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 or www.lanarkkids.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lanarkkids/>
Twitter: @lanarkkids <https://twitter.com/lanarkkids>

Present: Kathy Boelsma, Emily Cassell, Leah Fournier, Jane Torrance, Alexis Green, Angele Blaskie, Bev Toderian, Mary Lou White, Penny Pitcher, Rachel Warren, Margaret Van Beer, Tom Jordan, Audrey Vansickle, Sue Cavanagh

Regrets: Jacquie Leach, Hinda Goldberg, Karen Moore, Rachelle Blanchette, Nathalie Daoust, Judi Kaiser

Approval of Minutes:

- Addition of Audrey Vansickle to the regrets list from December meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved as written

1. Think, Feel, Act- Lessons from Research about Young Children- video
 - Mary Lou showed a 5 minute video on Parent Engagement – How to encourage it.
2. Early Learning Program (Min of EDU/CMSMs)
 - next meeting March 4, 2014
3. Aboriginal Initiatives
 - January 30 – UCDSB Aboriginal Awareness Workshop for Community Partners from 12 -3 pm at the North Grenville Community Complex – Registration is still open.
4. Service Integration
 - CDSBEO has launched the new EMPOWER app in January
 - Tom or Leah to do a presentation at the next meeting
5. Website update-
 - There are still some technical issues being work out with importing PDF's and calendar but general feedback from the network has been positive.

- Jane will be looking at adding a brief description under each of the links in the partners section
- You can sign up to receive the blogs by entering your address on the right hand side of the home page.
- Tom was able to confirm that CDSBEO could add the link to their website for Lanark Kids

6. Innovation Fund – Jane

- There were 2 successful symposium workshops in Frankville and Kingston this month. With a follow up meeting to be held on January 28th. At this meeting the goal is to come up with the working definition of Parent Engagement.
- Jane is looking for more people to sign up from Lanark County. Please contact her for details.

7. Committee Reports

- Early Learning Partners(ELP) Committee-
 - School Boards have completed their Retro Capital submissions
 - Lots of conversation surrounding Professional development
 - School board want to include on site/ off site ECE's in the professional development training
 - Developed a sub committee
 - Working on building a team to tear down some barriers between the school board and child care.
 - Meet again on February 5th.
 - Committee has changed its name from FDK to Early Learning Partners Committee, more reflective of what they are doing

Sub-committee: Transitions to School Committee-

- Kathy showed an example of the WTK table with the banner and brochures set up on the table.
- The banner is available to use at any event just contact the OEYC office.
- The UCDSB WTK night schedule is out, with CDSBEO to follow shortly. Please sign up whenever possible.
- The school boards are looking at providing the booklets this year, previously Best Start had funded the cost
- Review the handouts and brochures for changes and let Kathy know by Jan 30th
- Kathy will email the WTK dates out to the group, so those that were unable to attend the meeting can sign up
- Tom stated that the schools boards are looking to do something similar to step into K program. There are currently working with principals who are eager to have the program in their schools.

- 18 Month Enhanced Well Baby Visit Committee –
 - Tanis will be at next meeting
- Unconditional Grant Committee
 - Mary Lou did a review of the Best Start Unconditional Proposal Package which included the Information Sheet, Q&A's and Format for comments
 - Please send any questions or comments to Mary Lou by next Friday. The Proposal package will be forwarded out to all members by Friday, February 4th, deadline for proposals is February 28, 2014
- Child Care Providers
 - The providers will be meeting next week and looking for a consultation on the proposed changes to the DNA.
 - To be further discussed at our next meeting
- Lanark Children's Librarians
 - SF – Debra – information on the website
 - Baby Time – on main floor runs until Feb 13th
 - Currently under renovations
 - Visiting St. James to do reading
 - Rachel – Perth
 - PA Movie will continue
 - Baby Time / Story Time is starting again
 - St. John's school is having monthly visits
 - Starting a Reading Program – Blue Spruce, Silver Birch
 - Sign up through the library
 - Lanark Librarians meeting Jan 27th.
 - Mississippi Mills - Pamela Harris new addition to the Almonte library and Pakenham is currently looking to fill a position
- Service Integration (Joint with Planning Council)-
 - Planning Council participated in an exercise facilitated by Sue Cavanaugh. Information will be used for the purpose of the community plan
- Regional French Language Network -
 - next meeting Jan 29th
- Special Needs Reference Group – no updates

8. Healthy Babies, Healthy Children

- No new updates
- Discussion around data about Healthy Babies/Healthy Children program, thought it would be helpful to bring forward information from the program to

share with the Committee. Alexis will bring some information from the quarterly report hopefully to April's meeting.

9. Planning Council

- Key Messages – looking at Strategic Planning
- Preparing for Data Day
- Social Media presentation
- Send out social media Kit

10. Community Issues –

- Audrey – next meeting Feb 6th

11. School Boards –no update

12. Ministry of Education – no update

13. Ministry of Children and Youth Services – no update

14. Other Business

15. Brief Info sharing/Announcements

- o Jane – Is currently fundraising for a local girl who will be going to the upcoming Olympic Games in Sochi.
- o Kathy – Currently doing fundraising called buy a book. This campaign is to send books to Jamaica and help children learn to read. Kathy participated in a literacy program along with Sue Snyder in Jamaica and she will make a presentation to Best Start about her experience at a later meeting
- o Margaret – In light of the new Unconditional Grant Proposal funding Margaret is looking at ways to improve resources. The CDC does not currently have any active partnerships and is putting out to the network that she is open to conversations to establish a better network and perhaps go together on a proposal for the Unconditional Grant Proposal funding.

16. Key Messages from Meeting

- 1) School Boards are looking at a collaborative approach with those in Child Care and the schools
- 2) WTK Schedule is out
- 3) Unconditional Grant Proposal will be forwarded to members next week
- 4) Review information from pamphlets and brochures to ensure the information is updated for the WTK nights.

NOTE: Next Meeting – February 13, 2014

9:30-12 Meeting

Lanark County Admin Bldg/Council Chambers

**Agenda items to be forwarded to Casey Munro
munroc@lanarkcounty.ca or at 613-267-4200 x2302**