

***BEST START VISION:** 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.*

Regular Meeting of Best Start Working Group

Thursday, April 10, 2014, 9:30 am

Lanark County Administration Building/Council Chambers

PRESENT: Rachelle Blanchette, Emily Cassell, Judi Kaiser, Rachel Warren, Karen Moore, Sheena Dunham, Angele Blaskie, Penny Pitcher, Alexis Green, Audrey Vansickle, Kathy Boelsma, Sue Cavanagh, Hinda Goldberg, Mary Lou White, Jane Torrance.

ABSENT: Francine Raymond, Margaret Van Beer, Jacquie Leach, Nathalie Daoust, Tom Jordan

STAFF: Casey Munro, Children's Services Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM

Chair Hinda Goldberg called the meeting to order at 9:30am

MINUTES

With no objection, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Best Start Working Group, held February 13th were approved as distributed.

AGENDA

With no objection the agenda was approved as distributed.

CASE STUDY

The case study was tabled until May's meeting to discuss the piece surrounding Parent Engagement.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM (Min of EDU/CMSMs)

This committee has postponed their meeting until after the joint trainings with the school boards/ child care providers.

ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

On April 15th the Lanark Early Learning Association will be hosting a night in Pakenham @6:30pm. There will be a presentation on both aboriginal and early year's initiatives. There will be more information to come after the meeting.

SERVICE INTEGRATION

FCSLLG/Open Doors will be receiving funding for a program that will help youth transition out of the CAS program. Both FCSLLG and Susan Shirley House will be working together to create a protocol for pregnant youth. They will be meeting in May

WEBSITE UPDATE

Jane reported that the social media training is going well and is being well received. There are still some spaces available for the training if anyone is interested.

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INNOVATION FUND

Everyone has received the last draft of the Family Engagement project report. They are looking at adding a piece on best practices but there is some discussion over what to add. They will be meeting again in a couple of weeks before they send the package to the Ministry.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Early Learning Partners(ELP) Committee

Sub-committee: Transition To School Committee

The transition to school working group will be meeting to review each area and assess the progress .

School Boards are committed to support 2 (½ day programs) – to support the transition to school. With OEYC offering 5 staff to the program. More details to come

WTK – There are approximately 80 people involved in WTK nights, and things are working well. Some of the challenges have been surrounding the community partners and making them more welcome. They are working on a survey to evaluate the nights.

Moved and Seconded that the Best Start Group cover the cost of creating 450 copies of the Lanark Resources Pamphlet for the WTK night at a cost of approximately \$100

MOTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS

- 18 Month Enhanced Well Baby Visit Committee

Alexis will be meeting with the Ministry (CYS) next week and she will have more to update at the May meeting. She is hoping to gather some information and direction.

- Unconditional Grant Committee

Karen reviewed the grant proposal process with everyone and advised that both the committee as well as Lanark County staff reviewed the proposals. There were a total of 7 submissions and 4 of those met criteria. The 4 submissions that met criteria were as follows;

- CDC/ Hotel Dieu
 - Occupational Therapy Consultation Model
- Open Doors
 - Enhancing same day clinic program with a focus on early years children
- CROW (2)
 - Crow/ Connections – Local videos/Parent Engagement and resources
 - Crow/ libraries – program in 6 libraries for new/enhanced programs to improve literacy/numeracy skills

They will be asked to attend the May meeting and give a short 5 minute presentation to the group on their proposals. Those that were unsuccessful will be contacted.

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Moved and Seconded the Best Start working Group agrees to fund the proposals as recommended by the Unconditional Grant Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS

- **Child Care Providers**
The Raising the Bar peer review day was held in Carleton Place and it was a very informative day. There was social media training offered to all providers. There will be a collaborative professional development day between the School Boards and the Providers on April 24th in Smiths Falls. It is a collaborative approach with the school boards, CMSMs and the Child Care Providers that offer services at schools. They have also decided to go to a bi-monthly meeting with the CMSM and meet together on the alternating months.
- **Lanark Children's Librarians**
Rachel gave an update all of the libraries. The March Break programs were all well attended. Everyone is working hard on preparing summer programming. For additional programming information please visit your local libraries website. A reminder to everyone that the Human Library will be on May 3rd and 4th. Hinda gave a special thank-you to the Perth library for allowing the Health Centre to order books for their literacy program through the library and receive their discount.
- **Service Integration (Joint with Planning Council)**
Data day was at camp Merrywood April 3rd and was a very good day, with good participation and very informative. There were group exercises and presentations. The final report will be completed by next month. DACs from other areas also attended the meeting and took away information to share in their communities.
- **Regional French Language Network**
The group met on March 18th. There will be new resources and initiatives coming out soon. There will be more information and a presentation at our May meeting. Angele also asked about ways to incorporate more francophone information on the website as well as make the current information more visible.
- **Special Needs Reference Group**
No update at this time, the next meeting is April 22nd.

HEALTHY BABIES, HEALTHY CHILDREN

Nothing to update

PLANNING COUNCIL

It was explained that there would be up to a \$45,000 deficit over the next 3 years within the Planning Council budget to support the community coordinator position.

Moved and seconded that the Best Start Working Group fund up to \$45,000 over the next 3 years to support the community coordinator position, at a maximum of \$15,000 per year.

MOTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS

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Also recommended that a review of other areas and how they are funding the position and that the Planning Council continue to pursue other avenues of revenue.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Nothing to update, the next meeting is May 8th.

SCHOOL BOARDS

- CDSBEO- EMPOWER APP
Tom Jordan was unable to attend, moving the presentation to our May meeting
- UCDSB
The board announced a partnership with Boys and Girls club to host 1 week programs over the summer months for kids ages 6-12 for free. There will be 3 schools within Lanark County that will host this program. Also there will be some issues with the schools for community use in Perth this summer as there are multiple construction projects in the works.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Previously forwarded to Best Start Working Group members was the Achieving Excellence Document. It was noted that the Early Years and childcare has been embedded in the document. Bill 143 is slowly making steps through the government, but they are making other changes until the bill is passed. The Ministry is currently seeking feedback on some changes to the New Fire Code Regulations in schools, aligning schools and child care requirements.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

Rachelle wanted to make sure that if you have the time to make sure you watch the webinar on the new Special Needs Strategy. It will be available soon.

BRIEF INFO SHARING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy – is currently looking for someone to cover the WTK night at R.Tait McKenzie School on May 6th please contact her if you can attend.

Jane – Community Foundations meeting to be held on April 22nd

Angele – Teri Mullins will be back next month

Hinda – Made the announcement that she will be leaving her position with the North Lanark Community Health Centre in June due to personal reasons.

KEY MESSAGES

- Approval of four projects through the Best Start unconditional grant funding (each will give a short presentation at our May meeting)
- Family Engagement report almost complete - draft circulated
- Data Day was very successful – report to be circulated once it is completed
- Achieving Excellence – Ministry of Education report circulated
- Agreed to pay costs (\$100) to print WTK brochure
- Agreed to fund planning council community coordinator position for up to maximum \$15,000/ year for three years
- Hinda is leaving her position at North Lanark CHC at the end of June

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 2014, 9:30am, Lanark County Admin Bldg/Council Chambers

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

