

***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, May 8th, 2014, 9:30 am

Lanark County Administration Building/Council Chambers

PRESENT: Hinda Goldberg, Judi Kaiser, Teri Mullins, Emily Cassell, Jane Torrance, Sheena Dunham, Mary Lou White, Karen Moore, Morgane Navarot, Angele Blaskie, Penny Pitcher, Francine Raymond, Kathy Boelsma, Sue Cavanagh

ABSENT: Margaret Van Beer, Jacquie Leach, Nathalie Daoust, Tom Jordan, Rachelle Blanchette

STAFF: Casey Munro, Children's Services Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM

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

MINUTES

Changes made to previous minutes to reflect under Community Issues that OEYC would not be providing 5 staff, but potentially providing 1 staff up to 5 times.

AGENDA

Under Other Business, the addition of sending congratulations to the OMSSA partners was added.

VIDEO

Think, Feel, Act – Lessons from Research about Young Children a quick video about pedagogical documentation – a process of study.

CASE STUDY

Sheena and Sue have started the conversation between OEYC, FCSSLG and Connections. They will gladly report on any headway that is reached throughout the process.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM (Min of EDU/CMSMs)

On April 24th, the school boards hosted a joint training opportunity with the on-site child care providers at the Smiths Falls Arena. This day was used to help build relationships between the two, and help develop a greater relationship.

ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

The event that was held on April 15th in Pakenham was very well received. There were 4 separate presentations and they were all very informative.

Jane also handed out a booklet (Guide for Indigenous Families and Children) from Hastings County. It was very informative and she is hoping to link the electronic version to the website.

SERVICE INTEGRATION

The infant program and FCSSLG are finalizing the details after 6 months of discussion to provide consults with families at chosen locations. This will hopefully help with children on the waitlist.

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WEBSITE UPDATE

A francophone button has been added to the webpage, and although there are still a few kinks to be worked out, it is constantly being updated and upgraded. Jane is happy to report that the social media training has reached approx.. 35-40 people across many different organizations and she is currently in the midst of writing the final report to Green Shield as part of the requirements surrounding the funding.

INNOVATION FUND

“Developing a Common Understanding of Family Engagement in South East Ontario” report was circulated to the group.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Early Learning Partners(ELP) Committee
Sub-committee: Transition To School Committee
The committee will be meeting May 22nd, there are still 6 WTK nights left to complete. They seem to be going well, communication remains to be key for a successful night.
- 18 Month Enhanced Well Baby Visit Committee
The Ministry is hosting a collaborative workshop/ meeting to be held in June.
- Unconditional Grant Committee
A member from each of the 4 successful proposals came and gave a 5 minute outline/presentation on the highlights of their project and what they hoped to accomplish.
- Child Care Providers
There is no longer a waitlist for child care subsidy.
- Lanark Children’s Librarians
No Report – The monthly newsletter was circulated with the agenda package.
- Service Integration (Joint with Planning Council)
No Report – The results from Data Day are still being compiled and will be available in the coming months.
- Regional French Language Network
Angele Blaskie and Morgane Navarot gave a presentation around the Francophone resources available to our community, and how to identify the needs of the Francophone community. The group discussed adding French Resources to the agenda for discussion in a fall meeting.
- Special Needs Reference Group
The group met on April 22nd. They reviewed the TOR and realized that their mandate has been met. The group will no longer meet in the future. Karen wanted to recognize the great work of the group, and acknowledge the effort put forward by the group.

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HEALTHY BABIES, HEALTHY CHILDREN

Nothing to update

PLANNING COUNCIL

‘Developing a Common Understanding of Family Engagement in South East Ontario’ report was circulated to the group.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

The May 8th Meeting has been rescheduled, if you would like to attend the rescheduled meeting please contact Hinda or Jane.

SCHOOL BOARDS

- CDSBEO- EMPOWER APP
Tom Jordon will be attending the Meeting in June and will present the EMPOWER app.
- CECCE
Added to the agenda for future updates
- UCDSB
There will be changes coming to the UCDSB in the near future. The Board has announced a new coordinating administrative position for Principals. This change would see 1 Principal in charge of a family of schools.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Due to the upcoming Ontario elections the proposed changes to the DNA have been tabled.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

No update

OTHER BUSINESS

Karen announced that Brian Russell from Dad Central would be willing to come to Lanark County to conduct a training session. If 10 attendees could be guaranteed he could provide the service free of charge, but it would have to be completed by the end of June. If you know anyone that is interested please contact Karen.

BRIEF INFO SHARING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Penny – The Early Childhood Screening Clinics have been set. There will be an announcement in the newspapers.

Emily – Sent out a webinar Measuring what matters: social emotional skills by Stuart Shankman, very interesting if you have time.

Mary Lou – Attached to the agenda was an announcement that the Ministry released How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years.

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KEY MESSAGES

- **April 24th professional development workshop for onsite childcare and school education teams was a great success**
- **Presentations from the 4 projects funded through the Unconditional Grant**
- **Presentation about the French Language Network and discussion about possible work for BSWG (to be continued in the fall)**
- **Special Needs Reference Group have completed their mandate and will no longer be meeting – congratulations!**
- **Welcome to Kindergarten is almost completed for this year**
- **Guide for Indigenous Families and Children circulated (from KFL&A Children and Youth Services Planning Committee)**
- **Family Engagement Report circulated (both are available online and from Jane)**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 12th, 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