



When: February 4, 2016, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Where: Central Gateway Room 119

Recorder: Annette Williams

Co-Chairs: Karen Steegstra & Shelly Hayes

ATTENDANCE:

Danielle Edwards	Chilliwack Division of Family Practice	dedwards@divisionsbc.ca
Darby Wilkinson	Chilliwack Community Services	wilkinsond@comserv.bc.ca
Jane Elliott	Chilliwack School District	jane_elliot@sd33.bc.ca
Karen Steegstra	Child and Youth Committee Coordinator	chwkcchildandyouthcoord@gmail.com
Karin Rempel	Sardis Doorway	sardisdoorway@shaw.ca
Kiran Sidhu	FV Child Development Centre	ksidhu@fvcdc.org
Nicole Driscoll	Chilliwack School District	nicole_driscoll@sd33.bc.ca
Pauline Pigeau	Fraser Health	Pauline.Pigeau@fraserhealth.ca
Shannon Carmichael	Central Gateway for Families/Community School Coordinator	ccecss@gmail.com
Shelly Hayes	Chilliwack Community Services, Childcare Resource & Referral	hayess@comserv.bc.ca

REGRETS:

Dan Bibby	MCFD	daniel.bibby@gov.bc.ca
Debbie Denault	Chilliwack Learning Society	debbied@chilliwacklearning.com
Jenna Nickle	YMCA	jenna.nickle@gv.ymca.ca
Katrina Bepple	Chilliwack Division of Family Practice	kbepple@divisions.bc.ca
Ruby Gidda	Fraser Health	ruby.gidda@fraserhealth.ca
Sheri Josephson	YMCA	sheri.josephson@vanymca
Tami Quinn	Stó:lō Nation Health Services	tami.quinn@stolonation.bc.ca
Tara McLaughlin	HeadStart Coordinator	Tara.mclaughlin@stolonation.bc.ca
Trish Ackland	Child and Youth Mental Health	trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda – Approved, with additions to New Business as directly below

- Professional Early Years conference
- Mental Health Service Providers meeting report from Karin

3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting – Approved, with changes emailed by Katrina Bepple



4. Business Arising from the minutes

a. Review of 2015 Ideas:

Karen circulated a summary of 2015 Early Years meeting ideas and reviewed the follow up to or fulfillment of them.

- Funds were set aside for the projector
- Early Years table put forward \$1500 for Mike McKee to come, which was part of January's idea for use of additional Success By 6 funds. The parent & caregiver forum that Mike will be speaking at on May 5th is the baby and parent event that was an idea in February/March 2015.
- Parent to Parent Mentoring was started, but it was an experimental project. The model worked well for Sardis Doorway families.
- Welcoming table was at the Early Childhood Expo.
- Smart Saver information was distributed in the community
- Central Gateway's Family Resource room is being used for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program on Fridays, 10am to noon. 8 people have joined; it started in mid-January. A Health Nurse will also be coming to Central Gateway once a month, to answer families' questions. Shannon will email out the information once dates are firm.
- There was a HeadStart collaboration conversation with Sto:lo in October 2015. No confirmed action at the moment.
- November – Priority Grant application criteria reviewed. Decided to wait and work on building a strong application.

IDEA: In Central Gateway's resource room, include resources for children of parents who have been incarcerated.

b. Smart Saver Update

Since awareness last spring 2015, Chilliwack has had the highest amount of online applications in the Fraser Valley. Statistically, for every online application there are usually nine who apply in person. \$25 is given to Success By 6 for every online application.

IDEAS: CCRR could include SmartSaver in one of their workshops; Gateway could include during Education & Career Planning or Computer Lab time.

A Social Insurance Number is granted immediately at Service Canada locations. There is no longer a plastic card.

c. Review Membership list

Email Karen or Shelly if someone should be invited to the Early Years meetings. A UFV representative would be good to have, and someone from MCFD in addition to Dan, since his meeting schedule is busy.

5. New Business/other Business

b. Success By 6 Community Events Funds

There is \$4,005 in Community Event funding available, application deadline March 31st.



IDEAS: Messaging Campaign (re Jan. 2015 idea):

- Billboard rental;
- Posters in the community;
- Socio-Emotional health messages (eg: from Kids Have Stress Too);
- Play with Me / Learn with Me signs in parks;
- Signs beside the 5-2-1-0 Play Boxes, about ways to use the contents. Perhaps the city would donate the cement and poles.

ACTION: BY the next Early Years meeting, Katrina will have answers and ideas about signs and messaging in the vicinity of the play boxes.

c. Spring Expo

The fall 2015 Expo budget was circulated. Can another Expo be done by March 31st to use the Priority Grant funds received?

Although it's possible to hold one before the end of March, it's preferable to wait until April, or the YMCA Healthy Kids Day in June.

ACTION: Karen and Shannon will check into the possibility of holding it at Walmart; Karen will talk to the YMCA about having a concentrated presence at the Healthy Kids Day. Karen will email the Early Years committee afterwards, to make a decision about the date.

d. Ready Set Learn

Nicole reviewed Ready Set Learn, which is a program to help parents and preschoolers to learn and incorporate developmental ideas into everyday life, and transition them to school / preschool. It is financed by the School District. Chilliwack School District has three kits developed, which include various activities and stations. Children also visit the elementary school(s). Ready Set Learn funds can also be used for other activities such as the Early Years Expo, and to compensate professionals who attend and assist at Ready Set Learn events. The goal is for it to be a community event, not just a school event.

ACTION: Nicole will forward the Ready Set Learn Power Point to the Early Years committee so that consistent messaging can be used by the agencies at the Early Years table and Kindergarten teachers.

e. Meetings with Credit Unions

Part of being a Success By 6 representative is that Karen builds relationships with credit unions, which are Success By 6 funders. Envision would like to know what 'jobs' they can do to help with local initiatives.

ACTION: Email Karen if you have something that can be done as part of Envision's community volunteerism hours.

f. Early Learning in the Valley

This is a cross-community initiative with partners in Chilliwack, Mission, Abbotsford, and Hope. It was started last year with community service providers.

UFV has provided space for workshops. There was a successful event last year, at which 130 early childhood educators were present. Feedback has indicated that they would like more information on Social and Emotional Wellness, with a consistent message between what the parents and the service providers receive.



The next session is Saturday April 28th, with Vanessa LaPointe, at the Clarke Theatre in Mission. Vanessa recently wrote book titled “Discipline Without Damage”.

g. Provincial Early Years Conference

Approximately five hundred people attended this conference, which concluded with speaker Tamara Taggart. There was a good mix of workshops; Kiran and Jody conducted a workshop.

Three of the five successful Early Learning Centre proponents gave credit to Chilliwack’s Every Door is the Right Door initiative. Every Door is the Right Door training is mandatory for front line staff in Comox.

Those who were successful in receiving Early Years Centre grants talked about the following as being contributing factors to their successful applications:

- Effective and consistent branding;
- Connecting all services as being under umbrella of the Early Years;
- Having an Every Door is the Right Door model;
- Partnership with the local school district (hub in the schools);
- Collaboration agencies’ services, though not all of the services have to be on site.

h. Meeting of Mental Health Service Providers

Karin recently attended a mental health service providers meeting. Mental Illness in parents of young children wasn’t on the agenda. Karin will attend again, and speak for the families who need support.

6. Task Group Updates

- Social marketing – not covered
- Childcare Task Group – not covered
- Baby Friendly Initiative –They will be presenting a Breastfeeding Challenge budget to the Early Years table as part of the 2016-17 budget discussion.
- Visioning Committee – not covered
- Parenting Classes – not covered

7. Agency Updates

Chilliwack Learning Society (CLS) – The City-Wide Literacy Challenge has begun, which will last until February 21st. This year’s theme is “Read Aloud”. Information was distributed at this meeting, along with FVRL’s Reading Buddies program flyers.

8. Next Meeting: March 3, Central Gateway for Families, 1pm – 3pm

9. Adjournment: 2:55 pm

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Children
First

