



When: March 5, 2015, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
 Where: Central Elementary, Room 119

Recorder: Annette Williams  
 Special Guest: Kim Adamson

Chair: Karen Steegstra

**ATTENDANCE:**

Danielle Edwards	Chilliwack Division of Family Practice	<a href="mailto:danielle@scopebc.ca">danielle@scopebc.ca</a>
Darby Wilkinson	Chilliwack Community Services	<a href="mailto:wilkinsond@comserv.bc.ca">wilkinsond@comserv.bc.ca</a>
Debbie Denault	Chilliwack Learning Society	<a href="mailto:debbied@chilliwacklearning.com">debbied@chilliwacklearning.com</a>
Karen Steegstra	Child and Youth Coordinator	<a href="mailto:chwkcchildandyouthcoord@gmail.com">chwkcchildandyouthcoord@gmail.com</a>
Karin Rempel	Sardis Doorway	<a href="mailto:sardisdoorway@shaw.ca">sardisdoorway@shaw.ca</a>
Kiran Sidhu	FV Child Development Centre	<a href="mailto:ksidhu@fvcdc.org">ksidhu@fvcdc.org</a>
Nicole Driscoll	Chilliwack School District	<a href="mailto:nicole_driscoll@sd33.bc.ca">nicole_driscoll@sd33.bc.ca</a>
Sheri Josephson	YMCA	<a href="mailto:sheri.josephson@vanymca">sheri.josephson@vanymca</a>

**REGRETS:**

Amber Baldwin	Montessori Child Growth Society	<a href="mailto:amber@mcgsociety.com">amber@mcgsociety.com</a>
Angela Joiner	Montessori Child Growth Society	<a href="mailto:angela@mcgsociety.com">angela@mcgsociety.com</a>
Dan Bibby	MCFD	<a href="mailto:daniel.bibby@gov.bc.ca">daniel.bibby@gov.bc.ca</a>
Katherine Kessler	Meadow Rose Society	<a href="mailto:help@meadowrosesociety.com">help@meadowrosesociety.com</a>
Katrina Beppe	Chilliwack Division of Family Practice	<a href="mailto:k.beppe@divisions.bc.ca">k.beppe@divisions.bc.ca</a>
Pauline Pigeau	Fraser Health	<a href="mailto:Pauline.Pigeau@fraserhealth.ca">Pauline.Pigeau@fraserhealth.ca</a>
Shannon Carmichael	Central Gateway for Families/ Community School Coordinator	<a href="mailto:ccecss@gmail.com">ccecss@gmail.com</a>
Stacey Barfoot	FV Child Development Centre	<a href="mailto:sbarfoot@fvcdc.org">sbarfoot@fvcdc.org</a>
Tami Quinn	Stó:lō Nation Health Services	<a href="mailto:tami.quinn@stolonation.bc.ca">tami.quinn@stolonation.bc.ca</a>
Tara McLaughlin	HeadStart Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Tara.mclaughlin@stolonation.bc.ca">Tara.mclaughlin@stolonation.bc.ca</a>
Trish Ackland	Child and Youth Mental Health	<a href="mailto:trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca">trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca</a>

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of Agenda – Approved.**

**Note:** At the January meeting it was agreed to add parenting classes updates as a standing agenda item. This will be done in April and onward.

**3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting – Approved**

**4. Business Arising from the minutes**

**a. Success By 6 Implementation Funds**

A \$1,638 budget was circulated for the purchase of an iPad Air, screen, projector, and game creation fees. This is as follow up to the approval of the creation of a Jeopardy



style game to take to Early Years events, as a means of creating awareness of ways to positively impact areas of the EDI that are of particular importance in Chilliwack. Other ideas suggested were \$300 for the creation of a Parent Resource Guide template, and funds for the Early Years Expo.

Karen has been invited to attend the United Way grant meeting, so it is likely that the United Way grant application was successful.

**5. New Business/other Business**

**a. Childhood Expo**

A couple of women have started a business called Everything Expo, and will be hosting an expo at Heritage Park, focused on children. It will be like a trade show. They will send Karen more information. They are interested in participating together, which is something to consider for the future.

**IDEAS:** Add a sleep deprivation workshop.

If there is a video feed and TV at the Expo, Sheri or Karin will send a link of a good video to run. An option is [The Still Face](#), which has been used by Trish.

**6. Special Guest: Kim Adamson – Discussion regarding Revelstoke’s strategy for Early Years**

Many Early Years initiatives have been working hard with very little resources. More is needed if vulnerability in children is truly going to be addressed.

Revelstoke is surrounded by mountains, somewhat isolated though on a major route, and doesn’t have satellite communities to the degree of some other remote locations. It had an affluent population for a while.

The primary driver on the Early Childhood Development committee was their chair, Anne Cooper, who was the Superintendent of schools. She helped to bring legitimacy to the table, and strategically promoted the committee in her circle of contacts and at events. She was fearless in asking decision makers in the community to join the table, which produced high level representation. They were decision makers for their organizations and businesses, which increased the effectiveness of the group and the speed at which items could be actioned. They had the research, identified strategic priorities, created a comprehensive strategic plan, and attacked it purposefully.

The committee raised a lot of public awareness. For example, the Early Years table’s bulletin board was above the entry to the Leisure Centre, visible to all who entered the building.

Having key leaders at a committee contributes to effectiveness. In order to draw leaders to the table, the committee needs to reframe what they want those leaders to do. They don’t want to talk about “nuts and bolts” of services. They want to talk about what is needed from them, that they can decide/do/support. They want to impact things which fall in line with their strengths. Before a committee invites a leader to the table, the committee should think about what’s in it for the leader, because that is important in the invitation delivery.

Revelstoke had participated in Wave 2 of the EDI, and saw improvements fairly early on in the changes. They networked well with government which helped in obtaining funding.

It doesn’t necessarily take much to change the vulnerability results in small communities because of the smaller population and how that affects statistics.



Ann Cooper is now working Surrey Children's Partnership. Tracy Spannier is still involved.

Find the hot topics, and focus on them. For instance, Columbia Basin Trust had a meeting to understand their role in childcare, and reported that their committee figured out a way to systematically create opportunities whereby all kids could have child care. Everyone was involved.

**DISCUSSION & IDEAS:**

There should be an Early Years goal represented in the CYC strategic plan, in order to raise the profile of the early years. The CYC committee has more leaders on it than the Early Years committee. It seems that youth is of greater focus for the CYC.

Consider a focus on ages 0-8 at the next CYC forum. One idea is to host an evening forum for parents, followed up the next day by a session for professionals.

To connect more with the CYC, representatives from the Early Years committee could attend CYC meetings to raise awareness, report on activities, and solicit input.

There is a primary prevention committee being started from CYC.

Rather than using the phrase "socio-emotional", use "Mental Health" as a buzz phrase. This aligns nicely with the School District and Fraser Health. Invite people to take part in a forum where the intended outcome is to impact socio-emotional wellbeing or Mental Health, and ask what they can bring to the table.

Politicians/leaders are most interested in what happens during their term, not necessarily long term.

Nicole expressed appreciation for Kiran's work; the Chilliwack School District has been seeing the positive effects of her work.

Put together a team to identify who is being targeted, what are the key messages, and what is the "ask".

Business men like to hear about brain development impact more than dollar impact.

BC Healthy Child Development Alliance has resources for early childhood people to get information around socio-emotional development for parents. There might be a webinar link on how to use the resources. Also the Council for Families has a guide and checklist for parents.

Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) has an attachment resource kit called [Connections for Life](#), which contains activities and resources for parent support programs. It can be downloaded from Saskatchewan Prevention Institute's website.

Have an Early Years forum for people who have anything to do with the Early Years; highlight an issue and talk about what they do to impact it.

Dr. Pleydell-Pearce can't join the Early Years committee but is willing to give feedback and ideas.

Find someone from the new city council (perhaps Sam Waddington) to be a spokesperson, and canvas Rotary Clubs and the Chamber of Commerce.

[The Frameworks Institute](#) has messaging for different focuses.

Change the committee's name to the Early Years Council for Chilliwack.

Darby talked about [The Million Smiles Playground Park](#) in Lynden Washington. There are signs through the park, which deliver simple messages about parenting and the importance



of play. An initiative like this might be a good fit for Sam Waddington, who is an advocate of outdoor activity. Signs could be spread throughout Chilliwack, or placed on the Rotary Trail.

Another resource is [www.Bornlearning.org](http://www.Bornlearning.org), and the Opportunity Council – Learning Trail.

**ACTION:** Kim will send Karen a document about what the municipality's role is and how they can impact Early Childhood Development.

**7. Task Group Updates**

a. **Social Marketing** – can action items discussed of committee changing name to Council, etc.

**ACTION:** before spring break a subcommittee will meet to discuss strategies about the playpark and community signs, and committee's name change.

b. **Child Care Task Group** – not covered

c. **Parent to Parent Mentoring** – not covered

d. **Baby Friendly Initiative** – not covered

e. **Childhood Expo** – covered above

**8. Coordinators Report** – will be on website. Not covered at this meeting.

**9. Agency Updates**

**Chilliwack Learning Society** – Rotary is partnering with CLS to put free community libraries in Chilliwack. CLS is wondering if there is EDI information to help select the locations.

**Sardis Doorway** – fund raiser plant sale. Can order them online and pick them up.

**Chilliwack Division of Family Practice** – In Abbotsford public areas such as parks, 5-2-1-0 has large industrial sized boxes filled with equipment which can be used for free by the community. The boxes can be unlocked with a code which is available by contacting them online. There has been conversation about having some available in Chilliwack. Books can be added to the boxes. Games and ideas will be included.

**10. Next Meeting:** April 9, Central Gateway, Room 119, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**11. Adjournment:** 3:10 pm

MAKE  
Children  
First

