



When: November 6, 2014 1:00-3:00 pm
Where: Central Elementary, Room 119

Recorder: Annette Williams

Co-Chairs: Karen Steegstra and Trish Ackland

ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| Angela Joiner | Montessori Child Growth Society | angela@mcgsociety.com |
| Dan Bibby | MCFD | daniel.bibby@gov.bc.ca |
| Danielle Edwards | Chilliwack Division of Family Practice | danielle@scopebc.ca |
| Darby Wilkinson | Chilliwack Community Services | wilkinsond@comserv.bc.ca |
| Debbie Denault | Chilliwack Learning Community Society | debbied@chilliwacklearning.com |
| Karen Steegstra | Child and Youth Coordinator | chwkchildand youthcoord@gmail.com |
| Karin Rempel | Sardis Doorway | sardisdoorway@shaw.ca |
| Katrina Bepple | Chilliwack Division of Family Practice | k.bepple@divisions.bc.ca |
| Stacey Barfoot | FV Child Development Centre | sbarfoot@fvcdc.org |
| Trish Ackland | Child and Youth Mental Health | trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca |
| Nicole Driscoll | Chilliwack School District | nicole_driscoll@sd33.bc.ca |

REGRETS:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Amber Baldwin | Montessori Child Growth Society | amber@mcgsociety.com |
| Kathleen Kessler | Meadow Rose Society | help@meadowrosesociety.com |
| Pauline Pigeau | Fraser Health | Pauline.Pigeau@fraserhealth.ca |
| Shannon Carmichael | Central Gateway for Families/Community School Coordinator | ccecss@gmail.com |
| Tami Quinn | Stó:lō Nation Health Services | tami.quinn@stolonation.bc.ca |
| Tara McLaughlin | HeadStart Coordinator | Tara.mclaughlin@stolonation.bc.ca |

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda – Approved, with the following addition Under New Business, add Success By 6

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting – Approved, with the changes below.

- Change Danielle and Katrina's organization to be Chilliwack's Division of Family Practice.
- Under 6.b., paragraph 4, correct the CALM acronym description to be Collaborative Action to Learn with and Manage your child.



4. Business Arising from the minutes

a. National Child Day Task Group

In future years, would like to have a Blue Ribbon campaign where blue ribbons will be distributed in the community in November, along with a card highlighting statistics about the Early Years in Chilliwack (for instance poverty), and increase awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Salvation Army would likely be interested in partnering with the CYC in obtaining preschool supplement packages for Chilliwack children ages 0-5. These packages could be added into hampers that are given to needy families. Another idea is to arrange with local stores (ie: Hofstadts) to have people drop off donations or donate \$5 to create more hampers and content for them. This initiative could be included in next year's budget.

For this year – distribute the Blue Ribbon campaign information throughout the local schools via their weekly memo. Also make available in StrongStart locations, Family Places, Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) program, Gateway preschools, etc. See attached pdf of the package.

b. Parent to Parent Mentoring

The best approach is thought to be partnering with different agencies rather than starting a new one for the purpose of the program. Connect with a number of different parenting programs (eg: Right from the Start, facilitated by Cristal Biela), then set the parent(s) up with a mentor after the program ends. Use CCS volunteer screening, with an additional level of screening. Recruiting and training mentors would take some time. A coordinator would be needed; liability might need to be covered through an agency.

c. Children with Justice Involved Parents

The most recent workshop was Thursday, October 30th. There isn't any local research; most of it is from the United States and United Kingdom. There is currently little support for children who experience trauma because their parents have been arrested or recently been released from prison. At the workshop there was discussion about what the perceived needs are and how to address them.

This topic ties in to the CYC's focus of "Safe Relationships, Safe Children." A lot of the families aren't accessing services through MCFD because of fear of the children being taken away. Grandparents might be involved, and if so, they are typically low income. MCFD has some support options for relatives providing care in these situations – Raising Relative Children. People don't necessarily know what programs and support is available to them.

There are about 150 kids in Chilliwack School District whose parents are incarcerated. There are 10 institutions between Abbotsford & Chilliwack.

At the workshop it was concluded that UFV will do the research, and then a task group will be formed. It isn't currently known how many people are receiving services from other agencies.

Possible areas to help and applicable activities: 1) preparation of children to meet with their parents in prison; 2) debrief and decompression of children after prison visits; 3) strategies and assistance to help children tell their friends about their situation or answer questions about their family.



5. New Business/other Business

a. Priority Grant Funds

The application was completed in partnership with and funds received by Chilliwack Learning Society. Chilliwack Community Services will invoice Chilliwack Learning Society so that payment can be made. It will go into the Early Years account.

ACTION: Annette will email Darby the particulars and state what the funds are for.

Some of the events that the money was for were cancelled due to other scheduling conflicts or the teachers' strike. This has resulted in being behind plan on the expenditure of the grant funds. The Early Years committee is interested in ideas of events where developmental screening can be done, to fulfill the grant requirements.

IDEAS: Chilliwack Community Services (CCS) and Chilliwack Learning Society (CLS) will be hosting a Financial Literacy Fair in April, which the Early Years is welcome to join. There might be Ted Talks, resource sharing, games, etc, all under a money theme. Focuses are budgeting well, eating well, nutrition for children. It will likely be at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre.

Ready Set Learn Open Houses will be held in February. A Resource Fair can be held after that, similar to last year's.

Rather than one big event, do the screening at a number of community events. For instance, book the [Vancouver Tumble Bus](#) to come to Chilliwack and take the screening to people by going to various locations. Have the Tumble Bus visits schools and Kinder Fairs; the School District could perhaps partner with this. Alternatively, have programs bring their clients to a location in the community that isn't associated with any one specific organization. It would be good to also attract those who don't attend programs, to have variety in the participants.

It is important to be consistent with the Strategic Plan when deciding how and where to spend funds.

b. Success By 6

One goal was to improve provincial vulnerability results by 15% by 2015. The model of service is partnership between MCFD, United Way, and Credit Unions of BC. The monies are from grants and communities. There are five coordinators in the Fraser Valley, whose hours are funded in part by Success By 6. There are bi-monthly meetings. The Early Years division of MCFD provided increased funding for 7-10 Early Years Centres hubs; Mission is the only Fraser Valley hub. Success By 6 provides \$30,000 to the Chilliwack Early Years table. For the past five years, part of the money received has been given to CCS for Central Gateway. Also, money has been distributed to Sto:lo for the Early Years. This year an event budget (about \$4,000) will be added on. Part of Karen's role is to liaise with credit unions to provide support to them with the Early Years in mind, and to encourage them to have an early years component.

6. Strategic Plan – Goal Activity Updates:

a. Review & Update Strategic Plan

Would like to include poverty in the strategic plan.



b. Training/workshops updates

Kids Have Stress Too! – The date is to be announced. Materials have been ordered but not received yet. One set of materials has been ordered for each Early Years agency; copying is permitted.

Today was the third Every Door is the Right Door training session. Chilliwack School District has expressed interest in a training session at their principals meeting.

Every Door is the Right Door Referral cards – an electronic copy is being worked on.

c. Website

Summer traffic decreased a bit which is normal; traffic has increased since August.

Healthy Communities and the CYC have done some work together, to see what makes sense in terms of where to place online listings of services. InfoChilliwack, www.childandyouth.com and bc211 are examples of listings. Healthy Communities is looking for ways to link the different systems and encompass all ages, not just the Early Years. Included might be the steps a person needs to complete prior to accessing particular services (ie: a doctor's referral).

ACTION: Katrina will find out the cost of the Chilliwack Division of Family Practice's Pathways database.

7. Task Group Updates

a. Social Marketing – Have not met yet.

b. ChildCare Task Group – Have not met since last board meeting

8. Coordinators Report – will be posted on website

In 2015, Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) is releasing an Early Childhood questionnaire, for when parents are registering their children for Kindergarten. It will help round out the information from the EDI and give a broader picture. They are also correlating data from the first wave of the EDI to the 2013 MDI Wave. It is thought that these will generally capture the same group of kids. They are working to correlate the MDI with Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests. Assessments now including biology – epigenetics – and the impact on health of experiences throughout childhood. They are also beginning to incorporate Census data and EDI results.

9. Agency Updates

Chilliwack Learning Society (CLS)

Debbie handed out information about the Financial Literacy.

Chilliwack Rotary Club gave CLS about 3,000 children's books leftover from their annual sale. CLS is giving them out to agencies and in the community. Debbie and her husband gave out about 100 of these books on Halloween, in their driveway. The FVRL Library Live & on Tour car (LiLi) was there as well.

The Book Lovers Breakfast will be November 13th, 7-9:30am. Invitees are people who have been involved with the book bins, whether donating books or receiving books. Let Debbie know if you would like to attend.

First Books Canada was selling a pallet of 1,600 books for \$600. Debbie sent out an email asking if anyone wanted to purchase some. Watson Elementary purchased a flat. If this occurs in the future, Debbie will email organizations again and ask if they would like to purchase some together.



MINUTES

CLS has a program where they record incarcerated men reading a book to their loved ones for Christmas (usually children). This year it is also open to people living in the community, rather than only those who are incarcerated. If you know someone who would like to participate, contact Debbie.

Chilliwack Community Services

Downtown Family Place (located in the Neighbourhood Learning Centre) will be closed November 17th to 28th for reorganization of the space, curriculum review, service delivery review. CCS is looking at Family Resource Places as a whole, regarding program components and workshops. The Effective Parenting course will still occur.

10. Next Meeting: Christmas Lunch, December 4, 2014, Rendezvous Restaurant, noon.

11. Adjournment: 3:05 pm

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Children
First