



When: October 2, 2014 1:00-3:00 pm  
 Where: Central Elementary, Room 119

Recorder: Annette Williams

Co-Chairs: Karen Steegstra and Trish Ackland

**ATTENDANCE:**

Danielle Edwards	Chilliwack Division of Family Practice	<a href="mailto:danielle@scopebc.ca">danielle@scopebc.ca</a>
Debbie Denault	Chilliwack Learning Community 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>
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>
Trish Ackland	Child and Youth Mental Health	<a href="mailto:trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca">trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca</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>
Darby Wilkinson	Chilliwack Community Services	<a href="mailto:wilkinsond@comserv.bc.ca">wilkinsond@comserv.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>
Kiran Sidhu	FV Child Development Centre	<a href="mailto:ksidhu@fvcdc.org">ksidhu@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>

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of Agenda** – Approved, with the addition below.  
 Fraser Health: upcoming workshops and flu planning. See section 9.

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

**4. Business Arising from the minutes**

**a. Mapping and Strategic Plan**

Sardis North has the highest vulnerability, which was thought to be connected to having the greatest concentration of immigrants, but Language & Cognitive Development isn't affecting the stats negatively. Some of the vulnerability might be related to immigrants who find that it is difficult to gain employment.

Language & Cognitive Development vulnerability in Chilliwack Centre is higher than other areas. There was speculation at this meeting that since the School District's



English as a Second Language program is at Central Elementary School, children might be cross-boundary and affect the stats of Chilliwack Centre. But since the results are categorized by postal code of residence, this is not likely to be the case.

Socio-Emotional & Health Wellbeing vulnerabilities are high across all areas.

A review of the EDI should be done before making changes to the existing Early Years committee's strategic plan.

**b. Child Care Task Group**

Karen met with Glenda Hemminger from CCRR. They feel there needs to be something to network daycares and preschool teachers together, give out helpful information, make sure they are up to date with EDI results, provide advocacy for advocacy for preschool and ECE workers. A one night workshop for child care providers might be held in January 2015, to find out what they feel they need for support.

There used to be an Early Childhood BC (ECBC) table in Chilliwack. There is currently BC Family Child Care providers. Karen/Glenda will see how active they are and promote them rather than creating something new.

**c. Kids have stress too!**

Jackie has ordered 10 more packages of materials, and will select a date once the materials arrive.

**d. Parent to Parent Mentoring**

The committee has met once, brainstormed, and formulated a plan. They will obtain information about the cost per person mentored, and where the program can be housed. They will meet again the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>. They will build strong case that the mentoring is preventative and will save money in the long run, to aid in obtaining financial commitment to support it.

**5. New Business/other Business**

**a. National Child Day Ideas**

The event is usually held at City Hall, there's a cake, Mayor Gaetz stops in, there's a presentation to council. Karen wonders if it is time to change the way the day is celebrated, and look at increasing awareness of highlighted EDI results and/or gather input for a children's charter.

Charlotte Debruyne is no longer involved due to her new position in the School District. Nicole Driscoll, the principal at Greendale, will be replacing Charlotte's Early Years role.

**IDEAS:**

- Amalgamate it with the Fall Resource Fair, and hold at Chilliwack Mall on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Tumble Bus is \$300 for 2 hours, for children ages 2-9. It's set up like a gym.
- Could perhaps partner with Save on Foods, set up the tent, do some screening (then can use Priority Grant monies).
- Could be an opportunity for a school field trip.
- Bring in John Maleska or child performer
- When advertising, invite people to come and either bring or receive a specific item. Donation drop off at Save on or in a school.
- Set up a speaker's corner.
- "I Pledge To \_\_\_\_\_" stickers/bookmark/post it notes that the person can personalize and take away as their commitment.



- Last year John Martin expressed interest in participating in a National Child Day event – follow up with him.
- Altruism project – business joining together to come up with a solution (funding, materials, resources).
- Opportunity wall where people write what they need, and what they have to give.
- Early Years table in Hope did a scavenger hunt in businesses that were family friendly – could do the same in downtown Chilliwack (Wellington area).
- Offer businesses stickers saying they're working for the little ones, or child friendly; approach management companies and the Downtown Chilliwack Business Improvement Association to say that we're handing out items for National Child's Day and how would they like to be involved.
- Work on the goal of having a big event in 2-3 years, and build toward it.

**ACTION:** Debbie Denault and Shannon Carmichael will assist Karen with 2014 National Child Day ideas and planning.

**b. November workshop – Parents who are Incarcerated**

Karen and Annette Vogt from Chilliwack School District, are planning a workshop on the subject of children who have parents with contact with the law or incarcerated, to be held on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. There is discussion about a possible pilot project involving the children. They are looking for speakers, particularly a child who has parents who are or have been incarcerated, and a youth/adult that has needed support. The Safe Kids Safe Families pilot project will occur in Chilliwack. It is for parents with a mental illness or health issue, and takes a holistic look at the whole family.

**6. Strategic Plan – Goal Activity Updates:**

**a. Review & Update Strategic Plan**

Current strategic Plan:

Section #1 actions are complete.

Section #2 actions are complete, with the exception of #2.2, "support parent to parent initiatives and mentoring". Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program is running (#2.2 output).

IDEAS:

- Organizations work together to host a workshop, rotating it through the agencies.
- Host community conversations about poverty and little kids.
- Over the next 2 years commit to a certain number of community events, and ensure that Early Years and poverty are in the media over that time period.
- Come up with a definition of poverty – humanize it.
- All organizations and businesses work together toward messaging on the same day, about child poverty. This could be on National Child Day.
- Focus on creating awareness of what it means to live in poverty in Chilliwack, what can be done, and what each of the agencies are doing.
- Take community action to make a dent and get people to know it exists, through real life stories, newspaper articles and coverage, pictures.
- Change the culture so that people don't associate being poor with being "bad people".
- Tell the story of the life of a poor child from the first person, written by the child – what I don't get to do, what I eat and don't eat.



- If poverty is too big, focus on food and nutrition, and sleep. Raise awareness of the 5210 exercises about sleep and eating habits.
- Output for strategic plan: create community awareness and action.
- Put a more positive spin on how things are phrased, approaching from an asset base mentality.
- Invite Ruth & Naomi's or Salvation Army to Early Years to help with poverty awareness and initiatives.
- This is a good year to focus on it due to being the National Year of the Family.
- Talk about access to resources when defining poverty (ie: being able to eat dinner at someone's house if the groceries are low).
- Poverty isn't just about money.

**ACTION:** Karen will see what Richmond did as part of their poverty awareness campaign.

**b. Training/workshops updates**

Parenting classes will be held as follows.

Parenting Anxious Kids classes occur one Saturday a month, run by Trish Lewis from SD33.

The FORCE is holding workshops for Parenting Depressed Kids & a one day Collaborative Problem Solving workshop.

Trish Ackland is running a CALM (Collaborative Action to Learn with and Manage your child) workshop for parents. Connect will probably start in October.

Trish Ackland has 2 honor students that will run an 8 week program for parents and children ages 3-5 years who have experienced trauma, particularly where the children are disregulated. There will be exercises to help the children regulate; the parents will attend a parenting workshop. It will be held in January 2015, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at Sardis Family Place. Trish will send out a notice.

Cristal Biela (Chilliwack Community Services) informed Karen Steegstra that Right From the Start will be starting in November, on Wednesday mornings at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC).

**c. Website**

Traffic is still trending positive. There was a surge just before the annual CYC consultation.

When Mental Health in Chilliwack is searched online, the Central Elementary School address is listed, along with the CYC website.

**ACTION:** Annette Williams will arrange for Mental Health search results to be fixed.

**7. Task Group Updates** – not addressed

**a. Social Marketing**

**8. Coordinators Report** – will be posted on website

**9. Agency Updates**

**Chilliwack Learning Society (CLS)** is gathering family literacy volunteers for the following: Fun Family Literacy workshops; book bins; reading at community events; Stress Free Math Workshops for Parents (facilitated by Wendy Toth). The Math Workshops include basic



## MINUTES

math concepts and activities that parents and their kids can do together. They will be hosted at Chilliwack Community Services (CCS).

CLS and CCS are working on a financial literacy project together, targeted for low income adults to reduce their poverty. It also impacts the children of the adults. The primary focus is to provide basic skills to these adults (or youth in transition) so that they may better understand and take control of their finances. CLS will be offering training for adult volunteers who would like to tutor adults and/or who would math with parents and adults. There will be training for volunteers & service providers with a provision of financial literacy resources that can be offered in courses to their specific client groups. CLS is currently gathering resources to be used with clients as needed. In April 2015 there might a workshop facilitated by a trainer from the Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy. Also in April 2015 will be a financial literacy fair, to which financial institutions and service organizations will be invited. The grant completion deadline is June 2015.

**Fraser Health:** The flu vaccine is ready. It will be given out in high risk areas first. Pharmacies and doctors will be vaccinating adults this year; there will not be Fraser Health mass clinics for adults. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> a "Flu nurse" will be vaccinating children ages 2-6 and their attending parents, using a nose spray.

**10. Next Meeting:** November 6, 2014

**11. Adjournment:** 3:00 pm

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