



Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee Early Years Sub-Committee



When: September 6, 2012, 1:00 to 3:00

Where: Central Elementary, 9435 Young Rd, Rm #119

Recorder: Annette Williams

Co-Chairs: Trish Ackland and Kiran Sidhu

ATTENDANCE:

Barb Presseau	CCS – Childcare Resource and Referral	presseaub@comserv.bc.ca
Dan Bibby	MCFD	daniel.bibby@gov.bc.ca
Debbie Denault	Chilliwack Learning Community Society	debbied@chilliwacklearning.com
Karin Rempel	Sardis Doorway	rempelfamily@shaw.ca
Karen Steegstra	Child and Youth Coordinator	chwkchildandyouthcoord@gmail.com
Kiran Sidhu	FV Child Development Centre	ksidhu@fvcdc.org
Trish Ackland	Child and Youth Mental Health	trish.ackland@gov.bc.ca

REGRETS:

Darby Wilkinson	CCS	
Margaret Castle	Chilliwack Society for Community Living	margaret.castle@cscl.org
Sara Van Basten	MCFD Guardianship Worker	Sara.vanbasten@gov.bc.ca
Sheri Josephson	Chilliwack YMCA	sheri.josephson@vanymca.org
Windy Solla	Stó:lō Nation Health Services	windy.solla@stolonation.bc.ca

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kiran expressed thanks to Trish for co-chairing with her.

2. Approval of Agenda – Approved, with following additions

- Add discussion about the November annual celebration.
- Add membership discussion.
- Add Divorce Care for Kids information from Todd Lueck.
- Review Early Years meeting time/date to see if it still works for the group.
- Discuss how to build new Child and Youth Coordinator’s awareness of what the group is doing.

3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting June 7, 2012 – Approved, with the following change

Sardis Doorway did not receive Chilliwack Foundation funding for Right From the Start childcare.

4. Business Arising from the minutes

ACTION: Karin will copy the letter of non-support which Sardis Doorway received, for Dan who will check into it.

ACTION: Dan has Terms of Reference for the Leadership Group. He will bring to October's Early Years meeting.

Has Nadine spoken to the school assistant about being involved in producing what was formerly the CIPC Resource Quarterly?

ACTION: Follow up should be done with Jim Edgecombe, now that Nadine is no longer at Central Elementary.

Not all organizations received Child Development Guides. Remainder will be distributed at request.

5. Agency Updates

Trish (Child & Youth Mental Health – CYMH)

- Moved into the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre. Crystal and Trish are spending half a day per week there, and now have the playroom organized.
- Trauma-Informed group will meet at Chilliwack Community Services once a month, starting Sept 20th. If anyone is interested in coming let Trish know. Continued with Bruce Perry this summer, and plan to keep continuing. Would like social workers to come, but the social workers have team meetings on Thursday mornings, which is the day for which it's planned. Trish and Dan are discussing alternative learning styles (ie: lunch). The focus is how trauma impacts children on caseloads and how to deal with it.

Barb (CCS ChildCare Resource & Referral – CCRR)

- There was a Murray Honda fundraiser on Facebook, where CCS was given money for each person who liked Murray Honda's Facebook.
- Darby is restructuring the **Family Resource Programs in CCS Early Years department.**
- Upcoming fundraiser event, Name That Tune theme. Information is on the CCS site at <http://www.comserv.bc.ca/>. Barb will bring more details to next meeting. CCRR has a contract person arranging promotional opportunities.

Debbie (Chilliwack Learning Community Society – CLCS)

- Ford Mountain Correctional Centre (FMCC) provided 16 more ladybug book bins to place in the community. FMCC took pride in the project and added cute details to the box. There are currently over 1200 books in the project's inventory. Because of in kind contributions, the project is doing fine financially. Originally at start up there were donations from Chilliwack Foundation, MCFD and private sector. Volunteers Donna Gannon and Marilynne Black have been going to each site to maintain the books. CLCS would like 1-2 more volunteers, who would be mentored by Donna and Marilynne.

IDEA: Contact Todd Lueck's Leadership students who are looking for volunteer opportunities.

- In May/June, The Book Man had a literacy fundraiser, where they raised \$1000. This money will go to the book bin project. Funds will be used in moving towards an electronic scanning and inventory system for the books.
- This coming fall or new year, CLCS is working to develop a family literacy volunteer training program. Advertising will include open invitation to those who want to volunteer for family literacy. Examples of projects are the Book Bins, Community Readers (story time in a public location), volunteer tutors who are interested in volunteer literacy, and more volunteers to facilitate Marci's Family Literacy Workshop. CLCS, FVRL and CCS are working together to develop this volunteer training program. Attendance will also be open to organizations.
- Volunteer Tutor Program – the name of the program is CALL Chilliwack. It consists of two groups: English as a Second Language (ESL) learners and non-English as a Second Language learners. Janet Les has now taken over the ESL portion.
- Last spring \$10,000 Raise-a-Reader funds came into the community for family literacy programs, and has been distributed to various agencies in the Chilliwack community. Sept 20th is the next Raise-a-Reader day. CLCS will be videoing a thank you for the funds.

Dan (MCFD)

- The summer has been busy with promoting, advertising, interviewing and selecting a Child and Youth Coordinator.
- Comment from Debbie: Dan's announcement of Cindy's resignation, especially the recap of her work activities, was very well done.

Karin (Sardis Doorway)

- Sardis Doorway starts again next Wednesday (Sept 12th). They have 41 families. 8 have kids in Kindergarten and are families where the kids aren't at Doorway but it's their youngest child. There are 48 kids. The most before were 36.
- Last year 1 family left because of the children's age(s). Often they come back so the space is held for a while. Two others left because of getting work. A few aren't returning this year because of work or school conflicts.
- A different approach was taken this year, dividing the families/parents into small groups for accountability and mentoring. Eight women who have their last child need an exit strategy, so are in a group together. Groups were planned based on similarities in ages of children and worked well. A UFV instructor will work with those who are exiting to help them transition. If any women decide to go to UFV, this would be their point of contact. The families can't always imagine life without Doorway and sometimes get quite upset about leaving, so transitioning is important.

Kiran (Fraser Valley Child Development Centre)

- They're planning a Stepping Stones group in October, which will run every Friday morning. Also being planned is a Kindergarten Ready group that will run all year long for children referred to FV CDC and going into Kindergarten in 2013. It will be hosted in Hope, Chilliwack, Mission and Abbotsford. Parents will have to be present. Chilliwack will have it on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More information will be coming.
- This is the first year they've had a wait list for children who are going into Kindergarten. They ask that people be understanding of the wait. 3 year olds are now on the wait list. Some have speculated that there was a cutback in monies, but in fact surplus dollars have been spent so now FV CDC is operating on base budget.
- Summer program went very well; there were 16 children with special needs. There was a noticeable difference in the children's behavior and ability to focus 6 weeks into the program, compared to the beginning.

Karen (Child and Youth Coordinator)

- Karen gave an overview of her educational, occupational and family background. She was excited to see the vacancy posting and is looking forward to becoming familiar with the position. Her expertise is sustainable events. She was part of school PAC, and helped lead the Heritage Fair, which was an annual event.
- Dan: Karen's orientation plan includes meeting with Kiran and Dan will meet with her bi-weekly on Monday mornings. Susan Edgecombe is also involved as part of the direct support group. Susan arranged times for chairs of the sub-committees to meet with Karen. They are also putting into action recommendations from predecessors Joy and Cyndie, regarding what each found beneficial about their orientations. Agency orientation was found to be valuable by Cyndie, so that process is important to begin as soon as possible. It's helpful to hear what agencies are doing, resources, locations, relationships.
From previous coordinators they learned that they can't off-load too much too soon. In a couple of months Karen will be given work from the committees. There are now 3-4 committees compared to 10 of previous years.
- Karen will be updated on the previous and current Strategic Plan.
- CLCS will provide an orientation to Karen when it fits her orientation schedule. Once Karen settles in, Debbie will approach her to ask what her role might be in the CLCS Early Family Literacy group.
- Karen circulated a schedule amongst the group, so that people could schedule time to meet her and talk about their agencies. The CYC group will be emailed to invite them to meet with her individually.
- Trish: Karen is welcome to the Trauma-Informed Practice sessions.

6. New Business/other Business

a. ECE/CYC Chilliwack Community Coordinator Position

Covered above.

b. ABC Update

There was a planning meeting for the 2013 consultation, where the date of Friday April 26th was chosen. This is a Pro-D day. They reviewed the last consult's evaluations, and the steering group made a number of recommendations. The results will be taken to the CYC committee meeting Tuesday September 11th. There were mixed opinions about the type of forum (keynote/workshops versus consultation of questions/ answers and feedback). 50% of the 125 who attended the 2012 conference were new attendees.

There needs to be more definition about the intention of the event - is it a consult or is it a conference?

2013 will be the 20th consult. This is a year of celebration, recognizing those agencies which have been part of it. An idea is to invite some who were involved in earlier consults, and to take time to celebrate agencies and individuals working in the field.

If it's not attracting local professionals, needs to be done to attract them?

The budget is \$10,000, thanks to commitment from the agencies.

Marketing/branding change has been confusing over the past few years. There might be some rebranding to make it more clear.

c. Divorce Care for Kids

Todd from City Life Centre sent Kiran flyer for Divorce Care for Kids, targeted for children grades 1-6 (attached at end of minutes). Please circulate widely.

d. Membership

The Early Years Leadership Group talked about the need for a connection to the Early Years committee. The committee had recently lost some members, partly because of the change in CCS rules regarding multiple people sitting on the same committee. The committee also needed support because of the changes in the strategic plan. As mentioned in point 4 above, more will be discussed about the Leadership Group at the next Early Years meeting.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Pleydell-Pearce would like to get involved in the CYC. What is the best place for him, the Early Years committee or the CYC committee? He is the head of pediatrics, contracted to Fraser Health. Kiran said he is great about going to homes and preschools to see what's happening in the childrens' homes. He would like to help with a collaborative approach amongst agencies. Finding out what he would want to get out of joining a committee will help determine the best location for him.

ACTION: Dan will arrange a meeting with Dr. Pleydell-Pearce, Susan Edgecombe and Duncan MacDonald.

DISCUSSION: Are there any other potential members with whom the Early Years committee should be trying to connect? Fraser Health is one; they sometimes come to the CYC meetings.

ACTION: Ensure Fraser Health contacts are on the distribution list so they're informed. Fraser Valley Regional Library can't come at this time, but we need to ensure they're also on the distribution list.

Darby from CCS is committed to the committee for the following few months.

e. Distribution of Minutes

ACTION: The current process of minutes distribution/posting will be changed. Now core Early Years members will receive the draft minutes, but they won't be posted on the CYC website until they've been approved at the following meeting. After the minutes have been approved they can be distributed widely.

f. Current Meeting Time and Possible Changes

Some people aren't able to make the day/time that the Early Years meeting currently falls on. This was discussed as well as the possibility of moving it.

DECISION: Leave the meeting schedule as is.

g. Community Celebration

Initial idea was put forward that without definition of what the celebration's audience should be (parents, businesses, agencies etc) and the goal for the day, it would be difficult to plan as effectively. Discussion followed whether the committee should wait until after the Strategic Plan is complete to plan another Celebration.

DECISION: Don't wait for the Strategic Plan to be complete. The committee needs to decide on the focus and intended audience.

DISCUSSION: Partner with the YMCA for Family Fun Day? There might not be as strong a branding opportunity, as it's definitely branded with the Y. If the Early Years has an independent Celebration, seek sponsorship.

Instead of having a singular event, use the money to attend various community events where we can connect with the parents, talk to them, encourage them. Working Task groups can each take a component of the goal at their various events. There aren't many early years people at the ABC conference, so it would be good to have more representation there.

It could be a simple one hour photo opportunity with the mayor and children, cutting the cake in Chambers.

This year no budget was allocated to an event due to funding shortage.

DECISION: Don't have a celebration this year. Instead look for smaller opportunities.

Nov 20th is National Child Day. Can order resources from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-eng.php>.

Kids and Cake inception: at a Monday council meeting before November 20th National Childs Day, children were invited into City Chambers to remind the city who they were working for.

7. Smart Goals

Exercise will be moved to October's meeting. Prior to the meeting Karen and committee members will search for revised Strategic Plan document and email out to the committee.

8. Early Years Committee Budget – See attached

Gateway coordinator was combined with Central Elementary Community School Coordinator. The salary was based on revenue gained at Central Elementary, so expenditures should reduce for next year. They're also getting other sponsors/funders which should alleviate some of it from next year's budget.

Note: "OTO" on the budget means "One Time Only" expenditure. Approximately \$2000 is remaining in the CCS CIPC fund. This money from will go into the Early Years account, for the committee to decide how to spend.

The budget covers March 2012 to March 2013. In February 2013 the committee should be approving a new budget for 2013-2014.

The \$40,000 Gateway Operational Support and capacity enhancement money decision will be addressed by Darby at another meeting.

DECISION: The budget should match the Strategic Plan.

9. Next Meeting Date – October 4, 2012, 1 – 3 pm

10. Adjournment: 3:10 pm

MAKE
Children
First

