



**Best Start Network
Summary Notes
Friday, October 16, 2015
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott Hamilton**

Present: Karen Davis, Grace Mater, Andrew Debicki, Cheryl Velenosi, Chris Borst, Ivana Fortino, Sgt. Jon Alsberger, Jen Vickers Manson, Judith Bishop, Karen Calligan, Laura Lukasik, Laura Martindale, Lorraine Robinson, Maggie Inrig, Maria Agro, Patti McNaney, Paul Johnson, Paula Forbes, Rachelle Moore, Ruth Doherty, Sharon Stephanian, Sherry Parsley, Wanda St. Francois

Guests: Susan Goodman, Kate Breznik

Regrets: Debbie Myers, Jessica Bryson, Aisling Higgins, Bonnie Buchanan, Brenda Bax, Colin McMullan, Karyn Callaghan, Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Marni Flaherty, Shawn Chisholm, Susan Clowes-Chisholm

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Welcome/Introductions/ Review of Meeting Notes/Declaration of Conflict of Interest	Karen Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting including our guests – Susan Goodman and Kate Breznik, the consultants who are working on the Early Years Community Plan, 2015-2020. She acknowledged the wonderful turnout of 450 community members to the Best Start 10 th Anniversary Celebration on October 8 th . If there are any modifications to the September 18th, 2015 minutes, please let Joyce know.	
2	Basic Needs Workplan	This item was deferred to a future meeting.	
3	Early Years Community Plan, 2015-2020	Susan provided a general overview of the process they have developed for the Early Years Community Plan Project which will guide the work for the next 5 years. They will be coming back to the Network later in the process for more in-depth discussion. The consultants began in early September and are currently conducting an environmental scan. They will be conducting some key stakeholder interviews. A great deal has been accomplished or is in process from the last Early Years Community Plan and the intent is not to duplicate but to determine if there was anything missed during the last process or new trends that need to be addressed. One of the challenges is that we haven't been able to successfully engage certain groups in deeper and meaningful ways. They are planning to have targeted conversations with those groups to see if there are ways we can successfully integrate them on a regular and/or ongoing basis. Early in 2016, they will be consulting with children, parents and families; some of these will be through a targeted approach. One of the questions is the manner in which we want to hear from them through this process and how we can build ongoing mechanisms to hear their voices. They have some ideas about how	A handout outlining the key pieces of the process and projected timelines for the Early Years Community Plan Project was distributed to Network members.

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		<p>they will work with children to obtain their input, for example through art. In April, the consultants will begin to analyze the data and bring this information back to the Network to validate the findings. Based on this discussion, recommendations will be developed and brought back to the Network for consideration. They anticipate this process will be completed by mid-June. Kate indicated they will be bringing the consultation plan to the Network to obtain our input prior to moving into the consultation phase with service providers, children and parents. Susan indicated they will also be speaking with 6 or 7 special focus groups (i.e.: Francophone, Aboriginal, diverse, newcomer, young parent, etc.) to better understand how to integrate them into the planning process. They will share their plans with us in November and seek our advice on how to connect with these groups in a sustainable way. The consultants are taking the recommendations and actions from the previous community plan and tracking them to existing activities that have taken place or are currently in process and then any potential gaps will be identified. If there are broader gaps that have emerged in the system that haven't been accounted for they can be brought forward for consideration.</p>	
4	<p>Best Start Demo Funding Impact: Continuing the Conversation</p>	<p>Paul Johnson facilitated this part of the meeting agenda. Today's discussion focused on things we should be doing differently or haven't been able to accomplish including new directions. Some of the areas may not necessarily involve more funding.</p> <p>Several concepts came to light including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ways we can leverage assets/resources that can have a positive impact on children and families and to include these in our community plan. • mapping where our current connections are with other planning tables/groups to ensure information exchange and cross-pollination (i.e.: housing, youth justice, violence against women, mental health and addictions, etc.) • define each layer (child, family, community) and how it is tied to the social determinants of health. Identify the gaps and where the most work needs to happen. • Importance of research and evaluation and ensuring we are able to continue to measure and monitor so we know why a particular program or project was successful or why it didn't work, etc. • Consider it from the perspective of the family and ways we can support the family holistically so they are in a better position to address the needs of their child/ren. <p>The \$1.3 million of funding is divided amongst a number of individual agencies and sectors.</p>	

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		We will need to have a broader discussion to determine what everyone brings to the table to leverage. In these discussions, we will need to consider evidence-based practice and projects and programs that show promise. This could include mapping out strategies and testing out new approaches.	
5	Membership, Terms of Reference and Committee Structure	<p>Karen stated that with the rich discussions we are having over the past two meetings, it is timely to also reflect on our membership in regard to who is represented and where we have connections. In November, the Co-ordinating Committee will be relooking at the membership and will bring forward suggestions to the Network for input and consideration.</p> <p>A number of considerations were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of ensuring representatives are able to make decisions on behalf of their organizations. • organizations that are not currently represented at the table/gaps in membership. • ensuring neutrality for those in designated roles within the Network. 	
6	Other Business	Cheryl indicated that the new Hamilton Charter of Rights for Children and Youth will be presented at City Council the second week in November and will be launched at the 2015 Week of the Child and Youth luncheon on November 19th.	Further details on the presentation of the Charter to City Council will be forwarded to the Network.
6	Adjourn	<p style="text-align: center;">Please note the meeting location.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, November 20, 2015 The Waterfront Centre (555 Bay St. N, Hamilton) 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</p>	