



**Best Start Network
Summary Notes
Friday, April 15, 2016
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
The Waterfront Centre**

Present: Debbie Myers, Karen Davis, Rachelle Moore, Brenda Bax, Cheryl Velenosi, Chris Borst, Clorinda Pagliari, Colin McMullan, Ivana Fortino, Sgt. Jon Alsbergas, Judith Bishop, Karen Calligan, Karyn Callaghan, Lita Barrie, Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Lorraine Robinson, Maria Agro, Marni Flaherty, Matt Goodman, Monique Lavalley, Patti McNaney, Paula Forbes, Pauline Kajiura, Ruth Doherty, Sherry Parsley, Susan Nall, Wanda St. Francois

Guests: Kate Feightner, Susan Goodman, Heather Graham

Regrets: Grace Mater, Jean Clinton, Jen Vickers-Manson, Maggie Inrig, Sharon Stephanian, Shawn Chisholm, Shirley McCoy, Susan Clowes-Chisholm

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Welcome/Introductions/ Review of Meeting Notes/Declaration of Conflict of Interest	Debbie Myers welcomed everyone to the meeting including our new member, Clorinda Pagliari, Communications Officer with the City of Hamilton. Clorinda will be supporting the early years' division and will be helping the Network with new branding, etc. Round-the-table introductions were made. There were no conflicts-of-interest noted.	
2	Early Years Community Plan (EYCP) Update	Susan Goodman indicated this is the third time they have come to present and obtain input from the Network on the EYCP. They have also spoken with a number of Network members in the key stakeholder interviews. They have taken the information heard and are coming back to the Network today to share the information gathered and obtain further input. Susan reviewed the agenda for today's session which included a review of priority areas and strategies, a validation exercise and a group exercise on how to get the work identified completed. She reminded the Network that the EYCP is a 3-to-5-year plan. This is a high-level presentation today. The back-up data will be included as appendices in the report. The information received has led to the strategies identified today. The final recommendations will be outlined more specifically. There are 9 key strategies that form the basis of the EYCP. Following the review of the priority areas and strategies, Network members were asked to identify anything they felt was missing or any critical concerns they had on the corresponding flip chart paper.	Please see the attached presentation slides and handout for additional information.

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		<p>The second half of the meeting was dedicated to discussing how we will organize and work together. A concept of ‘shared space’ was proposed through a graphical representation including CMSM, school boards and early years’ partners with a connection to the broader early years’ community. ‘Shared space’ is considering the work from pieces that need to be completed together versus pieces of work that would be done predominantly by the City or a specific organization (i.e.: School Boards, ASCY, etc.) An example was provided of the implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten. The planning was initially completed in shared space, although now the decisions and operational matters are handled by the school boards. When needed, the school boards consult with the broader community. This is the same for the City in regard to the child care funding formula. The CMSM has a responsibility to consult with the community, however, it is within their role to determine how to proceed with the implementation/delivery.</p> <p>Small groups were asked to look at each of the 9 strategies/priority areas of work and discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is primarily responsible for implementing? 2. What level of involvement or contribution is required from the BSN/Early Years partners? (i.e.: operational, information-sharing, other, etc.) 3. Where and how is this likely to change over time? <p>Input following the discussion are highlighted below:</p> <p>Which strategies require the most shared work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Access & Pathways • Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning • OEYCFC <p>Which strategies require less shared work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care System Planning & Stabilization – the CMSM has the legal responsibility, however, there are times when some members of the Network (i.e.: direct service providers) should be part of different stages in the process, while at other times the accountability would lie with the CMSM. 	<p>Small group discussions were captured on handouts and given to the facilitators at the end of the session.</p>

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		<p>Other comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement and Equity Lens – need to ensure a strong voice of the child within this; everything we do need’s to focus on the child’s voice. • Changing the agenda so it is reflective of ensuring children are at the center; inquiry based or asking a provocation; collective learning agenda that builds a community of practice. A number of Networks have reflected on their structure and moved to less meetings and a different framework whereby the children’s voice shapes the agenda. • Having the Children and Family Charters and “How Does Learning Happen?” as the over-arching pieces that structure the Network and drive the agenda. The four foundations of HDLH – Belonging, Engagement, Expression and Well-Being can be the connector to our work (i.e.: work plans) • Enhancing our shared vision identifying what our idea of children, families and educators are. <p>There was a brief review of timelines. At the May meeting, we will discuss how we structure the Network to complete the work we have discussed to date.</p>	<p>If you have any feedback between now and the next meeting, please connect with Susan and her team or the City staff.</p>
3	Community Updates	<p>Lita Barrie, Hamilton Public Library shared the library’s initiative and brochure on “100 Books to Read Before Starting Kindergarten”.</p> <p>Karyn Callaghan, Artists at the Centre invited the Network to the 15th Annual and last exhibit of Making Things Visible which will be held at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts between April 30 and May 28th. There is a Community Celebration on the evening of May 6th from 6 to 8 p.m.</p> <p>Debbie stated that the visitors we have had in the past from Japan are publishing a book and will be including what they liked and learned when they visited South-western Ontario.</p>	<p>If you would like multiple copies, please let Lita know.</p> <p>Please feel free to share the invitation to the Exhibit and Community Celebration, particularly with those who have been involved with the project in the past. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend the Community Celebration.</p>

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		<p>They liked the concept of universal programs to support all children without pinpointing those children who are at risk.</p> <p>Karen provided a brief update on the announcement from the Minister of Education on the response to the Proposed Regulatory Changes – Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 and Education Act – Phase 2. Many responses were received in regard to the proposed regulatory changes and strong feedback was provided to the changes to ratios. The proposed regulation will not move forward at this time. The Ministry is continuing to review the feedback. The other proposed regulations will be filed and move to legislation.</p> <p>Cindy Kinnon is the new Executive Director at St. Martin’s Manor. Linda Dayler’s last day with the agency is today. There will be a Garden Tea Party in Linda’s honour on Thursday, May 24th from 4 to 7 p.m. at Cathedral Christ the King Church.</p>	<p>Paula will forward the invitation and information to Network members on how to secure tickets to the Farewell for Linda Dayler.</p>
4	Adjourn	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 27th from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at The Waterfront Centre (555 Bay St. N., Hamilton)</p>	