



**Best Start Network
Summary Notes
Friday, January 17, 2014
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
The Waterfront Centre**

Present: Debbie Myers, Karen Davis, Grace Mater, Jodi Guilmette, Dorothy Barr-Elliott, Lita Barrie, Brenda Bax, Judith Bishop, Karyn Callaghan, Andrew Debicki, Ruth Doherty, Denise Doyle, Marni Flaherty, Ivana Fortino, Matt Goodman, Don Jaffray, Paul Johnson, Pauline Kajiura, Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Aisling Higgins, Laura Lukasik, Shirley McCoy, Colin McMullan, Rachelle Moore, Sherry Parsley, Dina Phillips, Lorraine Robinson, Sgt. Jo-Ann Savoie, Pat Senft, Jane Soldera, Wanda St. Francois, Marion Trent-Kratz, Cheryl Velenosi, Janis Webster, Rose Wegeil, Ruth Wells

Regrets: Bonnie Buchanan, Karen Calligan, Shawn Chisholm, Jean Clinton, Debbie Crickmore, Paula Forbes, Rocco Gizzarelli, Laura Martindale,

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
1	Welcome/Introductions/ Review of Meeting Notes/Declaration of Conflict of Interest	<p>Debbie welcomed everyone to the meeting and those who are relatively new to the group. Lita Barrie from the Hamilton Public Library joined us at our November meeting, Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie from the Hamilton Police Services and Sherry Parsley from the Association of Community Living are joining us for the first time today.</p> <p>There were no declarations of conflicts of interest noted.</p> <p>If there are any changes needed to the November meeting minutes, please bring this to the attention of Joyce.</p>	
2	2014 Best Start Network (BSN) Work Plan	<p>Debbie indicated that Jodi will be reviewing the BSN Work Plan. Jodi is bringing a new perspective to the table and bringing forward a number of insightful questions in the smaller working groups and sub-committees which is helpful as it brings a new eye to our work.</p> <p>Jodi indicated the BSN Work Plan is a continuing piece of work. It is a blueprint of where we are going and a summary of what has been accomplished. The Work Plan has been reshaped to align with the Network’s vision with related objectives identified together so you can see it as a package. It is divided into the 4 tenets of the vision – children, families, community/connections and the future. Items that were not completed in last year’s Work Plan have been brought forward into this year’s Work Plan. A column entitled EYCP Theme has been added to also tie it into the Early Years Community Plan. Each objective is layered into the tenet of the vision and which theme</p>	<p>Jodi welcomes comments and feedback over the course of the next week via e-mail. She will then remove the ‘draft’ and post it on the BSN website.</p>

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		<p>of the EYCP it best reflects.</p> <p>Once the 18-Month Well-Baby Visit work plan has been finalized, key components of it will be included in the BSN Work Plan as appropriate.</p>	
3	Best Start Network Outcomes	<p>Jodi and Colin made a presentation on the Best Start Network Outcome Measures.</p> <p>Colin referred to the Network meeting that had occurred in April of 2011 where we engaged in an initial discussion on this topic following the BSN demonstration project. He asked, “what do we want to achieve” and “how are we going to measure and monitor our achievements to move things forward?” The goal is to frame it in the context of the BSN vision with the intent to move forward, monitor and follow-up looking at the objectives/measures over time as a collective group. Need to determine “what as a Network we are doing to improve the lives of children and families in our community ... to make Hamilton a better place to raise a child?”</p> <p>Outcomes were identified at the April 2011 BSN meeting and there were some additional outcomes cited in the BS Strategic Framework. We want to check in with members on how they feel about those previously identified outcomes and to determine if they are still relevant, a priority and to take the discussions deeper.</p> <p>We need to measure what difference it makes that we are meeting at the Network in sub-committees and working groups, etc. How can we measure and assess how we are improving the lives of children and families? Colin stated that we are making a difference on a programmatic level as individual organizations but how are we doing this as a collective? He asked members to consider the BSN vision in terms of outcomes in the 4 areas: children, families, community/connections and the future.</p> <p>Colin identified what is and what is not an outcome. He is not looking for members to come up with data or ways of getting the data, etc. The Early Years Research and Evaluation (EYRE) Committee will do further work in outlining and obtaining the specific information/data.</p> <p>Andrew stated he participated in a meeting in Alberta in October where they were mapping community kids by neighbourhoods and by strengths and needs. Is this what we are looking for?</p>	Please refer to the presentation slides for additional information.

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		<p>Colin indicated they are looking for broad statements; a higher population level discussion.</p> <p>Jodi stated there was a wonderful discussion of outcomes that occurred in April 2011 and that some of the work was used to develop the Strategic Framework for Best Start. They tried to pull all the success measures and outcomes identified at the April 2011 meeting into one document in a way that outcomes will relate easily to the BSN vision. Jodi reviewed some of the previously identified outcomes and asked the group to determine if they are still relevant. She indicated the word ‘equity’ was identified in the April 2011 BSN minutes. Groups may want to consider ‘equity’ and how it might relate to the outcomes they will be creating.</p> <p>Each of the discussion groups was given a tenet of the BSN vision (children, families, community/connections and future) to discuss in the context of the 4 questions presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do these outcomes reflect the intent of previous discussions? • Are these outcomes still relevant? • What other outcomes should be considered? • What are the top 2 priority outcomes for each tenet of the Best Start Network vision? <p><u>Small Group Discussion Highlights:</u></p> <p>Jodi indicated that the task is not an easy one to articulate in terms of what we mean and what we want to accomplish.</p> <p>Marion stated their group looked at the tenet of families. They realized through their discussion that they really don’t have control over whether families are financially stable so the outcomes they identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families who are stable and engaged. • Families should be healthy, happy and resilient. • Family structures are valued and welcomed. <p>Rachelle reported back on the tenet of community and connections. The outcomes</p>	

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		<p>they developed are:</p> <p>We want to live in a community that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an equitable community-based system of care • provide appropriate and inclusive environments and care for children’s healthy development and well-being that are of high quality. <p>Paul reported on behalf of the group that focused on the tenet of the future. This group’s outcome was to ensure the level of vulnerability for children is no more than 15% on the EDI score. He indicated that no child chooses to be vulnerable. It is an outcome in which everyone at the BSN table can play a role.</p> <p>Sherry reported on behalf of the last group on the tenet of children. The two outcomes they developed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want children who are thriving, learning and developing. • We want children who are engaged community citizens and are accepting (or respectful) of others. <p>Jodi indicated they will take the priority outcomes to the EYRE Committee. This Committee, in turn, will look and see what data is available to measure the outcomes identified. She hopes the Committee can complete their review in time to bring the information back to the April BSN meeting where the BSN can have a further discussion and prioritization exercise based on the results. Depending upon what data is available, we may choose one, several or all 8 of the outcomes. It may mean sharing data between agencies if this is possible within the privacy legislation, etc. The hope is that at the completion of this process, the information will drive the work plan for next year. Once we have finalized the outcomes, the sub-committees can take a look and see how they apply to their work.</p> <p>Andrew asked if we require new data and if it is deemed important by the Network, would we look at how we could support getting the data?</p> <p>Lita indicated that we may want to investigate as the Government of Ontario is making data available more openly.</p>	<p>Ruth Wells will check on the data that is available through the Ontario government and report</p>

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			back to the Network.
4	Updates	<p>Debbie indicated that we want to take a moment to acknowledge a long-standing member of the Network and community – Pat Senft. Pat has been a valuable part of our community and a great resource for service providers. This is Pat’s last BSN meeting as she is moving on to retirement. She has shared an incredible amount of knowledge and skills with us over the years.</p> <p>Grace stated that, on a personal level, her involvement with Pat began when she started with Children’s Services at the City in the late ‘80s. Grace learned a great deal from Pat and was very appreciative of the friendship and mentoring Pat provided to her both personally and professionally.</p> <p>Pat stated that it has been an absolute joy and pleasure to be a part of the Network from its inception. She has been with Community Living Hamilton for 41 years. The vision of the Network has kept us grounded and helped us realize how important it is as you can’t have a vision without action. The room is filled with people who are passionate and are committed to making it happen. She extended a personal thank you to Jane, Grace and Brenda as they have made her path on this journey meaningful. Jane was initially the Director at Red Hill Family Centre and wanted the child care centre to be inclusive from day one. Grace, who initially was Therapeutic Co-ordinator at the City, met with Integration Resources HUB and helped to move children from segregated to inclusive programs. Brenda has also been a great support. She can’t imagine having more guidance, trust and support from the three of them.</p> <p>Brenda provided an update on the Wait List Policy Review that had been discussed at the November Network meeting. She thanked everyone who promoted the completion of surveys and participated in focus groups. They have received approximately 400 responses from parents which is wonderful for a survey of this nature. The information is currently being collated. Brenda thanked everyone for supporting the process. An invitation has been extended to the child care sector for January 28th and 29th where they will be providing an update on system transformation and stabilization. There has been an investment in OneHSN, an on-line registration for parents who wish to access a licensed child care space. Aisling has created beautiful information tools regarding OneHSN.</p> <p>Jodi stated that as we are likely aware, Bill 143 was a new piece of legislation</p>	

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		<p>introduced in December. In addition, proposed changes to the Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Act and Regulations under the Day Nurseries Act (DNA) have also been announced. An invitation has been extended via e-mail for community members to participate in a session to prepare a community response scheduled for Friday, February 7th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Courtyard Marriott. The session will focus on what we think about the changes as a community. Submissions are due to the Ministry by February 28th.</p> <p>Denise indicated that if you would like to nominate someone for the YWCA Women of Distinction Award, the submission deadline is February 13th.</p> <p>Marni commented that the legislation may or may not be passed and she is glad to see that we are responding as a community. She encouraged organizations in the community to also make a separate response.</p>	<p>If you would like to attend the community consultation session, please RSVP to Judi Childs at judi.childs@hamilton.ca by Friday, January 31st.</p>
5	Adjourn	<p>Please note: Next Meeting is scheduled for: Friday, February 21, 2014 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Waterfront Centre, 555 Bay St. N., Hamilton</p>	