



**Best Start Network  
Summary Notes  
Friday, April 17, 2015  
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
The Waterfront Centre**

**Present:** Debbie Myers, Jodi Guilmette, Aisling Higgins, Andrew Debicki, Arwinder Kaur, Bonnie Buchanan, Chris Borst, Colin McMullan, Dean Younger, Denise Christopherson, Dorothy Barr, Jessica Bryson, Judith Bishop, Laura Martindale, Lita Barrie, Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Lorraine Robinson, Marni Flaherty, Monique Lavalle, Paula Forbes, Pauline Kajiura, Rachelle Moore, Sandra Parker, Sharon Stephanian, Wanda St. Francois

**Guests:** Alex Thomson, Maggie Inrig

**Regrets:** Karen Davis, Brenda Bax, Cheryl Velenosi, Grace Mater, Ivana Fortino, Sgt. Jon Alsbergas, Karyn Callaghan, Laura Lukasik, Matt Goodman, Paul Johnson, Ruth Doherty, Shawn Chisholm, Shirley McCoy

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	Welcome/Introductions/ Review of Meeting Notes/Declaration of Conflict of Interest	Debbie welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Arwinder Kaur who is attending on behalf of Sylvie Gravelle from the French School Board. Round-the-table introductions were made.  There were no declarations of conflicts of interest noted.  If there are any modifications to the February 20, 2015 minutes, please let Joyce know.	
2	Best Start 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans	Jessica provided an update in regard to the Best Start 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The Planning Committee has been meeting monthly and has two events planned. An event has been planned for October 8 <sup>th</sup> at Michelangelo’s and is geared to service providers. A Save the Date will be coming soon and tickets will be available in June. Jean Clinton will be speaking at this event and there will be entertainment from the school boards. The other event is geared to families and children and is in partnership with Telling Tales on September 20 <sup>th</sup> at Westfield Heritage Village. There will be a Best Start information booth for families and another table with fun activities for kids along a birthday party theme. Aisling is working on a video that will be showcased at the celebration. Small group discussions took place to identify 5-10 accomplishments of Best Start that the Network would like to acknowledge and celebrate as part of our the anniversary year.	Volunteers are needed for the Telling Tales event. If you or your staff are interested in volunteering, please contact Deb Forster, Today’s Family.  The list compiled by the small groups will be shared with the Planning Committee.
3	Best Start Child and Family Centres	Jodi provided an update on the planning for the Best Start Child & Family Centres (BSCFC). A Working Group was formed of Network members and to date they have had two well-focused and productive meetings. The group has developed a work plan which will be	Comments to the work plan were requested by May 1 <sup>st</sup> .

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		<p>forwarded to Network members electronically. The Working Group is drafting a terms of reference and guiding principles which will be brought back to the Network within the next few meetings. There are plans to conduct a visioning exercise. They are working on some quick win's. The Beasley Neighbourhood Centre is well-positioned as a BSCFC and there are plans to use this site as a pilot. There are plans to have a second pilot site and the Working Group is exploring possibilities for this second site. Prior to making a decision on the second site, an environmental scan will be conducted to consider the data and demographics. As work continues with the development6 of the BSCFCs, community consultation will occur to obtain input. A financial impact assessment will also take place. Monitoring and evaluation will be a key component and it is important for us to determine what we hope to achieve. The tentative timeline for implementation of the pilots is this fall. The Ministry has not yet released the guidelines for the BSCFCs, however, we feel our plans will align with the Ministry guidelines. The original Working Group has agreed to manage the work plan.</p>	<p>If you are interested in being a part of the work plan management group, please let Jodi know asap.</p>
4	Canada Learning Bond Initiative Update	<p>Rachelle provided an update in regard to the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) Initiative. This is a Federal Government initiative and there are financial criteria that must be met in order to be eligible. Parents can open up a RESP and receive \$500.00 initially and then \$100 each year till their child turns 15 years. The funds can be used for post-secondary education. The research has indicated that if the funds are available, there is a 50% greater chance the child will continue on to post-secondary education. The banks are promoting the CLB. Service Canada is also available at the CLB events to help families apply for a Social Insurance # and the bank is able to open up the RESP on the spot. Other partners include Public Health – Healthy Smiles Ontario Program (dental), Neighbourhood Action Strategies, Ontario Works and recreation programs. Each neighbourhood is working with their community to address any potential barriers (i.e. having translators available to address language barriers, etc.) At the event yesterday, 55 children were signed up and almost 400 have been signed up in total over the 6 ½ events to date. Sustainability may be a challenge. A tool kit has been developed to help any organizations that wish to host an event. There is a CLB Network where information can be exchanged by communities across Canada. There is a short online application that can be completed by the parent with the support of service providers. There is also a Smart Saver Link, community incentive program that provides \$25.00 kick-back to the community for every child that signs up for the CLB.</p>	<p>The link for the online application is <a href="http://www.smartsaver.org/startmyresp">www.smartsaver.org/startmyresp</a></p>
5	Provincial Special Needs Strategy Update	<p>Wanda provided an update on the Provincial Special Needs Strategy. There are two planning tables – one for Coordinated Service Planning and another for Integrated Rehabilitative Services (SLP, OT and PT). The Planning Tables have been meeting on a weekly basis since January. The work of the Coordinated Services Planning Table needs to</p>	

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		<p>be completed by mid-June. The Integrated Rehab Planning Table must be completed by October, however, they would like to have most of the details finalized by the end of June.</p> <p>The focus of the Coordinated Services Planning Table is to select one agency that would be responsible for coordinating services for children and youth with complex/multiple needs from birth up to the end of school. The Planning Table has been defining the population, estimating the demand, reviewing best practice models and compiling the information for our local plan. Parents have been involved through focus groups. The plan is to share a draft framework of the plan with parents prior to making our submission to the Ministry.</p> <p>The Integrated Rehab Planning Table is reviewing the current system of Rehab services (OT, PT, SLP) from birth to end of school. One of the key elements is that it must be seamless for the child/youth/family ensuring that a child is not discharged from one service and has to reapply to another. If the child was receiving service in preschool then it would flow and continue on in the school years. Services should be provided in the location that is best for the child/youth and family. The Planning Table is beginning to craft the plan and are at the beginning stages of looking at possible models of service delivery.</p>	
6	Local Special Needs Resourcing Review Update	<p>Jessica provided a brief update. The City hired consultants to review and provide recommendations regarding the Special Needs Resourcing system in Hamilton. The Report went to the Emergency and Community Services Committee of Council in February. There is an internal City Committee that is in the process of developing an implementation plan to determine which recommendations they will move forward and implement.</p>	<p>The link to the full Report can be found at <a href="http://www.hamiltonbeststart.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Final-Report-Review-of-Early-Years-Special-Needs-Resourcing-in-the-City-of-Hamilton-Oct-31.pdf">www.hamiltonbeststart.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Final-Report-Review-of-Early-Years-Special-Needs-Resourcing-in-the-City-of-Hamilton-Oct-31.pdf</a></p>
7	Provincial Children’s Mental Health Strategy Update	<p>Alex Thomson, Executive Director and Maggie Inrig, Director of Systems Operations from Lynwood Charlton Centre presented on the provincial children’s mental health strategy and the roll-out locally.</p> <p>Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) has been working on this strategy since 2006. The Ministry is interested in the provision of consistent mental health services across the province with the objective of ensuring easy and more transparent access to services. Lynwood Charlton Centre is the lead for the children’s mental health strategy in Hamilton. 2015/’16 will be dedicated to developing the community mental health plan. Initially, they did not have the full opportunity to engage youth groups but are currently meeting with</p>	<p>Please see the attached presentation slide and graphic for additional information.</p>

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		<p>established youth groups in the community. The initiative is still in the early stages and they are continuing to gather information to better understand the community’s services. Resources will be adjusted as the population, needs and organization’s change.</p> <p>This is a part of a 6-Ministry Initiative to be rolled out over 10 years. The first 3 years are dedicated to children’s mental health. There are 14 core service providers who are engaged in the planning process. The community will be engaged through the community health plan development. The first responsibility is to the core service providers and then it will be broadened to community health providers and others who can inform the process. The initiative ranges from targeted interventions to intensive services. It covers the broad continuum of wellness and well-being.</p> <p>A thank you was extended to Alex and Maggie for sharing progress on this initiative with the Network.</p>	
8	<p>Other Business:</p> <p>Response to Bill 10 Regulatory Posting</p>	<p>There was an announcement from the Ministry pertaining to the draft regulations re: Bill 10 which will replace the Day Nurseries Act and modernize the child care and early years’ system. Marni outlined a concern in regard to the proposed maximum ratios in home child care and asked for the Network to support the removal of the exemption as it poses safety concerns and does not support quality of care for children/families using home child care.</p> <p>Jodi and Marni will draft a letter on behalf of the Network which identifies our concern with the proposed regulatory change for home child care. The letter will be forwarded to the Network for comment. The deadline for submissions to the Ministry is May 11<sup>th</sup>. Debbie, as Chair of the Network will sign the letter.</p>	<p>Jodi and Marni will draft a letter on behalf of the Network.</p>
9	<p>Adjourned</p>	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday, May 22, 2015</b> <b>The Waterfront Centre (555 Bay St., Hamilton, ON)</b> <b>1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b></p>	