



**Best Start Network
Summary Notes
Friday, May 22, 2015
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
The Waterfront Centre**

Present: Debbie Myers, Jodi Guilmette, Karen Davis, Andrew Debicki, Bonnie Buchanan, Brenda Bax, Cheryl Velenosi, Chris Borst, Colin McMullan, Dean Younger, Dorothy Barr, Grace Mater, Ivana Fortino, Jessica Bryson, Sgt. Jon Alsbergas, Judith Bishop, Karen Calligan, Laura Martindale, Laurel Cooke, Lita Barrie, Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Lorraine Robinson, Maria Agro, Marni Flaherty, Rachelle Moore, Ruth Doherty, Sandra Parker, Shawn Chisholm, Shirley McCoy, Wanda St. Francois

Regrets: Aisling Higgins, Jean Clinton, Karyn Callaghan, Laura Lukasik, Lyne Proulx, Monique Lavalley, Paul Johnson, Paula Forbes, Pauline Kajiura, Suzanne Iskander, Sylvie Gravelle

	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 introduced our newest member, Maria Agro, Manager of Parent Engagement, Early Years Leadership and Parent & Family Literacy Centres with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. Round-the-table introductions were made.</p> <p>There were no declarations of conflicts of interest noted.</p> <p>If there are any modifications to the April 17, 2015 minutes, please let Joyce know.</p>	
2	Defining BSCFCs Vision	<p>Debbie indicated that we have been discussing the Best Start Child & Family Centres (BSCFCs) for quite some time. The Coordinating Committee and BSCFCs Working Group felt it was important to discuss the vision of the Centres at the Network. Following Debbie’s presentation on the background of the BSCFCs and history of community consultations and discussions that have occurred to date, Jodi outlined the format and task for the small group discussions. Groups were asked to consider the key themes identified in context to the four foundations of “How Does Learning Happen?” , identifying any areas missing and our vision for the community hubs.</p> <p>Jodi stated that the Beasley site currently has an OEYC and PFLC operating from this location. The Network has discussed having Beasley become a pilot site for the BSCFC so Jodi asked members to consider what the difference is between how Beasley operates today and our vision for this site as a BSCFC. Each small group worked on one of the four</p>	<p>For additional information, please review the attached presentation slides.</p> <p>The notes from the small groups will be discussed with the BSCFC Working Group.</p>

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
		<p>foundations: Belonging, Well-being, Engagement and Expression. The following is a summary of the highlights from the small group discussions:</p> <p><u>Group – Belonging:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful of communities • Responsive • Represent the different languages of children/families in Hamilton • Create a safe, warm environment • Ensure a systems approach to planning and service delivery • Ensure programming is versatile and that a range of services can be offered • First point of contact so it is important that staff are knowledgeable as they become a navigator of the system <p><u>Group – Well-being:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s in it for children? • What’s in it for families? • What’s in it for organizations? • Importance of cross-sectoral linkages • Responsive to different communities i.e. low income, immigrant, children with special needs • Fun place where everyone feels welcome; warm relationships • Accessible in all ways • Prevention/intervention at the earliest level possible • Systems approach – organizational buy-in, policies and procedures, key aspects written into job descriptions, policies related to the role of the agency in relation to the community (advocacy) <p><u>Group – Engagement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming so people feel welcomed and engaged • Responsive and flexible to community needs • Have a good understanding of the system so staff can help people navigate to the right contact person. The System of Care Working Group is looking at creating a pathway for families and organizations to help people navigate to the right door. • Community involvement – transportation could be an issue, looking at the needs of the community/neighbourhood, current trends and where families are already 	

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
		<p>engaged and then building on the assets of the community/neighbourhood.</p> <p><u>Group – Expression</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The view of the child was the starting point for their discussion. Children are seen as citizens with rights and a respectful view. • Children could be self-advocates. • Use of strengths-based terminology/assets • Creating an environment that is meaningful • Engage parents; all families want to be heard and acknowledged • Sense of community – empathy, reciprocity • Also consider staff at the centre of how and what we are doing <p>Taking the information that had been shared, small groups were asked to create a vision statement, its components or a visual depiction as well as a name for the BSCFCs. A synopsis from the small group discussions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include child and family in the statement • The name should be identifiable by the neighbourhood (i.e. Beasley Child & Family Centre) • Key words: citizens with rights, meaningful engagement, reciprocity, adaptable, responsive, high-quality, aspirational • Aligns with the current vision of Best Start as it builds on the strengths of our existing model and is something everyone knows (Hamilton is the best place to raise a child) • Should be reflective of the neighbourhood/community • Needs to resonate with the community • Suggestion that we should hire someone with expertise in marketing to develop a name and branding • As we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of Best Start this year, it gives us the opportunity to talk to people about what resonates with them. 	
3	Provincial Community Hubs Advisory Group	Karen Calligan, Ministry of Education shared information on the provincial community hubs strategy, a government-wide strategy which was released by the Premier at the end of March. The Premier has formed a Community Hub Framework Advisory Group led by Special Advisor, Karen Pitre. There are 9 advisory members who will consult and seek input across ministries and sectors. Lois Mahon, former President of Mohawk College has been	We will extend an invitation to Lois Mahon, Community Hub Framework Advisory Committee member to join

	Agenda Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
		<p>appointed as one of the advisory members. Lois was also the former Chair of the Best Start Network in Sudbury.</p> <p>The Community Hub Framework is inclusive of all age groups and looks at ways publicly funded infrastructure (i.e. schools, neighbourhood centres, etc.) can support an asset-based approach to coordination. The initiative aligns with the neighbourhood strategy and Best Start.</p> <p>Feedback is being requested from the public and can be done online or via e-mail. Presently, a deadline for submissions hasn't been identified.</p> <p>It was suggested that we may want to broaden our discussions by including representatives from the children's hospital in regard to the development that is occurring near the Beasley neighbourhood and St. Catherine of Siena School has also had some interesting developments that may be of interest to the Network.</p>	<p>us for a conversation on the community hub strategy.</p> <p>The Premier's Media Release will be forwarded to the BSN members.</p> <p>The Coordinating Committee will discuss the suggestion of having discussions with representatives from the children's hospital and St. Catherine of Siena School and identify a timeline for adding it to the BSN agenda.</p>
4	BSN Membership	<p>The Coordinating Committee has been reviewing membership and would like to put forth two recommendations to have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maggie Inrig, Lynwood Charlton Centre join the Network as the mental health representative. 2. Arwinder Kaur be an alternate for Sylvie Gravelle from the French Public Board when she is unable to make the meeting. 	Both recommendations were supported by BSN members.
5	Other Business:	The Telling Tales Bookmarks for their festival on Sunday, September 20th and information from the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE), Continuous Professional Learning (PCL) information was available for Network members to take and share amongst their colleagues and families.	
6	Adjourned	<p style="text-align: center;">Please note the change in meeting location.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, June 19, 2015 Courtyard by Marriott (Upper James St.) 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</p>	