



## ECD ROUNDTABLE MINUTES UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND 4543 CANADA WAY, BURNABY

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

### PRESENT

Osayi Aiwekhoe, BCIT Nursing  
Lynell Anderson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC  
Gini Bonner, Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society  
Mary Burgaretta, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society  
Maria Cargnelli, Abbotsford Comm. Services/CCCABC  
Mike Clarke, BC Government and Service Employees' Union  
Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC/Collingwood Neighbourhood House  
Nichole Holdbak, Success by 6 BC  
Sue Irwin, Child Care Resource & Referral – Vancouver Coastal Region

April Martin Ko, BC Council for Families  
Cara Lorenz, BCIT Nursing  
Ramsay Malange, BC Association of Family Resource Programs  
Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (recorder)  
Beverley Pitman, United Way of the Lower Mainland  
Yvette Plante, Red Cross  
Pam Preston, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre  
Jan Waldbillig, Westcoast Family Centres  
Kerry Watts, BC Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) Society/Connect for Kids  
Adrienne Montani, First Call

### CALL-IN

Michelle Dickie, Kelowna Child Care Society  
Lianne Carley, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Lynne Reside, Success by 6/Children First N. Okanagan, Columbia, Shuswap

### REGRETS

Caroline Kent, BC Government and Service Employees' Union  
Katherine Moore, First Call  
Pam Alcorn, Federation of Community Social Services of BC  
Shannon Newman-Bennett, YWCA Metro Vancouver

### 1. Welcome and agenda

- Introductions and regrets – Pam Preston chairing
- Agenda adopted

### 2. Previous meeting minutes – [September 7, 2016](#)

- Reviewed and approved
- Actions arising
  - [Letter](#) to Minister Lake re: infant MSP enrollment sent October 12<sup>th</sup>. Adrienne also emailed the Deputy Minister to request a meeting for Sanctuary Health and is hopeful that it will transpire.
  - Letter to Minister Lake re: outdoor play space policy change is yet to be written. Mariana Brussoni, assistant professor in UBC's School of Population and Public Health and Department of Pediatrics and lead author of a study on the positive results from supporting children's risky outdoor play, has added her name to those who volunteered to help draft the letter.

### 3. ECD Sector Updates/Presentations/Discussions

- **MCFD updates** – MCFD representatives were not available for this meeting. In their stead participants brought forward the following MCFD related items.
  - New posting on BC bid for the Early Years Office “seeking proposals from qualified proponents to conduct an inventory of the programs and services serving prenatal to school

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age children across British Columbia. This project will involve creating a comprehensive inventory of existing services and programs funded by the Province and where possible, the federal government. To complete this project, information will be acquired through engagement with provincial government employees and federal partners. This project will include a consolidation of all mapping/inventory/review projects previously undertaken (building on current work). “

It was noted that upon a review of the posting’s documentation it appears that the inventory is to include information about program expenditures and administration to inform program contracting. The contract completion deadline is March 31, 2017.

**Action:** After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Adrienne would ask Tessa Graham to provide information on the goals and intent of this initiative and how it differs in scope from other initiatives and community inventories. Her response could hopefully be either in writing by return or at the next ECD Roundtable meeting in January.

- The Ministry of Education superintendent of the early years, Maureen Dockendorf, is working with the EYO to host a series of roundtables around the province bringing together disparate parts of the sector to discuss children’s Kindergarten transitions. This seems like a good opportunity. Invitations will be coming out soon.

The need to actively include supported child care (especially within the context of transition to school) and the child care resource and referral programs in regional outreach discussions was noted.

- There has been a staffing change in the Early Years Office. Danielle Smith has moved on and been replaced by Corrine Sagmeister.

- **EI Clawback policy change**

Effective October 1, 2016, the clawback of women’s maternity and parental leave EI benefits from families on disability and income assistance will cease. The ministry will also stop clawing back EI benefits from parents caring for critically ill children.

- **Early Years Services Access Survey**

- Even though the survey deadline is not until Friday, October 28, 2016 a handout with preliminary results from this survey was shared with participants. There has been a strong response from child care and family resource and drop-in programs. Initial high level look at some of the access difficulties indicates transportation is a significant factor. First Call is pleased and very grateful to Vancouver Coastal Health and United Way to have received funding to proceed with phase two of the project. The sub-committee will continue working on this project and report regularly to this table. Ramsay Malange (FRPBC) will join the sub-committee.

- **Draft Executive Summary – First Call’s Early Years Call to Action**

- The draft executive summary that has been in the hands of the designer was handed out to participants for review and discussion. Overall comments were very positive. Early

intervention and special needs need to be lifted-up as other aspects of the draft are reduced. Adrienne asked participants to review the draft and get back to her with any suggestions.

- **Provincial Election Toolkit**

- A draft of the ECD section of the First Call provincial election toolkit was discussed. All questions, with exception of the last were posed in the last election toolkit. The new one is *Access to Health Care for all Canadian Babies* which has been added due to the apparent blocking of enrolment of Canadian born babies in the Medical Services Plan of BC (MSP) based on their parents' immigration status.

Observations were that most questions invite yes/no answers but some could be worded to leave the door open for comment. There could also be questions that highlight these issues from the perspective of Aboriginal and immigrant communities.

Adrienne also circulated a comparison of the provincial/territorial child benefit policies. This comparison might be added to the poverty component of the toolkit as it illustrates how small BC's benefit is compared to those in other provinces. There was agreement that it would be an excellent addition.

There was also discussion about the lack of access to child care spaces and the need for voter information about newly-announced spaces built vs. actual spaces filled and lost, as well as the issue of affordability. Since there is no community need assessment attached to the decision-making about who gets capital funds, are the spaces being created in places and for the age groups that need them?

Can we check and report on delivery on relevant ministerial mandates?

- **Federal consultation on maternity and parental leave**

- An information item to encourage Roundtable members to bring this consultation to the attention of their communities. One concern arising is that while the policy change proposed is intended to be more flexible and allow earlier access, there is no increase in the benefit amount, therefore dollars would be spread more thinly for families that take advantage of the proposed flexibility. This does nothing for lower wage families, whose benefit levels are inadequate to live on. Another is that both existing and proposed leave policies are not accessible to families without enough EI time.

(FYI Since this meeting a related document have been posted to the First Call website. <http://firstcallbc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Federal-Minister-Families-Duclos-EI-Parent-Leave-Letter-FirstCall-2016-11.pdf>

- **Other issues** – Concern that a recent statement provided to the media on behalf of Minister of Children and Family Development Stephanie Cadieux, appears to boast that B.C. is the only province offering subsidies to low income families for unlicensed unmonitored child care.

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#### 4. Member Updates and New Resources

- CCCABC - NDP leader John Horgan announced \$10 daycare election promise. This has media and other increased interest in the campaign.

- The Coalition, represented by Melanie Anderson and West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), represented by Kendra Milne, were among the Canadian women who presented at the 65th session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in Geneva. Their report, can be found on line at: <http://www.westcoastleaf.org/2016/10/27/joint-submission-un-child-care-cedaw/>
- BCACCS – will be welcoming 265 delegates to Gathering Strength and Nurturing Growth Celebrating 20 Years of Quality and Innovation, their 2016 Annual Provincial Training Conference: Nov. 10 - 12, 2016. Also, the organization has undertaken some funded community consultation and the resulting report may be released at conference.
- BC Council for Families –received gaming money for multilingual programming for many of its training opportunities (e.g. Nobody’s Perfect Parenting, My Tween and Me, etc.) Lots of training opportunities going on. Check their [website](#) for detail.
- FRPBC - will be losing office space in January. They are looking for a new location and welcome suggestions. The Associations’ Annual General Meeting will be held at the Musqueam Cultural Centre, in Vancouver on Nov. 25, 2016.
- BC CAPC Society – still highlighting the lack of funding and were recently helped by Murray Rankin (MP for Victoria), who made a statement in the House of Commons about the Community Action Program for Children and why we need to do more to make sure valuable programs for children and families get a much-needed funding lift.
- Young Parent Programs (YPP) / Abbotsford Community Services – funding hasn’t changed for a long time so YPP programs are struggling and some are shutting down. Meanwhile, families are presenting with more complex needs, e.g. mental health issues, domestic violence. Abbotsford CS is piloting a Heart-Mind Parenting program.
- Five Family Place Partnership / Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society – License-not-required child care providers are attending family places in increasing numbers. MPFCS is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are seeing over 50 children and parents every day at the centre, so looking at building capacity.
- Red Cross, Respect Ed – programing is mostly focussed on youth but they are about to deliver a program for the support workers for young parents in schools.
- North Okanagan ECD Coalition – Working with HELP on Heart-Mind outreach; with the City of Vernon on a child care needs assessment. See also Vernon’s [children’s charter](#). The call for proposals to host the 2017 Cities Fit for Children Summit is out. The announcement of new child care spaces in Golden was welcome. There’s a film about the 60’s scoop of indigenous children to be available soon. Check the website of the [National Indigenous Survivors of Child Welfare Network](#).
- Success by 6 BC - Information about Learning Bonds and low-income family barriers has been distributed to credit unions’ staff. An information sheet for parents was also produced.
- First Call – Adrienne recommended referenced brief by West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) re how welfare policy diminishes women’s financial independence. For details see <http://www.westcoastleaf.org/2016/09/26/standing-relationship-equality-women-poverty/>

## 5. Future Meeting Dates

Wednesdays, 9:30 am to noon:

- March 15, 2017
- May 17, 2017