



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

**January 18, 2017**

### PRESENT

Beverley Pitman, United Way Lower Mainland  
Bibigul Amirova  
Faith Bodnar, Inclusion BC  
Gini Bonner, Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society  
Joseph Dunn, Success by 6  
Kerry Watts, BC CAPC Society/Connect for Kids  
Kirsten Bevelander, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (recorder)  
Pam Preston, Westcoast Child Care Resources (chair)  
Ramsay Malange, BC Association of Family Resource Programs  
Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC/Collingwood Neigh. House  
Sue Irwin, Child Care Resource and Referral, VC Region  
Adrienne Montani, First Call

### BY PHONE

Joel Kaplan, BC Council for Families  
Pam Alcorn, Federation of Community Social Services  
Renee Quanstrom, Golden Child Care Resource and Referral

### REGRETS

Coralys Cuthbert, City of Richmond  
Sara Cameron, MOSAIC  
Shannon Newman-Bennett, YWCA Metro Vancouver

## 1. Welcome and Agenda

- First Nations territories acknowledgement, Introductions, regrets; Pam Preston chairing
- Agenda adopted with two additions: Economic analysis of \$10a day child care plan, Federal update

## 2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2016

- Adopted with one change: Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society is celebrating its 40-year not 20-year anniversary.

Actions arising:

- Letter to Minister Lake re: outdoor play space policy. Letter still being drafted. No meeting scheduled yet.
- Update on Sanctuary Health concerns: Positive meeting with Ministry of Health staff was held and it is reported that some Canadian-born babies have since been enrolled in the MSP.
- Inquiry to Early Years Office re inventory project: Emily Horton sent the following information:
  - The Provincial Office for the Early Years is coordinating a cross-ministry inventory of provincial and federal early years programs and services in BC.
  - The project will provide partners with a consolidated inventory that has not previously been available, and it is expected this inventory will support many different projects – from program and policy planning to exploring refinement of a map or other tool that could support parents in navigating programs and services in their community.

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- The focus of this inventory is to better understand the key 'services' being provided through early years programs – e.g. Parent education, prenatal supports, etc. and how the various partners at the provincial and federal levels contribute to supporting these services across BC communities.
  - The project is managed by a governance structure which includes partners from multiple ministries, FNHA, and public health agency of Canada.
  - An RFP was issued in November and Deloitte is the successful proponent who will be carrying out the bulk of the work.
  - The project is expected to be completed close to the end of the fiscal year on March 31.
- Adrienne asked if the inventory will include capturing the funding picture for early years services too, and whether the results will be shared with the ECD Roundtable/community. There has been no response yet.

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

- **MCFD updates** – MCFD representatives were not available for this meeting. Emily Horton, previously Director, Strategic Priorities and Project Management of the Early Years Office is now the Acting Executive Director of the office.

**Federal update re child care:** (quoted from a communication with federal Minister Duclos' office) - "now working directly with the Minister's Office on timing and announcements ... actively engaging with the Ministers across the provinces and territories and our timelines are consistent with what their expectations are of us. We hope to have more details to announce over the next few weeks or months." Previously the principle contact for BC in these negotiations was Tessa Graham of the Early Years Office.

- **Early Years Services Access Survey** – First Call is about to initiate a contract for work on the survey project. Participants reviewed and discussed a handout that summarized the responses to the first 4 questions in the Phase 1 survey (414 responders). The sectoral and geographic analysis is yet to be done and will be completed over the next month.

Discussion of Question 1 re kinds of programs and services responding included the following:

- Many organizations provide similar services/different program names e.g. family drop in/Strong Start.
- There has been an organic growth of services due to the creativity of organizations to respond to community need for ECD programs in the absence of government leadership.
- What categories should FC use to address the complexity not only of the service terminology but of the funding sources?
- How is the provincial government survey dealing with categories?
- The level of government funding does not equate to the hours of service. The latter often significantly exceeds the former.
- Next round might ask organizations what percentage of their work is in each type of service (to tease out the complexity, hours and money.)

- Both the United Way and Success by 6 reps spoke about their potential for ‘deep dives’ into data and community needs assessments.
- How can the role of the 144 community coordinators be captured?
- The survey exercise may help to unify sector and reduce silos.
- It is important not to blur the “access goal” with other information needs.

Discussion of Question 2 re access barriers for parents/families included the sentiment that while the responses to this question are interesting – especially that transportation led the list of why parents/caregivers might have difficulty in accessing the existing programs – it must be kept in mind that the responses are the opinions of service providers not the parents themselves.

Discussion of Question 3 re program closures – not surprising that 58 % of the responses identified funding, lack of resources, operational costs as the reason for closure but the data needs more teasing out.

Discussion of Question 4 re what data is collected in relation to access provided some answers to what is being collected and who to get back to for personal impact stories, etc.

- **Kids Can’t Wait campaign** – Faith Bodnar, Inclusion BC, presenting

Inclusion BC is 62 years old - an organization engaged in activities that advance the human rights of kids with developmental disabilities. They have recently changed the language and philosophy to one based on the human rights of people with developmental disabilities to full inclusion. There are 70 organizational members and it is growing. Inclusion BC’s values and positions can be found on their website. <http://www.inclusionbc.org/>

There has been no new early childhood intervention (ECI) program funding since 2006, yet agencies are being asked to respond to growing needs, a broader range of needs, and increased complexity of child/family needs. Plus layoffs and underfunding in public education have stripped capacity of schools to meet needs of children with disabilities.

On November 16th Inclusion BC, the BC Association for Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI), BC Centre for Ability, Langley Association for Community Living, Richmond Association for Community Living and Family Support Institute of BC. co-sponsored a summit that brought together almost 100 child-serving professionals and agency leaders from around BC to build the case for investing in ECI in our province.

The Summit report, [\*Kids Can’t Wait: The Case for Investing in Early Childhood Intervention programs in British Columbia\*](#) outlines the issues and challenges faced by this sector and presents solutions. For example, from wait list data for six communities, Richmond, Langley, Burnaby, Kelowna and Nanaimo, they know that there are 1600 children waiting for services. Caseloads have expanded as has the complexity of children served and the mandate. There has been a shift toward centre-based versus a family-centred model (away from best practice) as a way to stretch limited funding and there are concerns about a shift in MCFD’s special needs framework toward child protection.

The Summit culminated with a strong mandate from participants to launch a 6- month action plan/campaign to raise understanding of these issues and support collaborative work towards solutions, based on three strategies: publicize the issues; build connections; and develop a comprehensive action plan, messages and campaign strategy.

Faith's presentation was followed by a wide ranging discussion that included: the importance of using common language; using the language of child rights; how social media is being used by families to communicate with each other; how the access to screening varies from community to community and some communities are not keeping screening waitlists or doing screening as it creates expectations for service that can't be met; the impacts on children, families and program staff of neglecting children with intervention needs; child care services having to turn children away due to lack of support; neither MCFD nor CLBC appear to be capturing data that they used to keep. (e.g., CLBC doesn't track incident rates anymore); the Ministry of Education doesn't collect data from school districts on wait times for assessments for students.

Through the discussion participants shared many examples of service gaps and lapses – stories that will help the Kids Can't Wait Campaign. To build on their advocacy check out the [InclusionBC Election Toolkit](#).

- **CAPC campaign** – Kerry Watts representing the BC CAPC Society

Canadian Action Plan for Children (CAPC) is funded by the federal Public Health Agency of Canada. Funding levels have been stagnant for more than 10 years so when inflation is considered, this amounts to a 17% cut over the past decade. This has translated to cuts to staff positions or time. They appreciate the three-year funding cycles but they are being asked to do a lot more with a lot less.

The BC CAPC Society is advocating for sustainable funding to be restored to original levels adjusted for inflation. Their emerging campaign includes parents sending postcards, site visits with politicians and gathering endorsement letters from organizations to speak on the value that CAPC programs provide to the communities. They will also be seeking provincial funding.

They are asking other organizations and individuals from the ECD sector to support their campaign by writing letters of endorsement; distributing postcards; and mentioning CAPC when communicating with federal politicians and others. A list of the BC Programs that receive CAPC funding is being developed to help lift the CAPC profile in communities, as it is often unclear which ECD programs an organization is delivering through the program.

Learn more about the good things that happen through the CAPC program by reading this [report](#).

Following the presentation there was a lengthy discussion about the stagnation of funding across the ECD sector: how it not only impacts family resource and other programs, and ultimately families and children, but also the wages and benefits and working conditions of those employed in the sector, many of whom earn less than the living wage.

Participants also discussed the differences between funding agencies (e.g. contract conditions, deliverables and reporting requirements).

**ACTION:** For Family Day write a co-authored general message opinion editorial about the cross-sectoral stagnation of funding levels and funding inconsistencies and its impact on children including those who need extra support. Signatories to include First Call, Inclusion BC, CCCABC, BC CAPC Society and FRPBC and perhaps others. [see [Vancouver Sun article](#)]

## 4. Member Updates and New Resources

- **New Economic Study Highlights Net Benefits of Proposed \$10aDay Child Care Plan for Governments and Employers, Even in the Short Term.** Economist Robert Fairholm, of the Centre for Spatial Economics, led an in-depth analysis of the economic effects of implementing the \$10aDay Plan — confirming that it will generate sufficient government revenues to pay for the government spending required to build and operate the system.

The report and related documents are available below in PDF format.

- [Economic Impact Report](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Media Release - January 17, 2017](#)

- **Week of Action March 1 – 8** The Coalition of Child Care Advocates is hosting a Week of Action for the \$10aDay Plan from March 1-8 to help increase the visibility of the child care crisis in BC, and the \$10aDay Plan as the solution. During the Week of Action, we'll be featuring different actions you can take every day to help make access to affordable, quality child care a reality in BC.

For more information on the week's events and the actions that you can take see:

[http://www.10aday.ca/week\\_of\\_action](http://www.10aday.ca/week_of_action)

The Coalition also has a clear election campaign plan which will be delivered province wide in part by their over 30 community contacts and new digital tools.

- **Federation of Community Services of BC** will be holding their [Social Policy Forum: Voices in Action](#) February 16-17 in Victoria and there will be an Early Years Table to engage invited candidates in discussion of the needs of the sector. The event is open beyond their membership so any one interested in social issues is welcome.
- **Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society** is participating in federal negotiations for the early years program for immigrants and refugees.
- **BC Association of Family Resource Programs** is hosting a seminar at the Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture on January 26: How Early Childhood Affects Lifelong Wellness: A Talk with Dr. Paul and be part of a free afternoon seminar! You'll gain insight on how significant early childhood and family support is for lifelong health, be able to network with peers, and receive a free copy of Dr. Paul's new book.
- **Child Care Resource and Referral** programs are reviewing and working on contract language. Next fiscal they will be reviewing their standards manual.
- **United Way** is participating in the process of replacing the Vancouver Windows planning table with a Vancouver Early Years Partnership. There are 25 stakeholders. The city is becoming unfriendly to families (one measure - moderate income families moving to the suburbs) and closures of small child care facilities (family?) are among the concerns of the stakeholders.
- **First Call:** the social media shareables for the *2016 BC Child Poverty Report Card* are now up on the [www.stillin5.ca](http://www.stillin5.ca) website.

- **BC Aboriginal Child Care Society** staffing changes: Mary Burgaretta has moved to the Island and their librarian has moved on. They had a very successful conference with a higher number of participants than projected.
- **Success By 6** has produced [material](#) to help with promoting the B.C. Training & Education Savings Grant (BCTESG). The credit unions are doing the outreach. Success By 6 also has an online toolkit for families - [First Steps & Beyond](#) a child development & resource guide.
- **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre** is participating in the development of the new Early Years Professional Development [Portal](#). More about the protocol for the site as it develops. Also noted: A new guide in non-profit program sustainability assessment and capacity building - [Survive and Thrive: Three Steps to Securing Your Program's Sustainability](#) by Kylie Hutchinson.

## 5. Future Meeting Dates

9:30 AM to noon:

- Wednesday, March 15, 2017
- Wednesday, May 17, 2017