



ECD ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND
4543 CANADA WAY, BURNABY

March 15, 2017

9:30 am

PRESENT

Lynell Anderson, Consultant
Coralys Cuthbert, City of
Richmond Community Services
Rikke Dam, MOSAIC
Joseph Dunn, Success by 6
Ramsay Malange, BC Association
of Family Resource Programs
Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child
Care Advocates of BC (recorder)

Jessica Pan, Children's
Partnership Surrey-White Rock
Pam Preston, Westcoast Child
Care Resources
Dawn Steele, Inclusion BC
Jan Waldbillig, Westcoast Family
Centres

BY PHONE

Emily Horton, Provincial Office
of the Early Years

REGRETS

Kirsten Bevelander, BC
Aboriginal Child Care Society
Pam Alcorn, Federation of
Community Social Services of BC
Sara Cameron, MOSAIC
Shannon Newman-Bennett,
YWCA Metro Vancouver

1. Welcomes and Agenda

Pam Preston chairing. First Nations territories acknowledged. Introductions and regrets.

Agenda adopted.

2. Previous Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2017

Reviewed and adopted with one clarification. Page 3 – The Kid's Can't Wait Campaign is not time limited to six months

Actions arising:

- Letter to Minister Lake re Outdoor play space policy change
Draft letter was reviewed and there was agreement with content.
See <http://firstcallbc.org/publications/letter-to-health-minister-terry-lake-on-reduction-of-child-care-play-space/>
- Family Day op-ed-reviewed and participants noted that it received good coverage.
See <http://firstcallbc.org/publications/time-to-make-investing-in-b-c-families-our-top-priority/>

3. ECD Sector Updates and Presentations

- **MCFD update – Emily Horton, Provincial Office of the Early Years**
Emily provided an overview of the recent announcements coming from BC Budget 2017.

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Child Care Major Capital Funding – \$20 million is available for 2017/18 for the development of up to 2000 new child care spaces. Emily provided an overview of the criteria including: funding streams, who can apply, how to apply, public information sessions and key dates including that the application deadline – 4:30 pm PST on May 15, 2017. New priorities include sites at child development centres (CDCs), facilities serving Indigenous children and employer-based.

Note: *This information is now online at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/major-capital-funding>*

Workforce capacity – two initiatives

The Province in partnership with the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) will expand the Early Childhood Education Bursary by \$1 million. They hope to address innovative ways to address workforce capacity. e.g. professional on-the-job training and recognizing prior learning.

An Indigenous Early Years Bursary program will also be created in partnership with the New Relationship Trust Foundation (NRTF) <http://www.nrtf.ca/funding> \$1 million will be directed to this initiative. More information on when and how to apply will be available at a future date. [Note: June 8 noon deadline for undergrad, masters or doctorate scholarship applications.]

Discussion, questions and comments:

- Emily was asked about the rationale for adding a funding stream for employer-based licensed child care spaces in facilities located in the work place to support employees by providing on-site child care. She spoke about companies like Shell and BC Hydro being interested in providing on-site child care for their workers in northern communities.
- It was noted that funding for the Supported Child Development Program (SCDP) has been stagnant for about 10 years. When asked if the budget for that program would be enhanced in tandem with the increasing number of child care spaces being brought on stream by the capital program Emily commented that there would always be a lag but that she would take the question back for consideration. She will check with Jonathan Barry about an answer to the question about the specific allocation within the \$20M for CDCs and SCDP funds to go with new spaces. Others commented on the long wait lists for the SCD program.
- There was a request for an update on the Inventory Project. Emily spoke about the complexity of that project. They are hoping to capture all programming from pregnancy through to Kindergarten and ECD activities through First Nations, Public Health Agency of Canada and other ministries besides MCFD are included. They are capturing some child care/CCOF/SCDP programs. They think a report will be ready in a few weeks for review after which it will be shared with partners. There was much discussion about: the difficulties of categorizing ECD activities; the fact that similar programs are delivered with different names; that programs may have more than one objective; whether wait-list information would be noted; how and if the data collected will be kept up-to-date; how will survey outcomes be used; will information about program funding sources be included.

Emily commented that the Inventory Project is not a mapping activity. They are looking at “big buckets” of activities and supports through their outcome objectives, e.g. community

development, parenting, child care services, enhanced child development, child health services, prenatal/maternal care, child development and early learning. She will provide the list to Adrienne. She found the discussion very useful and suggested that people could contact her directly with ideas.

- There were questions about the provision in BC Budget 2017 to the Ministry of Children and Family Development of an extra \$109 million this year for additional supports to cut wait lists, add 2,000 new child care spaces, etc. Emily said that the budget breakdown details were not yet available but that the \$20 million cited for child care was not part of the anticipated federal funding.
- Discussion then moved to how the anticipated federal funding might be used and concerns expressed that it be used for the intended purpose – child care. References were made to how in the past child care funding had been used for other initiatives, e.g. funding car seats. Ideas were put forward about what would help to address the demand for affordable high quality child care and what would not. It was noted that obtaining funding for staffing is a challenge; that the SCD Program is serving twice the number of children that funding had been provided for (as an example, in Richmond, Burnaby and Vancouver almost 900 children can't get access to the SCD Program). It is understood that some funding has been earmarked in the 2017 BC Budget to address gaps but, as stated, details are not yet available.

Bilateral agreements will be negotiated before the ongoing federal funding flows but MCFD is looking at options for funds that may come through this year's federal budget. Emily invited a teleconference for further discussion.

Action: Adrienne will set up a call with MCFD to provide advice about how the anticipated federal funds for child care might be used.

Note: A conference call was held March 21, 2017, between representatives of the First Call ECD Roundtable and representatives of the Provincial Early Years Office. For the ECDRT: Lynell Anderson, Emily Mliczko, Adrienne Montani, Mab Oloman and Janice Barr. City of Richmond Child Care Coordinator Coralys Cuthbert was unable to participate as planned, but she provided some of her concerns in writing. For MCFD: Aleksandra Stevanovic, Emily Horton and Jan White.

A document summarizing the discussions can be found at <http://firstcallbc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/MCFD-Federal-Child-Care-Backgrounder-FirstCall-2017-03.pdf>

Action: Adrienne will email MCFD to request budget breakdown information for ECD, child care and services for children and youth with special needs (including SCDP).

○ **Roundtable Early Years Services Access Survey – Adrienne reporting**

A contractor is crunching the numbers now. There was discussion about how the data from the 400 responses is being sorted – the answer is that for this first phase it has been clustered under five geographic regions, by service type and types of barriers reported. While there is excitement and expectation for the survey results, caution was expressed about data interpretation and use. Considerable time was taken by participants to tease out issues and make recommendations. The working group will meet soon to guide the ongoing work.

Adrienne reiterated that the survey is being undertaken for advocacy purposes and is not meant to duplicate work that should be or is being done in MCFD. Nor is it expected to answer the myriad of questions we have about the status of ECD programs and services in BC.

- **Provincial election advocacy**

First Call's election toolkit is under development and will be posted to the First Call website soon. (Now available at <http://firstcallbc.org/publications/2017-provincial-election-toolkit/>)

Inclusion BC has also developed election resources. This material can be found at <http://inclusionbc.org/bcelection-2017> and <http://inclusionbc.org/sites/default/files/InclusionBC-2017ElectionToolkit.pdf>

- **Other issues**

Invitation to Bernard Richard to attend an ECD Roundtable meeting. This was discussed and it was decided that an invitation would be issued.

4. Member Updates (Individuals and Organizations)

- **Children's Partnership of Surrey/White Rock** – is holding an EDI forum on March 30. Details are in the [First Call Weekly News](#). They are also in the process of mapping the complexity of children's services in Surrey/White Rock and looking at how to infuse Indigenous practice and perspectives into their work.
- **Westcoast Family Centre** – are offering the Kids Have Stress Too! (KHST!) workshops thanks to funding from Bell Canada. Developed by the Psychology Foundation of Canada the program is based on evidence that with help, young children (ages 2–8) can learn practical strategies to relieve stress and effective ways to respond to stressful situations. There is considerable interest but they only have 14 spots.
- **Inclusion BC** – The Kids Can't Wait Campaign continues. They are compiling data on wait lists and now have a rough estimate of 5,000 children waiting for services. They are interested in getting harder data so are looking for partnerships to assist with this.

The annual conference will take place June 14–17, 2017 in Richmond. See details:

<http://inclusionbc.org/inspiredbylove/>

- **City of Richmond** – is finishing off their child care strategy and firming up the child care needs assessment. They will present to Council in May. They are seeking a Planner 1 (24 hours/week). They have five child care programs coming on stream. One will be operated by Atira in an affordable rent housing complex. They are trying hard to help to make child care affordable.
- **BC Association of Family Resource Programs** – is converting the existing FRP Post-Secondary Certificate to an online format. They are still working out how to deliver the course once it is converted, and are engaging with various educational institutions, including previous partners at the Justice Institute. They are also creating a resource kit and set of trainings around family violence for FRP practitioners. These will include a webinar component.

They have worked with a practicum student in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies program at the University of BC to do some research around statements of reconciliation and create a draft statement for FRP-BC. The research included a review of other statements of reconciliation as well as interviews with FRP-BC members. The next steps are to have the statement approved by their board and members.

- **Coalition of Child Care Advocates** – \$10aDay Plan work continues. Lots of media as a result of the release of the latest (fourth) independent study that shows the economic benefit of the plan and because child care is likely to feature in the upcoming provincial election. Media and others tend to speak of the cost as though they would be immediate. This is incorrect. It is a 10-year roll-out. One way to imagine the roll out is that within the first four years all children under three would be accommodated – by the second term all children under six – and thereafter all children 0–12.
- **Success by 6** – Columbia Basin Trust is providing funding in partnership with Success by 6 so that regional tables can allocate dollars based on their strategic plans.
- **Early Childhood Educators of BC** – ECEBC’s 46th Annual Conference: Pathways to Professionalism: Believe, Be Hopeful, Be Bold. May 4–6, 2017 in Richmond. See details: <http://ecebc.ca/events/index.html>
- **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre** – Westcoast will be offering two workshops at the ECEBC Conference, one on Safe Spaces and the other on Heart-Mind Well-Being. Spring training workshop options are now online: http://www.wstcoast.org/training/westcoast/040617_wccs_april_june_2017_flyer.pdf
- **BC Aboriginal Child Care Society and Collingwood** – are collaborating on the development of a video and other resources about Increasing Indigenous Children’s Access to Traditional Foods in Early Childhood Programs. Information will be posted to websites soon.

5. Future Meeting Dates

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Wednesday, November 1, 2017