



COALITION MEETING MINUTES

BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION
550 W. 6TH AVE, VANCOUVER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 9:15 TO 11:30 AM

PRESENT:

Beryl Matthewson, University Women's Club Vancouver
Brenda Lohrenz, Eastside Family Place and Family Place Partnership
Caitlin Alder, Parent Support Services of BC
Caroline Kent, BC Government and Service Employees' Union Comp 3
Cheryl Mixon, First Call
Dave Scott, BC Retired Teachers Association
Doug Kinna, BC Government and Service Employees' Union
Erika Cedillo, Inclusion BC
Etti Goldman, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
Galen Hutcheson, Parent Advocacy Network
Jaime Matten, Health Sciences Association
Jane Bouey, Parent Support Services of BC
Jean Moore, First Call Steering Committee

Jennifer Morden, St. Leonard's Youth & Family Services
Jim Staton, Family Services of Greater Vancouver
John Millar, Public Health Association of BC
Joshua Evers, Student
Katarina Jovanovic, Vancouver Community College
Kate Buium, Human Early Learning Partnership/UBC
Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
Margie Sanderson, Society for Children and Youth of BC
Nicky Bowman, BC Society of Transition Houses
Pippa Rowcliffe, Human Early Learning Partnership/UBC
Schula Leonard, All on Board
Becky Kelly, First Call
Emily Chan, First Call
Halena Seiferling, Living Wage for Families/First Call
Helesia Luke, First Call

Susan Russell, First Call, Fostering Change

CALL-IN:

Amanda Burnett, Waitlisted Project
Caroline Donelle, DASH BC
Gina Panattoni, Cranbrook Early Years Services
Jessica Forster Broomfield, DIVERSEcity

REGRETS:

Gisele Haines, Options Community Services
Joanne Smrek, Interior Health
Melissa Hunt, Childhood Connections Okanagan Family & Childcare Society
Rhonda Tomaszewski, Interior Health
Adrienne Montani, First Call
Dylan Cohen, First Call, Fostering Change

1. WELCOME, RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS LANDS, INTRODUCTIONS, AGENDA

Gyda Chud, chairing, acknowledged we are meeting on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations, followed by a round of introductions.

2. FIRST CALL UPDATES/ CALLS TO ACTION

New Steering Committee Member

We are happy to announce that Stephanie Howell, Executive Director at the Society for Children and Youth, is First Call's newest Steering Committee member.

First Call Fundraising Gala

A reminder that the [First Call Fundraising Gala](#) will be held on Thursday, February 27. We are looking forward to hearing from our keynote speaker, Dr. Melissa Lem, on the impacts of the climate crisis on BC children and youth. We encourage people to pick up posters at the back table to distribute to their organizations. [Please contact](#) Emily Chan, Office and Engagement Coordinator, if you would like us to send a poster for you to distribute.

putting children and youth first

Fostering Change Campaign

We are busy wrapping up our 3rd Annual Policy Solutions Day, including following up from the meetings and sending thank you notes. We hosted an accessibility consultation with SPARC BC on how to create a more accessible province. 40% of youth who age out of care in BC receive Person with Disabilities (PWD) assistance.

We are hosting a holiday gathering later this month for our core members, thanks to the support of the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks. In the new year, we look forward to working on new campaign actions like creating a video about our advocacy!

Living Wage for Families Campaign

We recently received the scale grant three-year funding from the Vancouver Foundation to support existing programs that need expanding and can hire a second campaign staff! A reminder that we have new [resources](#) available for a variety of employers, including one focused on [non-profit organizations](#) and one about the [business case](#). We also launched a series of blog posts about working poverty in BC, for example one blog post released [data on the living wage calculation](#) with and without the recent BC child care investments.

We recently certified more employers and there are now 160 living wage-certified employers across BC. The City of Burnaby will begin paying their contractors a living wage come January, and North Vancouver [recently passed](#) a motion for staff to create a report on the living wage. We also have ongoing conversations with other municipalities, including the New West School Board and White Rock.

Making Ends Meet is a 3-year participatory action research project to better understand the experiences of those doing low-wage work. They are [currently recruiting](#) participants in the study. [Contact](#) Leila Trickey, Research Coordinator, with any further questions.

Child Labour Standards Project – Government consultation

We are working with the government to establish better employment standards for children. They are currently in the process of drafting the regulations. First Call was invited to consult with government staff and appreciated the opportunity to share our ideas and responses to their questions. The agricultural and family-owned business sectors are advocating for a complete exemption from the regulations. On November 15, [First Call responded](#) to the Ministry of Labour's call for submissions on child employment standards regulations.

Campaign 2000 / Child Poverty Report Cards

Each year, First Call collaborates with Campaign 2000 to release the BC Child Poverty Report Card. Some of the data we include in the report card is publicly available, and other data is provided through a custom request. The custom request data came late, and then was pulled two weeks ago as the data required slight adjustment. On January 14 we will release a summary report that provides high-level findings. Later in January we will release the full report card. If you are interested in reading the report card recommendations before they are produced, please contact Helesia Luke, Communications & Development Coordinator, at helesia@firstcallbc.org.

3. PIPPA ROWCLIFFE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND COLLEAGUES, HUMAN EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP. WAVE 7 RESEARCH DATA FROM THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT.

Pippa Rowcliffe from the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) [presented](#) on the Wave 7 research data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI). She explained that HELP began as an interdisciplinary research project by Clyde Hertzman. They run a series of monitoring systems that conduct high-quality research systems down to the neighbourhood level. This presentation will focus specifically on the EDI. HELP started gathering EDI data in 2004, and it is reported every three years. The recently released Wave 7 data was gathered between 2016-2019.

The EDI is a teacher-reported questionnaire collected in February that reports on five areas of development: Physical Health and Well-Being, Language and Cognitive, Communication and General Skills, Emotional Maturity, and Social Competence. HELP is taking a stronger look at the importance of strength-based reporting. The main finding is that vulnerability rates are increasing at a sustained and steady rate. This represents decades of lack of investments. The data shows increased vulnerability rates across all areas of development, and most dramatically for Emotional Maturity. They don't have as much data on Emotional Maturity as for other areas. Some other areas of vulnerability increased at a less-dramatic rate, such as Communication and General Skills.

The data is mapped across 289 neighbourhoods across BC, and while an overall vulnerability of less than 10% is favourable, no neighbourhoods fell into this category. Out of all 289 neighbourhoods, only 5 neighbourhoods had an overall vulnerability of less than 15%. The spread between the lowest and highest rates of vulnerability at the neighbourhood level has widened, which points to a lack of equity. Over time, the trends show children are experiencing an increased multitude of vulnerabilities.

While the data does not currently represent the recent BC child care investments, they are cautiously optimistic that the investments will have a positive impact on the EDI results.

Question: How does this data play into anxiety? What questions do you ask in the survey?

Answer: The questions are posted on our [website](#). For example, within Emotional Maturity we ask the teachers to assess behaviours: aggressive, anxious and fearful, hyperactive and inattentive, and prosocial and helping.

Q: Do you have a list of questions to ask the teachers about their self-assessments?

A: We are interested to investigate the interaction between teacher and student stress. It would be difficult to distinguish whether the teachers' or students' stress is the cause.

Comment: From my experience, teachers don't have access to the resources they need, which amplifies stress.

A: Yes. We recently completed a report on behalf of the Ministry of Education that demonstrates a lot of pressure on teachers. We need a full systemic response to provide more wrap-around services.

Q: Do you have specific data related to racialized and/or refugee children?

A: Our data covers 95% of the public school system, which includes Aboriginal students. We work closely with the Aboriginal Steering Committee to respectfully manage the data related to Aboriginal students and give this data to Aboriginal community leaders.

Q: Does your data recognize children with special needs?

A: Yes, children with special needs are included in the data set. The data would indicate the importance of providing resources for all children that walk in the door. I would need to dig for specific data sets.

Q: There are more and more kids with complex needs who are leaving the public school system. How do you collect data on this situation?

A: We work with independent schools on an individual basis to collect data. As their participation is voluntary, we mostly include data from public schools. We also recognize that we are not capturing children who are home-schooled.

Q: How large are the neighbourhoods that you use to report the data?

A: The boundaries are large enough to provide useful, accurate data results, and to avoid being able to identify families. We rely on stable, high-quality data.

Q: There is an assumption that vulnerability is due to poverty, but do you think other factors might be involved such as the change of parenting styles?

A: We can account for about 45% of association between vulnerability and socioeconomic status. Socioeconomic status is a more powerful variable for some of the areas of development than others. We need to investigate what accounts for the other 55%.

Q: How do you measure wealth inequality?

A: It is hard to break down based on each indicator, but it may be possible to do this in the future. We were surprised that housing was a weaker indicator than we had thought.

Q: Can you see how BC compares to other jurisdictions in Canada and around the world?

A: We are similar to Ontario and Australia, but BC has the highest rates of vulnerability across Canada.

4. JASON GORDON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BC ASSOCIATION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND INTERVENTION. DATA REPORT ON SERVICE DEMAND AND ACCESS FOR CHILDREN WITH EXTRA SUPPORT NEEDS.

Jason Gordon from the BC Association of Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI) [presented](#) on the data report on service demand and access for children with extra support needs. BCACDI is a provincial non-profit organization representing more than 30 agencies across BC. Seven years ago, BCACDI initiated a project to standardize how certain data elements were measured among member agencies, monitor access issues for families referred to specialized programs, and use this data to help advocacy efforts and inform funding sources on existing gaps.

They have managed to standardize the data elements of number of referrals, number of intervention sessions, and wait time. The data report is available [here](#). For example, some of the data collected includes overview of referrals by program, overview of client visits by program, and the average wait time.

Their next steps are to continue working with the client management software provider and their member agencies to ensure validity and reliability of the data, and work with others in the sector to try and align sector data definitions wherever possible. They also hope to start a conversation regarding wait time benchmarks.

Question: Are you looking into early intervention? Are you also looking at regional vacancies?

Answer: Good question. The data is currently not broken down regionally. There are many factors that affect this data, including maternity leave. As we continue collecting the data, we will have a good data set that can be used to look regionally.

Q: Will this be an annual report?

A: Yes we hope to begin collecting this data every spring after the fiscal year-end and then release the data in the fall.

5. MEMBER UPDATES AND ISSUES FOR FUTURE COALITION MEETING AGENDAS

Health Sciences Association are talking about the need to increase funding for early intervention therapies. They are trying to get support because their practitioners are addressing mental health challenges before they can get to physical and speech needs.

BC Retired Teachers' Association are having conversations about potentially supporting the [All on Board](#) resolution. They are also exploring potential opportunities to create intergenerational connections between children and volunteer grandparents.

Human Early Learning Partnership are announcing their EDI data at the regional level in January. They also have staff who can attend communities to talk about that region's specific data. If you are interested, please [contact Kate Buium](#).

Inclusion BC [submitted](#) to the BC accessibility consultation, which had 16 recommendations that included establishing a Provincial Office for Disability Issues and that the accessibility legislation must be rights-based in alignment with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

BC Association of Child Development and Intervention launched a [specialized sitter training](#) for babysitters who want to work with kids with extra support needs.

First Call Coalition meeting minutes, December 11, 2019

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC are continuing their campaigning for the \$10aDay campaign. They are working on two contracts, one focused on measuring the crisis of wages for Early Childhood Educators, and the other is 3-year funding from the federal government about inclusive approaches to their advocacy.

Society of Children and Youth are pushing the end-of-year publications. The resources are informational FAQs on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and you can [contact Margie Sanderson](#) if you are interested in receiving these resources.

John Millar (Health Officers of BC and Public Health Association of BC) encouraged participation in the [Pact for a Green New Deal](#). There are many organizations in the network to advocate on issues that include climate change, economic inequality, and restoring democracy.

The **All on Board** campaign is organizing a one-day conference in March for transit planners and elected individuals.

Parent Support Services of BC are continuing their research on kinship families. One third of their circles are for grandparents that are raising their grandchildren or friends' grandchildren. They are discussing the kinds of policy changes that are necessary to provide proper support.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED

Time and date of next meeting

The next coalition meeting will take place Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 9:15–11:30 am. Refreshments are served at 9:00 am. BC Teachers' Federation, 550 West 6th Avenue in Vancouver. Telephone participation welcome; please contact us by the Monday before the meeting at info@firstcallbc.org if you wish to participate by phone.