

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

9:30 – 12:00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Alison Merton, Collingwood
Neighbourhood House
Marya McVicar, PACE and
Family Services of Greater
Vancouver
Mab Oloman, Coalition of
Child Care Advocates of BC
(recorder)
Diane Elliott-Buckley, West
Side Family Place
Jaime Matten, Health
Sciences Association
Kate Buium, Human Early
Learning Partnership, UBC

Laura Borghi, Unione Terre
D'Argine, Regione Emilia
Romagna
Luigi Palestini, Regione Emilia
Romagna
Maya Nakajima, Ministry of
Health
Donna Jepsen, Ministry of
Health
Joseph Dunn (and Finnigan),
BC Council for Families
Helesia Luke, First Call
Adrienne Montani, First Call

BY PHONE

Sue Irwin, Child Care Resource
& Referral
Darcy Morgan, Roots of
Empathy
Jessica Forster Broomfield,
DIVERSEcity
Sylvia Bosa, Bosa Family
Foundation

REGRETS

Christine Mann, Parkgate
Community Services Society
Sharon Gregson, Coalition of
Child Care Advocates of BC

1. Welcome, recognition of Indigenous lands and agenda

- Crystal Janes, chairing. Recognition of Indigenous lands, introductions, regrets.
- Adoption of the agenda – approved.

2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes – [October 30, 2019](#)

Actions arising or pending

- Meeting with Minister Chen January 28, 2020 re the capital grant program, now known as the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, Adrienne reporting.
 - In attendance were Adrienne, Alison Merton, Collingwood Neighbourhood House and Mab Oloman, the Minister and her Ministerial Assistant. Discussion included:
 - Acknowledgement of the positive changes made to the program, including the increasing number of child care spaces that are being funded in Indigenous communities and in partnership with school districts and municipalities.
 - Concern that the number of for-profit commercial enterprises receiving funding for private assets has increased substantially since the days of the previous government and that the current capital funding program is not working in the best interest of families. Examples of unreasonable fees and suspected fee gouging were provided.
 - Research evidence about how quality can be affected by the way child care is managed was also presented.
 - First Call's Early Childhood Development Roundtable's support for the approach recommended by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and Early Childhood Educators of BC. (See agenda item below - Child Care Capital briefing note)

putting children and youth first

- Letter related to wage enhancements for early childhood education assistants and other sector workers – tabled until next meeting

3. ECD Sector Updates/Presentations/Discussions

Ministry of Health update: Donna Jepsen, Provincial Coordinator, Nurse-Family Partnership program and Maya Nakajima presenting.

- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a free public health program for women having their first baby who are identified as eligible due to particular risk factors. Women enrolled in the program are visited by a public health nurse throughout their pregnancy, continuing until their child reaches two years of age. Over this time, a woman and her NFP nurse may explore topics such as: how to have a healthy pregnancy, preparation for childbirth, nutrition, exercise, parenting, child development, future life planning and accessing community resources. Source: <https://www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca/nurse-family-partnership>
- Donna and Maya presented an overview of both the BC NFP program and the related BC Healthy Connections Project. They spoke in detail about the Partnership's history, program features and evidence of success. They also described in detail the BC Healthy Connections Project which is funded by the BC Ministry of Health with support from the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- For the minutes they helpfully provided the following links that cover the information provided:
 - BC Healthy Connections overview :<https://childhealthpolicy.ca/bc-healthy-connections-project/>
 - Preparing to Parent in British Columbia: A Profile of Participants in the BC Healthy Connections Project: <https://childhealthpolicy.ca/bchcp-participants-profile/>
 - The British Columbia Healthy Connections Project: findings on socioeconomic disadvantage in early pregnancy: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-019-7479-5>
- Questions and discussion:
 - *How does the program "catch" clients?* Outreach to and in reach from many community partners.
 - *What happens when the child turns two...?* Nurses connect clients to other programs as and when necessary.
 - *Discussion about the balance between trust and protection issues especially with immigrant, refugee and families at risk .*
 - *Will the outcomes of the control group also be available when the reports come out?* Yes.
 - *How can FC ECDRT help this important program?* Political will to endorse and support the program is always helpful as is getting the word out there. This sort of help would probably be most useful in 2021 when the final reports are out.

Presentation and Discussion with guests from Emilia Romagna, Italy, re using EDI early years research and data

- Guests, Luigi Palestini Social Innovation Regional Health and Social Agency of Emilia-Romagna and Laura Borghi Educational and School Services Sector Union Terre d'Argin, talked about their year-one experience applying the EDI. They presented a socio-economic overview of their region including poverty and material deprivation stats. Until the use of the EDI they had a lot of data about adults in their region but not children. The matters covered in the presentation and discussion included: the impact of specific schools on resiliency; the fact that male-female data are collected in Italy but not here; the relevance of school readiness and age of child; why the EDI is designed the way it is; and, how the EDI work informs public policy, in Emilia Romagna and in BC.

Child care capital briefing note, Mab Oloman, Coalition of Child Care Advocates BC

- Mab provided a brief summary of the recent \$10aDay Policy Briefing Note Recommendations for Effective Expansion of Licensed Child Care Spaces in BC that proposes the current capital funding

program be replaced by the following two-part capital strategy to address the urgent need for child care facilities in BC.

- Action on both elements should happen concurrently:
 - 1. Develop a provincial child care capital budget, separate from the operating budget, and organize the related operational processes required for effective implementation once approved; and
 - 2. Work with public partners to promptly begin adding custom-designed, high quality, publicly-funded child care modular buildings to public property.
- These recommendations also require government to:
 - Move the child care capital program and functions from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to the Ministry of Education, integrating the capital planning work of both ministries. This is the first step in moving the child care branch to the Ministry of Education, as recommended in the \$10aDay Plan. It is essential because MCFD does not have a capital budget or related experience in planning, costing, and developing a province-wide, universal system of public services.
 - Phase out the current program of reactive, one-off capital grants and proactively ensure that all public capital funding creates publicly-owned facilities.
 - Complete a province-wide review of (1) existing child care spaces, to ensure maximum utilization, and (2) existing and planned public and community-owned facilities, to identify opportunities to add licensed child care.
- For the rationale for these recommendations see:
https://www.10aday.ca/recommendations_for_expansion_of_licensed_child_care_spaces_in_bc

2019 BC Child Poverty Report Card data, Adrienne reporting

- Due to a change in the timing of Statistics Canada data, a preliminary high level report has only just been released in summary form. Additional data, including regional analysis, will be published on the website in the Spring of 2020. <https://firstcallbc.org/child-poverty-report-cards/>
- First Call's recommendations to government include better income supports and universal programs like affordable housing and child care investments; targeting efforts to help those who have a higher risk of living in poverty; moving more quickly to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour; and significantly raising income and disability assistance rates to bring them in line with actual living expenses and index them to inflation.

4. Member Updates and New Resources

- **HELP** ... January 23rd HELP Talks presentation, Child Care in British Columbia: Research, Advocacy, and Commitment to System Transformation was webcast can be viewed [HERE](#).
- **Collingwood Neighbourhood House** - Has two prototypes child care programs ...no news about expanding the project yet. Malatest interviews have been completed. No news about when the report will be available.
- **First Call Fundraising Gala** - on February 27, 2020 . Speaker is Dr. Melissa Lem, a board member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, strategic advisor to the BC Parks Foundation, experienced journalist, Vancouver-based family physician, and much more. She was also the inaugural winner of University College's Young Alumni of Influence Award at the University of Toronto in 2015. She will speak about the environmental impact of fracking on children's health.
- **Family Places – Vancouver partnership**....increased # of new children and spaces. New care providers. Haven't got the capacity to do outreach.. but they are very full.

5. Future Meeting Venue and Dates

All meetings take place on Wednesdays from 9:30-12:00pm

March 25, 2020	BCGEU's Vancouver office (2920 Virtual Way)
May 27, 2020	BCGEU's Vancouver office (2920 Virtual Way)
September 23, 2020	BCGEU's Burnaby office (4911 Canada Way)
October 28, 2020	BCGEU's Vancouver office (2920 Virtual Way)

Our regular in-person meetings at the Vancouver offices of the BC Government & Service Employees Union are suspended until further notice due to the danger of spreading COVID-19. We will be hosting virtual meetings using Zoom for the following dates until public health authorities change their guidance about public meetings and social distancing. All meetings take place on Wednesdays from 9:30-12:00pm.

May 27, 2020
September 23, 2020
November 18, 2020

Links to the Zoom calls will be sent out in advance of the meetings and posted to the First Call website on this page. <https://firstcallbc.org/our-coalition/ecd-roundtable/>