



MINUTES

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

Early Childhood Development Roundtable meeting – Jan 20, 2010

Held at United Way of the Lower Mainland, Burnaby

In Attendance:

Kim Adamson, United Way Success By 6
Stephen Klein representing Mable Elmore, MLA,
Opposition Child Care Critic
Debbie Jackson Family Resource Programs BC
Sanja Sladojevic, Vancouver Windows of Opportunity
Lynn McBride, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society
Lesley Richardson, First Call
Adrienne Montani, First Call
Pam Hachey Roots of Empathy
Sharon Hoyland Roots/Seeds of Empathy
Jeff Calbick UWLM
Carol Matusicky, Council for Early Childhood Development
Rita Chudnovsky, Child Care Advocacy Forum

Joanne Wooldridge VCH
Carmen Larsen ElsaNet
Maria Morisseau NS Community Resources
Tammy Findlay HELP

On Phone:

Tammy Dewar Alberni Valley Make Children First Network
Sharon Strasdin Northern Lights College Forst St John
Shannon Lavall, CATCH Coalition Manager, Kelowna

Regrets:

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1. Welcome, introductions, regrets
 2. **Report on Meeting with Minister Polak**

Adrienne reported on the meeting with Minister Polak. Julie Norton, Adrienne Montani and Mab Oloman represented the ECD Roundtable. The Minister was accompanied by two assistants and West Vancouver-Capilano MLA Ralph Sultan. It was a good meeting with lively discussion. After the meeting, a [letter](#) was written to the Minister (available on the First Call website, ECD pages). The letter summarized the meeting and the hoped-for outcomes, one of which was to have a response to our request for senior MCFD representation at ECD Roundtable meetings. We have since learned that Chuck Eamer, who has provincial oversight for ECD and Child Care, will attend 2 – 3 meetings per year.

Discussion: The Child Care Forum representatives also met with Minister Polak and they too had a thoughtful conversation. However, neither meeting produced answers to the question about when the long anticipated Early Years Plan would be released. The Minister told ECD Roundtable participants that it had just been posted to the government intranet.

Action: ECD Roundtable participants suggested that the Minister be asked for an update on the public release of the ECD Plan and how we can participate in commenting and providing input.

3. **“Moving to a System of Integrated Early Care and Learning in BC.”**

Rita Chudnovsky reported on a new project that will examine the relationship between free, universal and publicly-funded full school-day kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds and BC’s existing child care services. The project is a collaboration between ECEBC and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates with funding support from Vancity Community Foundation, Vancity Credit Union and the City of Vancouver. In the initial phase a pan-Canadian environmental scan on this topic will be done, followed by community dialogues. The report is expected to be complete by fall 2010. For more information, contact Rita Chudnovsky at info@cccabc.bc.ca.

4. **“Community Capacity Building for Early Childhood Development in BC.”**

Kim Adamson from Success By 6 provided an overview of the 100-page report. The evaluation was piloted in 2007, available to all communities, but not mandatory in 2008. The 2009 expectation was that all Success By 6 and Children First Community Tables would participate. Parent surveys are in ten different languages, and BC Stats is compiling the data. The report is extensive and can be found on the website:
<http://www.successby6bc.ca/>

Participants felt the information gathered in these reports should help inform a provincial early years plan.

5. **Information sharing**

Adrienne noted two recent reports of interest to ECD Roundtable participants:

* The Foundations of Child Health and Well-being in BC

http://www.cyhrnet.ca/documents/the_foundations.pdf

This is a draft report for a cross-ministry project to identify indicators of child health and well-being that the Provincial Health Officer can report out on regularly in the future. It was noted that First Nations leaders in the province are also looking at measures of their children’s well-being.

* Early Years Community Developers of BC: November Dialogues.

Summary Report and Action Recommendations.

http://www.bcchildrenfirst.ca/docs/EYCD_DialogueReportDecember2009.pdf

6. **Updates from Participants:**

CATCH, Kelowna - 95 people attended the recent ‘Creating a Connected Community for Children’ event. There will be another event February 22. Lynell Anderson of HELP will be the guest speaker.

Northern Lights College – practicum students are concerned about the impact of full school day Kindergarten on their employment prospects. Through the discussion,

participants noted the different approaches to the provision of full school day K being taken by school districts. Many questions remain about how the children of employed parents will be accommodated, and the integration with community child care services.

Roots of Empathy - Funds have been transferred to the Ministry of Education and are greatly reduced. There will be no training in BC in 2010.

Infant Development Program/Supported Childcare Provincial Coordinators - MCFD staff are working on transition plans for the integration of the work of these positions into the Ministry.

Labour Market Partnership - \$5 million from province to Vancouver Foundation to look at non-profit community sector labour market issues. More information on the Vancouver Foundation site.

CAPC – are taking it as good news that they have been asked to submit budgets for 2 years.

Child Care Resource and Referral programs – will be regionalized; it looks like regional coordinators will remain in place.

Windows of Opportunity – there will be a meeting about the new Vancouver ECD Community Plan on March 24, 2010. StrongStart programs in Vancouver will continue but not increase.

City of Prince Rupert – This city has passed a child and youth-friendly proclamation.

Family Resource Programs – the FRP certificate program piloted in the summer was very successful and the Justice Institute may take it on as a program next summer. See links on the BCFRP website.

Capilano University has a new degree program in Early Childhood Education.

Next meeting date. **March 31st from 9:30 -12 noon at United Way of the Lower Mainland**