

ABORIGINAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2014 / 10AM-1PM / METIS HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE, BANCROFT

IN ATTENDANCE: Robin Simpson, Tracey Dale, Marsha Depotier, Jessica Anderson, Diane Martin, Margo-Russell-Bird, Brandi Hildebrand, Susan Ramsay, Sarah Brown, Donna Kaye, Wendy Anderson

GUESTS: Rose Boyle, Judy Simpson

REGRETS: Brandi Lucas, Tracey Gazley, Steven Lindsay, Shari Maracle, Tammy Hoover

MANDATE: To complete the 2014 Early Child Development-Aboriginal Planning Template for approval by the Children and Youth Services network and submit to the Ministry of Education by August 31st, 2014 – Completed ✓

- To engage and strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and mainstream service providers
- To work together in 2014/15 and plan for the delivery of more seamless and integrated services for Aboriginal children and families in HPE

Item	Discussions/Motions	Recommendations <i>(things to go forward to the Network)</i>	Action <i>(including Person Responsible And Completion Date)</i>
1. Opening	Introductions were made and Marsha Depotier offered a smudge, thanksgiving and drum song.		
2. Welcome and Purpose of Day	Wendy welcomed everyone and described the purpose of the day as an opportunity to become better acquainted and learn about the programs and services each other provides.		

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3. Identify Recorder	Wendy offered to be the recorder to allow participants to focus on listening and sharing.		
4. Accept minutes from June 19th	Accepted		
5. Roundtable Introductions a) What services do you provide to Aboriginal children 0-6 years and their families? b) Existing partnerships? c) What is needed by your program/agency to provide more seamless and integrated services for Aboriginal children and families?	<p>Metis Community Support Services Rose Boyle and Judy Simpson work to help elders remain in their homes through home visits, volunteer drivers, caregiver supports and referrals to other long-term care services such as Community Care for Seniors. They currently have a caseload of ~150.</p> <p>Metis Victim Services Marsha Depotier offers support to victims of violence and partners with community service providers on the support, advocacy and prevention of violence against women and children. Marsha invited us to create faceless dolls in honour of the murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.</p> <p>Early Literacy – Family Space Quinte Donna Kay covers Hasting-Prince Edward. Early Literacy – Kingston Literacy & Skills Susan Ramsay covers Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington.</p> <p>Both Donna and Susan work with early learning and child care providers, parents and caregivers to provide literacy outreach, training and resources that support literacy and language development of children birth-6 years.</p> <p>Both serve Aboriginal families and children, support professionals who work with young Aboriginal children, and sit on the Aboriginal Family</p>	<p>For more detail, please visit the website links included with each presentation summary.</p>	

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	<p>Literacy Circle (along with Sarah Brown) which offers the Walk in My Moccasins monthly newsletter. Susan also mentioned the Gathering Communities Making Connections Guide for Indigenous Families and Children. Building relationships and trust, and acquiring a broader knowledge of Aboriginal culture; i.e., Algonquin, were identified as being needed to move forward.</p> <p>Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children – Ontario Native Women’s Association Sarah Brown delivers the HBHC program to Aboriginal families living off-reserve in Hastings-Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington through home visits, service coordination and referrals. Sarah currently has a caseload of between 20-25 women. Issues identified were building relationships, trust, need for more networking and awareness to break down barriers; e.g., colonization.</p> <p>Preschool Speech and Language (PSL) Margo Russell-Bird and her staff provide speech and language services to children up to senior kindergarten entry and their families. This includes assessment and treatment in areas such as articulation, stuttering, receptive and expressive language, literacy, grammar and vocabulary, etc. Services are provided in Belleville, Picton, Trenton, Madoc, Bancroft and we are working towards a site in Tyendinaga.</p> <p>Quinte Children’s Treatment Centre (CTC) provides a variety of rehab services to preschoolers with developmental, physical & communication challenges up to school entry and continue most services (except speech) until school leaving age for children and youth with physical disabilities. Our role is to address home and community based issues.</p>		

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	<p>We work closely with the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) School Health Services Program which provides therapy in schools.</p> <p>Aboriginal schools funded by the Federal government (Quinte Mohawk) are not supported by the School Health Services Program for therapy services (OT, physio or speech and language). PSL will serve those children just as any other child until SK entry. CTC will support those children who meet our mandate for services as school-age children (physical disabilities) as outpatients and in school. Mohawk Immersion School as a private school should qualify for services through the CDC - check with CCAC to determine if this is the case as they do support other private schools.</p> <p>An Ontario Special Needs Strategy is being developed – still in the early stages.</p> <p>Issues identified were education around cultural differences, the need for adaptation of standardized assessment, and time.</p> <p>Mohawk Family Services Brandi Hildebrand and her team provide protection and placement services for Mohawk families in partnership with Highland Shores Children’s Aid through a signed Memorandum of Understanding that sets out guidelines for service. Early intervention and prevention are also key activities. The need for greater awareness of cultural differences was identified. More connections between Metis and Mohawks was stated as something to move towards.</p>		<p>Please CLICK HERE to read Brandi’s December 6, 2013 presentation to the Children and Youth Services Network on Working with Mohawk Families.</p> <p>Margo stated that this type of awareness training would be highly beneficial to front-line. This idea is consistent with item #6 of the 2014/15 Early Child Development Aboriginal Plan.</p>

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	<p>Metis Community Wellness Using a holistic approach, Tracey Dale supports community wellness through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and cultural-based programming. Home visits, operation of a foot clinic, coordination of the Jump Start program and cultural activities in schools are key activities which target the community at large as well as Metis. A common misconception is that Aboriginal organizations have large budgets. Not so. Dollars must cover a large geographical area and stretch into remote Haliburton communities.</p> <p>Canadian Action Program for Children and Metis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Robin Simpson (and Tammy Hoover) works closely with Highland Shores, Maggie's, and the Ontario Early Years Centre in the delivery of early intervention programs. Her focus is on supporting parents pre- and post-natally on healthy child development, particularly those at risk of poverty and abuse. Robin provides supports at such programs as Babies and Beyond, Daddy'n Me, Kitchen Connect (at non-profit housing), and Reading, Writing and Running Around. Working together as a community has great benefit to families; e.g., provision of child care through North Hastings Children's Services (NHCS).</p> <p>North Hastings Children's Services Diane Martin and Jessica Anderson and their colleagues deliver Ontario Early Years Centre programs (e.g., playgroups, school readiness, parent education and support, referrals), a swim program and food program along with licensed child care. A free summer camp is offered and NHCS is looking to offer more youth supports. An Aboriginal component is offered in programming. More education and awareness by staff is needed.</p>		<p>Robin advised that youth engagement (in preparation for youth programming) can bring forward interesting information; e.g., rural youth anxious about travelling on city buses.</p>

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6. Discuss how we can work together on the Plan	The work plan will be the focus of our next meeting.		
7. Working together with Kingston-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington (KFL&A)	Sarah advised that our counterparts in KFL&A had expressed an interest in meeting with us. The group supported this.		Wendy will contact Judith Moses, Planner for the KFL&A Children and Youth Services Planning Committee to set up
8. Next meeting date	Wendy will send out a Doodle poll to schedule our next meeting. We will connect north and south through OTN videoconferencing.	We will need to identify co-chairs, a representative to sit on the CYSN Coordinating Team and someone to provide updates at CYSN meetings.	If you are attending or not, contact: wanderson@hpedsb.on.ca
9. Lunch	Networking continued over lunch and some members made faceless dolls.		