



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Boardroom**

Present: Jill Esposto (Chair), Carmen McDermid, Bonnie McKinnon, Christine Pearce, Paul Sanderson, Heather Shisler, Leslie Telfer, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

Regrets: Catherine Custodio, Krista Emmerson, Lisa Stockmans, Tracey Taylor

1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Jill Esposto, SEAC Chair, welcomed the group and guests, Jennifer Bergsma and Debbie Dignan, System SERTs, Tara Williams, Holy Trinity Special Education Department Head and Lindsay Ronson, St John's College Special Education Department Head.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Paul Sanderson

Seconded by: Teresa Westergaard-Hager

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the November 15, 2016 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2016

Moved by: Christine Pearce

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2016 meeting, as amended.

Carried

5. Presentation - Developmental Services in Ontario

Maxine Lean, along with Michelle Maksymchuk, Access Coordinators for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), provided the Committee with an information session of their organization and Passport information. DSO has offices that provide support to Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Niagara, Hamilton and First Nations communities, and is a division of Contact Hamilton. Through an application process, the DSO match and link individuals to the services available to them. Eligibility is based on a provincial application package to determine a person's level of support. The application package includes an Application for Developmental Services and Supports (ADSS) and Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) for standardized and provincially consistent assessment processes that support equitable service decisions. Upon completion of these assessments, service recommendations are prioritized and referrals are made to external organizations. Funded services include residential, behaviour consultation, clinical services, respite, day support/community participation support, such as Passport funding, and service coordination. Passport is a program for young people with a disability which provides self-directed funding and agency services approved by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). The goal of the Passport program is to assist by promoting independence for the



young people with a developmental disability, with the transition from school to life as an adult in the community. Services are reviewed by the DSO every five years to ensure the needs of the individual are still being met. Letters of acceptance from Developmental Services Ontario can be used as documentation proof when applying to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

6. Community Agency Updates

Jill Esposto - Brant Family & Children Services (FACS)

Jill brought in Certificates of Appreciation for “Going Purple” addressed to all of our schools on behalf of Brant Family & Children Services and expressed how they are hopeful to visit more schools next year for the event. Participation was excellent for the first year of this broader initiative. There are many changes in Ontario Child Welfare and agencies are working on responding to new expectations and any oversights. One example is that all Child Welfare agencies in the province will be moving to a new information collection and storage system called Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). The hope is that the system will offer one consistent approach to collecting and sharing information across the province between agencies. There are both staffing and technical challenges for agencies as they transition to the new system. The Children’s Aid Society of Haldimand & Norfolk will go live in December 2016. Brant FACS does not have a firm date for CPIN full implementation but are slated for some time in the fiscal year (April 2016 - March 2017).

Teresa Westergaard-Hager – Community Outreach, Norfolk Association for Community Living

The Norfolk Association for Community Living will be holding their 2nd Annual Wellness Fair on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Simcoe. The organization completed employment training with Bob VanSickle from the Ontario Disability Employment Network.

Christine Pearce - Program Manager, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services

Christine updated the group on their Annual Christmas Party for families, being held at Assumption College School on Thursday, December 1, 2016 and how last year accommodated over 200 individuals to the event. Woodview is hosting two “Drop and Shop” events in November where parents can drop off their children at the Centre while they go shop. To assist parents, they are also offering camps for three days over the Christmas break.

Paul Sanderson – Contact Brant

Paul had no further update on Contact Brant.

Heather Shisler- Physiotherapist Lansdowne Children’s Centre (LCC)

Heather spoke about the upcoming Annual LCC’s Christmas Party to be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at Lansdowne.



7. Reports

7.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen McDermid updated the group on the variety of workshops being offered to Educational Assistants on the November PA day, which include ABA Strategies/Data Tracking, Helping Students with Math, Trauma Sensitive Classrooms, Working with Anxious Students, Technology (Kurzweil, Word Q, Smart Ideas, Talk Typer), Safe Talk, First Aid, and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVC). At the November Community of Practice meeting, there continued to be a focus on self-regulation tips and strategies, including the use of therapy (which all schools will be receiving), behaviours, Zones of Regulations book, Math resources, IEPs and proper documentation. Jill Esposto offered to make a presentation and/or provide a Q & A sheet from Brant FACS.

7.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Telfer indicated that interviews for the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Program Lead will be conducted in the near future. The posting for the temporary Speech Pathologist position has now closed. We have increased our complement of EAs for 2016-17 school year. The Education Assistant Allocation Committee continues to meet monthly to assess system needs.

8. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The December meeting will include breakfast prepared by St. John's College students.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.