



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.  
Boardroom**

**Present:** Paul Sanderson (Acting Chair), Keith Anderson, Catherine Custodio, Carmen McDermid, Bonnie McKinnon, Christine Pearce, Heather Shisler, Lisa Stockmans, Leslie Telfer, Teresa Westergaard-Hager

**Regrets:** Jill Esposto (Chair), Krista Emmerson, Tracey Taylor

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**1. Opening Prayer**

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer and the Committee welcomed a surprise visit from Assumption College School music department students who performed Christmas carols.

**2. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Acting Chair Paul Sanderson welcomed the group and new member, Keith Anderson, Manager of Developmental Services, Family Counselling Centre of Brant Inc., to the Committee.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Christine Pearce

Seconded by: Heather Shisler

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the December 20, 2016 meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2016**

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Heather Shisler

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

**Carried**

**5. Correspondence - Nil**

**6. Community Agency Updates**

*Bonnie McKinnon - Trustee*

Trustee McKinnon shared that at the Annual Meeting of the Board held on December 6, 2016, the Board re-elected Trustee Rick Petrella as Chair of the Board and elected Trustee Dan Dignard as the new Vice Chair. Trustee membership on the various Board committees will be finalized in January.

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

Teresa updated the group that the Norfolk Association for Community Living continues to work through the Ministry's directives with their support staff and the services they provide, ensuring support plans are in place for the transition. The Norfolk Association for Community Living is developing a shared space with the car wash at Speedy Auto Glass to support the five males who are currently working



there. A parent information night will be held in January to provide further information. The organization now has a Facebook page that is fully operational and they have received full consent for all pictures found on their social media site.

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

Christine shared the success of Woodview's Annual Christmas celebration held at Assumption College School, which included over 250 persons in attendance.

*Paul Sanderson – Resource Coordinator, Contact Brant*

Paul announced the addition of Contact Brant's newest staff member, Maxine Lean, who worked previously as an Access Coordinator for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). As Lead Service Planning Coordinator with Contact Brant, and with the wealth of knowledge that Maxine brings, her focus will be on managing more complex cases by assessing and identifying clients' needs and ensuring that they are being met.

*Heather Shisler - Physiotherapist, Lansdowne Children's Centre (LCC)*

Heather updated the committee on the success of Lansdowne Children's Centre's annual Christmas celebration. With the assistance of the Rotary Club sponsorship, Lansdowne hosted over 300 individuals. Lansdowne is now working on the transition to school planning for next September. Resource teachers are in the process of organizing and modifying documentation to make them more user friendly for schools. They are also looking forward to working with parents and both school boards in an upcoming one-day workshop.

*Catherine Custodio - Child Welfare Supervisor, Haldimand- Norfolk Children's Aid Society*

Catherine shared that Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society went live in the third week of December with the new Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) system. The successful transition to the new system will aid in the sharing and access to files between agencies and throughout the province.

*Keith Anderson - Manager of Developmental Services- Family Counselling Centre of Brant*

Keith provided an overview of Developmental Services at the Family Counselling Centre of Brant. Hamilton Brant Behaviour Services provides behaviour consultation, behaviour clinic, groups such as Peers, Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) and Zones of Regulation and workshops on various topics. Case management services are available to families with children still living at home and for adults living on their own in the community for advocacy and service coordination. Intensive case management is available for adults (18+ yrs.) experiencing significant challenges with corrections, mental health, housing, etc., and requiring advocacy and service coordination. Family Respite Services provides daytime respite and activities for adults (18+ yrs.). All services have eligibility requirements and referrals are made through Contact Brant (up to 18 yrs.) and Developmental Services Ontario (18+ yrs.).



## **7. Reports**

### **7.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education**

Carmen McDermid shared the agenda for the January Community of Practice meeting, which will include a presentation from teachers from the Amethyst Demonstration School who will discuss the application process and candidates to consider for this program. Jackie Whiting, French as a Second Language Consultant, will discuss best practices and strategies to enhance the engagement of students with special needs in the French Language Program. Carmen also shared with the group the various workshops scheduled for Educational Assistants for the January Professional Development day, including Trauma Sensitive classrooms, Anxiety, Applied Behaviour Analysis, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Mathematics, Early Learners and Technology. Carmen shared a video of a collection of photos submitted by all schools where resources provided to them by the Special Education Department, such as math resources (rekenreks, counting tools), styles of implementation of the Zones of Regulation, calming rooms, technology, fidget tools, self-regulation strategies, etc., are being implemented. The video was created to highlight and celebrate the efforts of the SERTs and the department in trying to meet the needs of all students.

### **7.2 Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Telfer updated the group on the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Lead position, which they are hoping to have in place in January. The Speech Pathologist position was secured and cross training into the position has begun to cover a one-year leave. She advised that focus on Educational Assistants and making sure systems are in place continue to be a priority. Superintendent Telfer advised that the Board is currently working on updating and/or creating partnership service agreements with all service providers and agencies working in partnership with the Board.

## **8. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.