



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. - Boardroom**

- Present:** Jennifer Chapman, Catherine Custodio, Mischa Jansink, Carmen McDermid, Jill Esposto, Paul Sanderson, Michelle Shypula
- Regrets:** Krista Emmerson, Bonnie McKinnon, Christine Pearce, Tracey Taylor, Teresa Westergaard-Hager
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1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Jill Esposto welcomed the group and a round of introductions were made for the benefit of new members, Mischa Jansink from Lansdowne's Children Centre and Jennifer Chapman from Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Catherine Custodio

Seconded by: Paul Sanderson

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the agenda of the October 17, 2017 meeting.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2017

Moved by: Catherine Custodio

Seconded by: Jill Esposto

THAT the SEAC Committee approves the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting.

Carried

5. Community Agency Updates

Paul Sanderson- Resource Coordinator – Contact Brant

Paul provided an update regarding Woodview's Parenting Support hub located at Major Ballachey School on Wednesday evenings. Individual counselling sessions start at 4:00 pm. Children up to 12 years of age can meet with their parent in counselling sessions and youth over 12 can meet on their own with a counsellor. Services are accessible for anyone in the community. See Appendix A for a flyer containing additional information.

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

Catherine noted that October is Child Abuse Prevention Month. On Thursday, October 5, 2017, the Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society organized a Youth Dinner for Youth in Care where staff donated the turkey and fixings. On Wednesday, October 18, 2017, the agency will be holding a Foster and Kin Caregivers Appreciation Dinner for foster parents as well as family members who have an increasing active role in caregiving for other family members. Catherine gave a reminder that next Tuesday, October 24, 2017, is Dress Purple Day for Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Jill Esposto- Director of Services- Brant Family & Children Services

Jill shared promotional #IBREAKthesilence buttons with the group in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Dress Purple Day on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Jill expressed gratitude on behalf of Brant Family and Children's Services for the work of community partners and local agencies who have promoted the Child Abuse Prevention Awareness campaign and coordinated promotional materials such as the Brantford Police Force purchasing bracelets. The agency and the Board have organized VIP Pods to visit local schools on Dress Purple Day to let students know that many people in the community are working together to keep them safe and provide supports they can rely on. The VIP Pods included participants such as; Andrew Koster, Executive Director of Brant FACS, members of Brantford and Brant Council, Brantford Police Sergeant for the Community Safety and Crime Prevention, representatives from Brant OPP, Brantford Fire and Brant Fire, Chris Roehrig, Director of Education & Secretary and many other local agency representatives. The first VIP Pod for the Board is being held in the morning at Holy Cross School at 10:00 am and the second VIP Pod is being held at 2:00 pm at Sacred Heart School in Paris, Ontario. There are two VIP PODS also set up with the Grand Erie District School Board. Students and staff will participate by wearing purple. Students of BHNCDSB are also receiving lessons that combine the Board's theme, *Walking Humbly*, with child protection and more specifically, *"It takes a village to keep kids safe"*.

Jill also provided an update on changes to the new legislation for the *Child and Youth Family Services Act*. The Act is anticipated to be passed in the spring of 2018 although new directives may be sent out as early as in January 2018. The Act will include revisions such as protection services extended to 16 and 17 year old aged youths. Jill shared information on Duty to Report and many other areas where the Act and directives could directly affect our youth and discussions ensued between members on various dilemma's that agencies are facing.

Mischa Jansink- Family Service Coordinator- Lansdowne Children's Centre

Mischa advised that Lansdowne held their Annual Mud Run this past weekend. This year, the run consisted of 32 obstacles, including a climbing wall and tractor tire hurdles. Funds raised from the event go towards supporting Lansdowne Children's Centre and tuition costs for the Every-Kid-Counts camp program. She noted that more details would follow when the final numbers are released.

6. Reports

6.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

For the benefit of new SEAC members, Carmen provided an overview of the Special Education Services offered by BHNCDSB. A description of all the Special Education programs offered within the Board for exceptional students was shared in a hand out (see Appendix B).

Carmen also reviewed with the committee a handout describing the 'Program Intervention Process' which outlines classroom, school and system level intervention processes followed when concerns are raised regarding a student's progress in class (see Appendix C – p.18 of the Spec. Ed. Plan).

Carmen shared information about a newly formed (August 2017) Ministry of Education Curriculum Writing team established to look at alternative programming for students who are not accessing the Ontario curriculum. Debbie Dignan, SERT Itinerant, was chosen by a Ministry committee to participate on that writing team. Debbie currently supports staff in our Elementary Transition Classrooms and Secondary Special Education Classrooms with the development of



Individual Education Plans (IEPs). She also problem-solves with school teams regarding appropriate programming and how to best support complex student needs, administers a variety of achievement assessments, models teaching strategies and plans professional development to support individualized programming and inclusive program practices.

Carmen updated SEAC about the role of our .4 Self- Regulation Itinerant SERT, Nancy Smykaluk. She supports and provides input when schools are establishing a calming room and/or learning space that promotes self-regulation. To date, Phase 1 (five schools) and Phase 2 (13 elementary & 3 secondary schools) have been provided with the following items: portable bubble tubes, tube cushions, the nest (oversized bean bag cushion), bean bag chair, fidget/sensory items (theraputty, chew toys, squeeze balls, rainsticks, wiggle cushions, weighted animals, noise reducing headsets, etc.). The goal is to have the remaining 11 elementary schools receive these materials by year-end. Nancy also demonstrates lessons from the Zones of Regulation book, works with a school team to brainstorm additional self-regulation strategies, co-creates resources and provides professional development around the use of fidget tools and/or sensory items.

The Board is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Lead, Stephanie Villalobos (temporarily replacing Laura Klinck) on October 10. Stephanie joins us as a former Instructor Therapist who provided Intensive Behaviour Intervention therapy to children with autism at Lansdowne Children's Centre.

6.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Shypula provided background information on the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (ODA) passed in December 2001. Following the introduction of the ODA, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) became law on June 13, 2005. The act aims to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities in the Province of Ontario. On June 3, 2011, the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation, Ont. Reg. 191/11 was released to cover accessibility standards in information and communication, employment and transportation. In October 2012, the regulation was amended to include the Design of Public Spaces under Ontario Regulation 413/12. In 2013, the regulation was amended again more specifically to Boards, expecting that their Design of Public Spaces include accessibility requirements by January 2016. School Boards and other public sector institutions are currently disseminating the AODA standards and it is the province's expectation that full accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities will be achieved by January 2025.

Superintendent Shypula noted that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Accessibility Committee (BHNAC) continues to meet on a regular basis to identify and eliminate barriers in our facilities to provide accessibility and services for all students, employees, parents of students and members of the community with disabilities. In November, scheduled meetings with SEAC and BHNAC will review and update the Integrated Accessibility Plan as it is approaching the end of its 5-year cycle. A new 5-year plan for 2017-22, in compliance with AODA and Ont. Reg. 191/11, will be completed and include a comprehensive analysis of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Accessibility Plan. The plan will identify facilities that require further projects in order to achieve compliance. Following these consultations, the Board will submit its Accessibility Compliance Report on December 31, 2017.



Superintendent Shypula updated that the focus for the System PA Day on October 13, 2017 was on year three of the spiritual theme for Micah 6:8 “*Act Justly, Love Tenderly, WALK HUMBL Y with your God*”. The day began with a Eucharistic Liturgy, celebrated by his Excellency, Bishop Bergie, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines. Following mass, Michael Hryniuk, who holds a Doctorate in Theology and Personality Theory and is in the department of Psychology at Tyndale University College, empowered the group to examine their personal faith journeys while *Walking Humbly*. The afternoon focused on school and Board communities joining in groups to discern their *Graced Light History* and to reflect and make a commitment to actions that demonstrate *Walking Humbly* during the 2017-18 school year.

7. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

In closing, Superintendent Shypula shared a personal reflection with the group as follows:

- know that with God at our sides, we are strong,
- not only value ourselves but also the unique and wonderful gifts and talents that each and every one of us brings to our communities, and
- that we are all children of God.

Superintendent Shypula thanked Catherine Custodio for all her contributions to SEAC and wished her all the best on behalf of all members. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.