



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. – Boardroom**

- Present:** Susan Battin, Jennifer Chapman, Christine Dragojlovich, Jill Esposto, Lauren Freeborn, Debbie Fullerton, Carmen McDermid, Patti Mitchell, Michelle Shypula, Teresa Westergaard-Hager
- Regrets:** Keith Anderson, Tracey Taylor, Nil Woodcroft
-

1. Opening Prayer

Carmen McDermid led the group in the opening prayer.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Chair Teresa Westergaard-Hager welcomed the group.

3. Approval of Agenda

Business In-Camera added as Item 6.

Moved by: Christine Dragojlovich

Seconded by: Susan Battin

THAT the SEAC approves the agenda of the January 15, 2019 meeting, as amended.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2018

Moved by: Jennifer Chapman

Seconded by: Christine Dragojlovich

THAT the SEAC approves the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting.

Carried

5. Correspondence -Nil

6. Business In-Camera

The Business In-Camera was approved by consensus.

THAT the SEAC approves the business and report of the in-camera session.

Carried

7. Community Agency Updates

Susan Battin – Senior Therapist, Lansdowne Children's Centre

Susan provided two examples of the child *F-words* (*Fun, Family, etc.*) *Profile* forms (see Appendix A). The parent friendly forms are used during the transition to school entry for school level age groups and were based on forms by CanChild. CanChild is a non-profit research and educational centre located within the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON. Their research focuses on improving the lives of children with a variety of developmental conditions and their families.



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

Norfolk Association for Community Living staff are currently completing Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training (NVCIT) requiring four hours of both online and in-class training. The agency is fundraising with a January calendar of prizes. A new residential location that will house four residents is soon to open. The transition from group living to supported independent living programs (SILs) is a case-by-case process looking at individual needs.

Staff will receive training on Thursday, January 17, 2019 from the Director of Hope Pharmacy and Methadone Clinic. The training is to support and protect employees working with individuals with substance abuse disorders.

Jill Esposto – Director of Services, Brant Family & Children Services

Jill updated on the challenges for the new protection services in Ontario for 16 and 17 year olds and the costs associated for family, and children service agencies. Services for these youth include: Kinship Service; (being cared for by family, community or friends), Customary Care; (for First Nation, Inuk or Métis youth in need of a home placement) and Voluntary Youth Services Agreements (VYSA). A VYSA is an agreement with a society where the youth resides and receives services and supports, subject to all of the following required criteria¹:

- The society has determined that the youth are or may be in need of protection;
- The society has determined that the youth cannot be adequately protected through any other means such as being cared for by a family member or someone in their community; and
- The youth wants to enter into the agreement.

In Brant/Brantford, Family Counselling Centre of Brant and Contact Brant have been a big help towards finding homes for youth who have been on a VYSA who have significant developmental delays. Jill updated that Brantford has the highest hospital admissions per capita in Ontario, due to the opioid/fentanyl crisis². The agency is working with the Brant County Health Unit to provide Naloxone kits through staff to families and continue to support families struggling with addictions as best as they can.

Lauren Freeborn – Service Planning Coordinator, Contact Brant

No updates were provided for Contact Brant.

Christine Dragojlovich – Clinical Manager, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services

Christine updated on the success of the camp offered during the Christmas break where approximately 40 children within the Respite Program, Wraparound for Complex Needs Program and Early Years/Intensive Programs received services. This helped to support a seamless transition back to school. Woodview is currently working with youths between 12 to 21 years of age and assisting them with options for their futures by providing resources with new Brief Services. The agency is reaching out

¹ http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/professionals/childwelfare/information_for_youth_protection_services_EN.pdf

² <https://www.cihi.ca/en/opioids-in-canada/2018/opioid-related-harms-in-canada/smaller-communities-feeling-impact-of-opioid-crisis-in-canada>



to youth within the downtown core. Christine updated that Woodview is currently recruiting for Outreach and Respite Worker positions in the Brantford area and the postings can be found on their website.

Jennifer Chapman – Child Welfare Supervisor, Haldimand-Norfolk Children’s Aid Society

Jennifer updated that she will be presenting alongside the new Education Liaison, Shannon Korber, working with both school boards on the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA) at the Board’s upcoming Academic Administrator’s Council Meeting on February 6, 2019.

Patti Mitchell – Parent and Community Resource, County of Brant

Patti updated on her nomination as Chair for the Special Olympics in Brant this year and that she will be soon connecting with community agencies to provide additional information on the organization. Patti has been involved with the Special Olympics in Brant for several years as a parent and shared that the group has a supportive group of parent and youth volunteers. Patti shared that there is a Facebook © Page for the group and updated how youth are really enjoying some of the newest sports introduced such as basketball. They currently have four youth participating in provincials for snowshoeing.

Debbie Fullerton – Principal and Community Resource, BHNCDSB – St. Michael’s Walsh

On behalf of all administrators with the Board, Debbie thanked the committee for their continued support and input to SEAC and to Special Education Services for presenting and informing principals about key special education topics.

8. Reports

8.1 Student Achievement Leader: Special Education

Carmen provided updates on the memorandum received from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) in November 2018. Based on feedback received on proposed updates to EQAO Accommodation and Assessment Policies, the memorandum provides details on the upcoming changes and their commitment to supporting students and educators, modernizing accommodations and ensuring that future changes are grounded in the principles of equity and inclusion. Changes include:

1. Allowing access to headphones, calming white noise or music.
2. Allowing access to digital or paper language resources (e.g., dual-language dictionary, translation tools for English – and French – language learners (i.e. ELL/PANA/ALF) in Grade 9.
3. Allowing access to virtual manipulatives via Internet tools (e.g., mathies.ca) and math applications (e.g. online calculators) for Grade 9 students, similar to what is currently allowed for the primary and junior assessments.
4. Encouraging the classroom environment to look as it would normally during an assessment. Teachers should feel confident leaving classrooms displays, student work up, and removing only that material which is instructional in nature to the reading, writing or mathematics curriculum expectations.

Carmen shared that the Reconciliation Retreat had five students with special needs who participated in the retreat on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. The retreat provides students with



a better understanding of the sacrament and provides them with the confidence to know what will be expected of them. In an effort to promote inclusion for all students, parents are provided with an outline of the topics reviewed with students such as; hands-on visuals for learning.

8.2 Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Shypula updated on the changes to school-based rehabilitation services, which came into effect in January 2019. In response to feedback received directly from families, the provincial government made changes to improve the delivery of school-based rehabilitative services, which include physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy for children from birth to school exit. These changes are intended to support a more seamless service experience as children start school or move between service providers, in settings that best meet their needs, regardless of where they live or who provides the services. The goal is for children who are currently receiving services prior to school entry to not experience gaps or be placed on additional waiting lists when they start school.

A key step in this seamless process is the transfer of contract management for the delivery of School Based Rehabilitative Services (SBRS) in publicly funded schools from the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) – formerly Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) to Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) in Ontario. Commencing January 1, 2019 in Brantford/Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk regions, Lansdowne Children Centre (LCC) will manage this contract. Lansdowne will continue to provide services in Brantford/Brant and will be working along with the two current CBI Health Group branches to provide the existing services in Haldimand and Norfolk. The contracts with CBI Health Group branches are in place until December 31, 2019.

Over the past number of months, LCC has been working closely together with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN, the Southwest LHIN and District School Boards to ensure students do not experience gaps or disruptions during the 2018-2019 school year as a result of this transfer.

The change in delivery of services has been shared with school administrators, school-based special education resource teachers and members of the district special education team.

9. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am and Superintendent Shypula thanked members for their contributions to the meeting.