**MCMCT Meeting Minutes**

**February 22, 2016**

**CAST Room 5-3**

**10:00-12:00**

Present: Cindy Himelstein, Beverly Ann D’Souza, Cindy McCarthy, Cynthia Grundmann, Linda Saad, Lee Ford-Jones, Jillian Sewell, Ian Edward, Zulehka Noormohamed, Diane Banks, Paola Collini-Martins, Eneyda Guerra, Lisa Robinson

Regrets: Lisa Shortall, Lovelle St.Gabriel, Shaida Addetia, Sharma Queiser, Lee Soda

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Welcome** | Minutes of January 18th, 2016Minute Taker- Lisa Robinson |  |
| **Ministry of Child and Youth Services Presentation** | Development of a Provincial Middle Childhood StrategyPresenter: Ayasha Mayr Handel (Manager, Youth Strategies Branch) and Shelley Smith (Senior Policy Analyst, Youth Strategies Branch)Currently: Provincial Timeframe: Next two-yearsConducting a Middle years program inventory: in early stages of establishing a scan; a lot of work will be looking at what already exists and enhancing thisThe process the Ontario Government is undergoing to develop a Middle Childhood Strategy was presented. Some highlights included:1. 3 policy initiative included in Ontario Youth Action Plan one of which is the commitment to develop middle years strategy
2. Recognition of the need for middle years policy and strategy at Provincial level and desire to collaborate at all levels of government to achieve this
3. Acknowledgement of the lack of research available on middle-years children as a challenge for both the MCMCT and Provincial Government was discussed

Discussion:The difficulty of working collaboratively at multiple levels of government was discussed in the context of the importance of uniform efforts and outcomes across governmental levels.Potential funding models were discussed, specifically property tax increase in GTA due to comparatively low rates to aid in funding of childcare subsidies and program funding.Importance of family engagement in developing a Provincial Middle Childhood Strategy was highlighted by Coalition members | Early May: The provincial government will be making a call-out for new research on development and practice specific to middle years.Shelley Smith is coordinating among groups, please contact if you have ideas about groups to connect with at Shelley.Smith@ontario.caIf you have any families who exhibit high levels of resiliency for case studies on middle childhood development please forward information to Ayasha Mayr Handel at ayasha.mayrhandel@ontario.ca and/or Shelley Smith at Shelley.Smith@ontario.caDocuments and information presented by Ayasha Mayr Handel will be forwarded to members of the Coalition. |
| **OTF Grant** | Project Coordinator Update/ Next StepsProject Coordinator has been hired and will begin on March 14, 2016. The coordinator will be working out of CAST for the first year of their contract.The Project Coordinator is: Shaden Jebahi Sick Kids Paediatric Residents Meeting UpdateResults from the meeting with SickKids Residents were shared. The Residents are excited to partner with MCMCT in offering parenting workshops however they are concerned about time constraints. All residents must work on a community project so we will be presenting this as an option for a community project to the incoming residents in July 2016.Parents Inventory GroupLisa will be developing an inventory of parent groups. | Scheduled to meet again with SickKids Residents in April 2016Lisa to contact all Coalition members via email |
| **Childcare and Early Years Act, 2014 and the Education Act- Consultation Document** | Sector Response and City of Toronto Council Response via Children’s Services Response (access, quality and stabilization)The coalition decided to collectively respond to the proposed changes. A formal letter will be drafted, circulated for approval from members and submitted by the due date of April 1, 2016 | Small group to meet Friday, February 26th to draft initial themes of response to proposed changes (Cindy McCarthy, Ian Edwards, Jillian Sewell, Beverly Ann D’Souza, Lisa Robinson)Two members from above group will attend the City of Toronto Early Learning and Care Committee meeting on March 3, 2016 to participate in service provider discussion/feedback (Cindy McCarthy, Jillian Sewell and tentatively Ian Edwards)Letter will be drafted and circulated to Coalition members for feedback (Lisa Robinson) to be submitted by April 1, 2016 deadline for response. |
| **Coalition Members** | Sector Updates/Program UpdatesZulekha- Updated on Model School Parent Conference:The coalition can’t do a presentation as this was already full but have been put forward for a table at the conference on March 16th. This table will provide information on MCMCT and will also act as an opportunity to collect contact information of parents of children between the ages of 6 and 12. | New Project Coordinator to staff the MCMCT table |
| **Next Meeting** | **Monday, March 21st, 2016; 7th floor; Room 7-2** |  |