**Middle Childhood Matters Minutes**

Monday, April 20, 2015

10am – 12pm

**Present:** Shaida Adettia, Diane Banks, Paola Collini-Martins, Ian Edward, Lee Ford-Jones, Eneyda Guerra, Cindy Himelstein, Cindy McCarthy, Jillian Sewell, Lisa Shortall, Beverly de Sousa, Tom Chen, Andrea Malonado, Linda Saad, Cynthia Grundmann ( tele-conference)

**Regrets:** Vanessa Chase, Jane Mercer, Annie Peng, Anna Polla, Kate Wallis

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| Agenda Item | Discussion | Outcome/Follow-up |
| Welcome and Approval of Minutes | • There is a mistake in last month’s minutes in regards to childcare subsidies. Under 2014-2015 provincial guidelines, subsidies may be used for unlicensed school-aged programs as long as the program is recognized by the Ontario Camp Association or uses High Five. The City of Toronto ( Council approved), however, has decided to only use subsidies for license-based programs only | • Kaitlin will correct last month’s minutes. |
| Toronto Children’s Services 2015-2019 Plan  Proposed Regulatory Amendments Related to Childcare and Early Years  and    Webinar on the regulatory changes  Toronto After-School Programs – What Matters? Quality Indicators/Standards | • 52% of Toronto’s child population is 6-12 years old.  • Only 14% of 5-12 year-olds are in one of the 664 after-school programs across the City  • The plan recognizes a need for developmentally appropriate programs for 9-12 year-olds, since this age group often drops off  •This is the first service plan that includes 6-12 year olds – good step forward  • When Council approves the plan, it will become the City’s road map for the next 5 years  • Looking to create separate age grouping for 6-8 year olds (1:15 staff ratio and a max group size of 30) and a new age group of 9-12 year-olds (1:20 staff ratio and a max group size of 20)  • Children’s Services is opposed to the requirements being put forward by the province around having only 1 staff person for a group of 20 9-12 year-olds  • The province is proposing that anyone working with children in all programs must have a vulnerable sector check – the City wants this postponed until the 2nd phase to look into how the demand for police checks can be handled administratively.  • The province says that programs for 6-12 year olds must be available where there is enough demand by parents. The same building standards that apply to the school would apply to the childcare provider who is operating before and after-school programs in schools  •Some Coalition members are putting in responses to the regulatory changes.that sit around our table are putting in responses  • The Coalition would like clarification on the definition of what needs to be licensed and what does not need to be licensed, as well as the definition of authorized recreation programs  • Cynthia thanked those on the Coalition who participated in the survey  • Objective was to identify Toronto specific characteristics for after school programs for children between 6 and 12  • Over 650 participants filled out the survey, identifying over 3500 characteristics/statements, and well over 100 activity sheets from kids in programs were collected  • Data was cleaned and 3500 statements were reduced down to 81 using software to eliminate redundancies  • With those 81 statements, 13 different sessions were held with people from 3 programs types in each of the 4 quadrants. In these sessions, the 81 characteristics were sorted into categories and rated on a scale of 1 to 10 in order of importance  • Resulted in 9 thematic clusters | • The Coalition will write a letter thanking the City for including middle children in their service plan  • If members of the Coalition have anything they want to bring back to Children’s Services, reach out to Cynthia Grundmann  • Request info on the City of Toronto, Children’s Services alternative to the 1:20 ratio  Regulatory Registry Posting related to the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) document will be distributed to Coalition members  •The Coalition will be providing a response to the above document- Kaitlin to coordinate the response with Coalition members  •Next coalition meeting- results of the study and the next steps will be shared- report available in May |
| Municipal and Provincial Asks | • The third point in our Municipal asks re: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities needs to be revisited.  Waiting on the funding model for child care proposed by the City of Toronto, children’s services department  • We may want a municipal ask on having someone who is responsible for the planning of programs, who knows what is going on in the ground to ensure that the right program is going in for the community.  • On page 61 of Children’s Service Plan, the 31st call to action is about working with the province to align policies governing school and childcare – we can ask for this commitment to be followed up on  • The Coalition may want to look at developing both short term and long term asks  •Develop a fact sheet that includes some prevention stats, situations/stories that are happening on the ground (Eg. Programs like Harbourfront are down in numbers because of affordability for families, programs like West Neighbourhood House is using their endowment fund to subsidize 60% of their programs which is not sustainable, etc)  • Raise awareness on programs and spaces that aren’t being accessed (Eg. Library)  • We want to ensure quality programs are being put in place, no matter what type they are  • Should we go back to core components of a good program and ask for money for these things? | • Kaitlin will look into Federation of Canadian Municipalities  • Kaitlin to re-convene workgroup to to look at short-term asks as well as fact sheet on what is happening on the ground |
| 2015 Skill Development/Research Symposium | Discussed having a fall symposium at Sick Kids Hospital inviting service providers and parents  • Affordability for workshops is a big deterrent – the conference/symposium should be free | • Re-convene conference committee to discuss content/date, etc. |
| Updates | • Sick Kids Hospital- Dr. Lee reported that Dr. Peter Wong is writing a paper on middle childhood – will be shared with MCMCT when done. |  |

NEXT MEETING DATE

TUESDAY MAY 19TH

10:00 – 12:00 PM

Cas of Toronto