

DISTRICT CHILD CARE ADVISORY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Information			
District	Date	Time	Location
East	November 4, 2011	9:30 to 11:30 am	Burrows Hall
North	November 4, 2011	9:30 to 11:30 am	North York Civic Centre, Council Chambers
South	November 9, 2011	1:30 to 3:30 pm	Metro Hall, Room 309
West	November 4, 2011	9:30 to 11:30 am	Etobicoke Civic Centre, Council Chambers

1. WELCOME

All attending were welcomed to the first meeting of the DCCA.

2. INTRODUCTION

Introductions made and Advisory members were introduced.

North – Community Co-Chair Sheryl Barton (Dublin Heights Community Child Care) Vice Chair Lynn Belanger (North Yonge Infant Nursery)

East – Community Co-Chair Eve Wilson (St. Bede) and Vice Chair Christine Keefe (Cardinal Leger)

West – Community Co-Chair Cindy McCarthy (Terry Tan Child Care) and Vice Chair Anne Farrell (First Stage Albion)

South - Community Co-Chair Debbie Nystrom (Brookfield Place–Mothercraft) and Vice Chair Lisa Winters (Beatty Buddies)

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Additional agenda items to be submitted to Barbara Jordan at bjordan@toronto.ca 2 weeks prior to scheduled DCCA meeting

Minutes of DCCA meetings will be integrated into one posted report available on the Children's Services website www.toronto.ca/children

4. REDESIGN – OVERVIEW

Powerpoint presentation provided an overview of the objectives and mandate of the DCCA as well as how they fit into the broader integrated children's system

OBJECTIVE:

- To improve access and participation by operators
- Shared leadership
- Address local challenges
- Focus child care issues

MANDATE:

- To represent child care community
- Provides advice on child care issues to Children's Services

Meetings to be held 5 times a year (January, March, June, September and November).

First meetings of DCCA were held on November 4th in the North, West & East Districts and in the South District on November 9th

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft Terms of reference were presented. They will be available on the website www.toronto.ca/children

6. STANDING ITEMS**6.1 Integrated Steering Committee / Early Learning Care – Community Chair**

Community co-chair of the DCCA's will sit on the Early Learning and Care Committee and will provide a conduit of information to and from the DCCA committee.

Meetings to begin in early 2012

6.2 City Report**Reports – District Director**

A follow-up report to the June 29, 2011 report is going to Community Development and Recreation Committee. The report responds to a direction from the Community Development and Recreation Committee that Children's Services report to Council prior to the conclusion of the 2012 Operating Budget deliberations with a detailed analysis of the impact of the Province's Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten (FDELK) program on Toronto's child care system.

The report is posted on the City's website. It will go to City Council on November 28, 29 and 30, 2011.

The Middle Childhood Strategy report, a follow-up joint report with PFR, was moved from the November CDR meeting of today to the next CDR meeting in April, 2012.

Community Information Meetings

The City held two Community Information Meetings, Nov 1st for the South/West Districts and Nov 8th for the East/North.

The Ward analysis was shared and the presentation and ward profiles are now posted on our website. Children's Services is developing a one page fact sheet that can be used to educate parents on the issues.

Budget

The launch date for the 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets is at Budget Committee on November 28, 2011.

The Budget Committee will review the 2012 Capital and Operating Budget at their meetings on December 2, 5, and 6, 2011. Councillor Hearings will be held on December 7, 2011; and Public Hearings on December 8, 2011.

The Budget Committee wrap up will be on December 9 and 13, 2011 with final wrap up on January 9, 2012.

City Council will approve the 2012 Capital and Operating Budgets on January 17, 18 and 19, 2012.

Task Force on Child Care

Councillor Mammoliti hosted the first meeting of the Task Force on October 13, 2011. A second meeting was held on October 19, 2011.

Children's Services Division General Manager Elaine Baxter-Trahair was present to provide an overview of the Division and what we do and of issues impacting child care in Toronto.

Any questions about the Task Force should be directed to Councillor Mammoliti's Office at 416-395-6401.

Early Learning Transitional Capital Funding

To date, Children's Services has received from the Province \$330,000 for Phase 1 and Phase 2 allocations for capital and operational/stabilization costs.

Recently, Children's Services made the \$330,000 provincial funding available for projects that were small - \$50,000 or less.

Up until October 15, 2011, Child care operators interested in reconfiguring to serve children aged 0 to 4 could apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 to cover renovation costs.

A total of 31 applications were received for projects totaling close to \$1 million

Approval of the successful applicants will be determined by ward analysis and the Child Care Service Plan.

Toronto Operating Criteria Information Sessions

Information sessions on the upcoming 2012 changes to the Operating Criteria are being scheduled for November

As space is limited, please RSVP to Mike by e-mail mmongel2@toronto.ca by November 7th

2011 Raising the Bar Conference - November 22, 2011

This year's Raising the Bar conference will be at the BMO Conference Centre, 3550 Pharmacy Ave.

It is sponsored by Toronto Children's Services, the School of Early Childhood George Brown College, and Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning are excited to sponsor this important professional development event.

The keynote speaker is Sue Corke, Registrar and CEO of the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario, and former Deputy City Manager at the City of Toronto responsible for Children's Services, among other Citizen Centred Services.

All the information including conference program and registration is on our web site, and you are encouraged to register early as this is a popular conference.

Space Utilization

Families with infants in all wards are being contacted. Where there is a physical vacancy in a child care program, subsidy is being allocated to the infant and toddler siblings. Older siblings are being placed only if the ward is below equity and below age equity.

Families with toddlers in all wards except Ward 44, who applied for fee subsidy before Aug 1, 2011, are being contacted. Where there is a physical vacancy, subsidy is being allocated to the toddler and only to the older siblings if the ward is below ward and age equity.

Children approved by the Appeal Committee for a priority placement are being allocated regardless of ward and age equity.

All children approved for priority admission who are in a shelter/hostel are being placed.

Children approved for priority readmission, including readmission following a maternity leave, are being allocated only where the ward is below ward and age equity.

Children referred by Ontario Works for child care are being allocated if the ward is below equity, regardless of the child's age.

District Operations Update:

All District Offices will be closed at 4:30pm on December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday January 3rd, 2012 at 8:00am. Parents who have urgent issues during the closure can call Children's Services at 416-392-5437 (i.e. the KIDSLINE) or 311.

(Update: Two (2) district offices stayed open)

Reminder that Group Centre Budgets are due Nov 30th and Special Needs, Family Support Programs and Home Child budgets are due Nov 15th.

West:- Ward 18 is now in West Office.

6.3 Update from School Board

Written reports from the TDSB and TCDSB were shared as received:

TDSB: During month of November, TDSB Child Care Service Managers Fidelia Torres (West Programs) and Barbara Lambert (East Programs) will be contacting child care centres in schools scheduled for September 2012 FDK implementation directly. Existing operators will be invited to express their interest in offering and FDK Before and After School Program.

During February, all parents enrolling their children in a FDK school for September 2012 and those who currently have children enrolled at these schools in JK going into SK will be surveyed for interest in a Before and After School Program. Results will be collected and school, operators and parents will be informed regarding next steps.

TCDSB: Full Day Kindergarten – As a review, TCDSB has 28 Year 1 school sites, 10 Year II school sites and 44 Year III school sites that will offer Full Day Kindergarten. Many of the Year III school sites for FDK are undergoing capital improvements that are anticipated to be completed by September 2012.

For a listing of TCDSB FDK sites, please visit the Board website: www.tcdsb.org

The TCDSB Early Learning Team is in the midst of finalizing parent surveys for the Extended Day component of Full Day Kindergarten. Surveys will be available to parents in early January to coincide with Kindergarten registration.

Christmas Holiday Schedule: A reminder that child care partners/operators should review the permit requirements for the Christmas holiday season. School facilities will be closed on Monday December 26 in lieu of Boxing Day; Tuesday December 27 in lieu of Christmas Day; Friday December 30 in lieu of ½ days for December 24 and 31, and Monday January 2 in lieu of New Year's Day. Permits must be taken out well in advance.

Tenant Improvements: all tenant improvement requests should be first discussed with the school Principal and then relayed to Marilyn via e-mail. This includes minor improvements such as installation of electrical outlets. Approvals are required before work may take place

7. Other Business

South: 3rd Party Program – Joanna Mazurek, Manager with Macaulay Child Development Centre, shared her experiences opening the 3rd party program at J.R. Wilcox Day Care.

East:- Announced opening of 3 new Child Care Centres in the East District over next few weeks:

- Native Child and Family Life Centre
at Kingston RD & Galloway
- Heatbeatz Child Care at Kennedy & 401
Operated by Cliffcrest
- Chester Le Child Care at Pharmacy & Finch
Operated by City's Municipal Child Care.

Next Meeting:

East: Jan 25, 2012
Scarborough Civic Centre (Council Chambers)
1.00 – 3.00 p.m

West: Jan 26, 2012
Etobicoke Civic Centre (Meeting Room 1)
9.30 – 11.30 a.m

South: Jan 24, 2012
Metro Hall (Room 314)
9.30 – 11.30 a.m

North: Jan 23, 2012
North York Civic Centre (Council Chambers)
9.30 – 11.30 a.m