

# Toronto Child Care and Early Learning Forum

## Meeting Notes – date

Agenda Item	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p><i>Updates shared on the current Forum Co-Facilitators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ South District: Donna Spritzer, Jackman Community Daycare</li> <li>▪ East District: Irene Sheridan, Heart Beats Child Care: Cliffcrest and Halbert sites</li> <li>▪ West District: vacant</li> <li>▪ North District: vacant</li> <li>▪ Children's Services: Suzanne Field, Consultant, Policy, Planning, Projects</li> </ul> <p><i>Children's Services Staffing announcements:</i></p> <p>Elaine Baxter-Trahair has taken on a short-term role as the acting Deputy City Manager. In her absence, Anne Longair is serving as the Acting General Manager for Children's Services. Anne is Children's Services' Director of Toronto Early Learning and Child Care Services. Anne provided a brief introduction to herself and her role.</p> <p>Karen Wilson will be off for three months. Birgit Maxismer will be the Acting District Director for the South and East districts.</p> <p>New District Consultants were introduced: Sherifa Ishmael, Nicole De Souza, Lori Foreht, Dhurata Beqo, Michelle Noel, Anne Conway.</p>	
<p><b>2. Agenda Review</b></p> <p>Due to the Province's current writ period (due to the upcoming election), the Ministry of Education was unable to attend. TDSB and TCDSB also had to send their regrets for this meeting.</p>	<p>To add an item to future agendas please email <a href="mailto:childcare@toronto.ca">childcare@toronto.ca</a> with 'Forum' in the subject line, 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.</p>
<p><b>3. Forum Updates:</b></p> <p>An ongoing review of the Forum meeting structures was shared at the February meeting, with attendees invited to share input via email. Changes in Forum meetings:</p> <p>Three centralized Forum meetings to be held each year - Jan, May, Sept. District meetings no longer held.</p>	

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<p>Each district will still have a Co-Facilitator to help inform meetings and agendas.</p> <p>The intent is to improve consistent access to information for all operators. District meetings were resulting in different information being shared at different meetings, based on which partners could attend.</p> <p>Locations of the centralized meetings will be in either North York Or Metro Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WebEx will always be made available</li> <li>▪ Sept 2018 will become a centralized meeting</li> <li>▪ Nov 2018 is cancelled</li> </ul> <p>Check <a href="http://Toronto.ca/children/forum">Toronto.ca/children/forum</a> for updates.</p> <p>Information sharing with Operators was discussed. Feedback suggests Eblasts are good method of info-sharing and will continue.</p> <p>To improve tracking of key dates, an online calendar is being created which will include Forum dates, budget and finance-related dates, and other professional developments. An Eblast will be sent once this is ready.</p>	

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<p><b>4. Early Learning and Child Care workforce: Summary of current initiatives</b></p> <p>Panelist presentations to provide an overview of current initiatives intended to address early learning and child care workforce challenges. Item was requested by Operators in February Forum meetings.</p> <p><b>Sue Johnston</b>, Children's Services Division</p> <p>Presentation on Growth strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10 year vision - capacity to build more spaces</li> <li>▪ A goal of the growth team is to support a thriving workforce</li> <li>▪ Phase 1 (2017-2019) goal is to support increase to wages for RECE by 6%. Work is continuing with the TC&amp;FN and the province to support RECE workforce</li> </ul> <p><b>Patricia Chorney-Rubin</b>, Director Community Services and Early Childhood at George Brown College, George Brown.</p> <p>Patricia presented on the mandate and results of the Provincial Workforce Strategy Technical Advisory Group, of which she was a member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advisory group informed the Province's May 2018 document: <i>Growing Together: Ontario's Early Years and Child Care Workforce Strategy</i></li> <li>▪ The strategy includes the following five initiatives to support educators:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishing fair compensation</li> <li>2. Improving working conditions</li> <li>3. Enhancing skills and opportunities</li> <li>4. Valuing contributions</li> <li>5. Increasing recruitment</li> </ol> </li> <li>▪ The Toronto Child and Family Network has a working table focused on Child and Family Services Professionals: Growth and Quality. They plan to consult with Operators on how the Provincial strategy can be best applied in Toronto.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lindsay McDonald and Lisa Johnston, Association for Early Childhood Education Ontario (AECEO)</b></p>	<p><i><b>Question:</b> Please explain #3 further, not sure what the requirements will be</i></p> <p><i><b>Answer:</b> For example at an EarlyON Centre's - one person in the CFC will have to be an RECE - this is a new requirement.</i></p> <p><i>When we advocate that the working conditions are better and promote salaries</i></p> <p><i>Lift the field and ensure there is professional status</i></p> <p><i>Motivated RECE's are needed in this field</i></p>

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<p>Presented on advocacy work they are involved in to advance workforce of child care professionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Offering Leadership training/ongoing mentorship, Purpose is to build awareness in the child care sector, to help inform/engage the general public</li> <li>▪ Leading the "Rise Up" campaign for staff, parents, and allies: shared opportunities for Operators to get involved. Willing to come to program sites and to discuss opportunities for involvement with ECE's.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Inclusive Programming: Supporting Indigenous and LGBTQ2S children and families.</b></p> <p>Presentation by Cris Renna, Policy Development Officer, Children's Services</p> <p>Discussed current and upcoming changes and developments to increase Indigenous-led early learning and child care programs.</p> <p>Also discussed what inclusive programming for Indigenous and LGBTQ2s children and families looks like and key terminology for LBGtQ2S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include Indigenous and LGBTQ2S books and materials in programming (not just on the shelves)</li> <li>▪ Support extended family</li> <li>▪ Know the Indigenous service sector to make good referrals</li> <li>▪ Attend Indigenous cultural events</li> <li>▪ Make sure spaces are inclusive for two spirit families</li> <li>▪ Include all types of families in celebrations that centre on parents (like Mother's Day and Father's Day)</li> <li>▪ Support and affirm gender expression of all kinds by all children and support caregivers who might need affirmation too</li> <li>▪ Inclusive for diverse families and families living with disabilities</li> </ul> <p>Cris offered to come to Supervisor Networks to further discuss and to help organize capacity building sessions.</p>	<p>Listing of resources for Operators for supporting Indigenous and LGBTQ2S children and families will be sent out.</p>

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<p><b>6. Toronto Public Health</b></p> <p><b>Owen Chung, Public Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The guidance document has been updated. There might be further changes as the province has put forward new guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Consultations on the new guidelines as follows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oct 22- NYCC</li> <li>▪ Oct 25 Scarborough</li> <li>▪ Oct 29 - City Hall</li> <li>▪ Oct 30 - Etobicoke Olympian</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Childcare Centre's only to post their Public Health inspections not that of the Catering Company</li> <li>▪ Responded to question raised in February meeting: Cooking with children as a part of programming will not designate a centre as a higher risk, with regards to TPH inspections.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <p><i>1 –Program had a PH inspection recently, the inspector wanted to collect pest control data - do the reports need to be collected from the child care? Problem is it is done by the school and lot of the time the centre does not have a copy?</i></p> <p><b>Answer</b> - <i>School is responsible for pest control and they should have the documentation - some inspectors will expect operators to have the information. As long as the school has the information available this should be sufficient.</i></p> <p><i>2 - Garbage cans for infant diapers are fire safe. Do these also need to have a latch lid and be fire safe? Inspector had stated that they do. Latch/fire safe buckets can be costly</i></p> <p><b>Answer-</b> <i>Unsure regarding the latched container. Will follow up.</i></p> <p><i>3- -What is the protocol for inspectors that are visiting B&amp;A programs? Are the inspectors informed of the hours of the programs? Example: some inspectors come into see a program during lunch and end up assessing a school lunch program and not the child care.</i></p> <p><b>Answer</b> - <i>Due to turnover of inspectors, the information sometimes gets mixed and they might visit during lunch hour</i></p>
<p><b>7. Toronto District School Board: EYAC updates</b></p> <p>EYAC meets regularly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently discussing issues regarding the internet and WiFi in schools</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sandy Edmonds provided an update regarding shared space work group: currently gathering examples of what is working well and pictures of spaces/rooms, intent is to review rooms where it works well and those that may not be working as well.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Toronto Children’s Services updates</b></p> <p><u>Children's Services' reports to Committee/Council:</u></p> <p>Community Development &amp; Recreation Committee</p> <p><i>June 13<sup>th</sup>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs for School Age Children: Changes Resulting from Child Care Licensing Assessments</li> <li>• Supervision, space, and nutrition initiatives for lunch room programs in Toronto schools</li> </ul> <p><i>July 11<sup>th</sup>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Assessment for Quality Improvement review</li> </ul> <p>Executive Committee:</p> <p><i>June 19<sup>th</sup>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendment to Children's Services 2018 budgets to reflect Provincial 2018 allocations</li> </ul> <p>Updates from recent reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ April: Council adopted continuation of decision to not authorize recreation programs. No impact of this decision expected on licensed child care programs or current authorized recreational and skill-building programs.</li> <li>▪ April: Report: <i>Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack - City Conditions</i>. Council adopted decision to create a child care centre on site or in the vicinity.</li> <li>▪ May: Report from Auditor General on a review they conducted of Children’s Services. Included 20 recommendations. The report, including recommendations, are available at</li> </ul>	<p>September meeting agenda will include My Child Care Account presentation</p>

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<p>Toronto.ca/council, and by clicking on Audit Committee.</p> <p><u>EarlyON</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early investments made to enhance the program quality and materials</li> <li>• Moving forward there were be engagements seeking information from child care operators concerning:</li> <li>• A survey to gather information on the cost of replacement staff</li> <li>• Focus groups to pilot and refine a new budget feedback report.</li> <li>• If you would to be involved please contact: <a href="mailto:tcsgrowth@toronto.ca">tcsgrowth@toronto.ca</a></li> </ul> <p><u>PWE and Home Care Enhancement Grant (HCCEG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 896 PWE applications received from Group centres, 18 from HCC</li> <li>• Operators will receive an e-mail instructed them to logon to view approval letter and report</li> <li>• First payment mid-June Jan -Sept (75% of the year)</li> <li>• 2nd payment by end of Sept for the rest of the year</li> </ul> <p>**these amounts will include administrative dollars - 39% will be distributed for Admin**</p> <p><u>Fee Stabilization Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications are still being accepted until July 1st Operators must demonstrate fee avoidance for a full year</li> <li>• Centres that opened in 2018 - not eligible. (Should already be paying \$15)</li> <li>• Payments are processed quarterly</li> <li>• Reconciliation process will be required</li> </ul> <p><u>Expression of Interest</u></p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bendale ACHRES</li><li>• Advent</li><li>• Avondale Public School</li><li>• Accepting applications for Health and safety (ongoing)</li></ul> <p><u>Placements Directives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Placing all ages and all wards</li><li>• Ensure all vacancies are updated ASAP.</li></ul>	