

**Toronto Child Care and Early Learning Forum
Centralized Meeting
November 23, 2017**

Agenda item and summary	Actions / Requests / Q&A
<p>1. Welcome and Agenda Review</p> <p>The Centralized Forum meeting at Metro Hall was live-streamed and attended by early learning partners. The meeting was co-facilitated by Suzanne Field (Children's Services) and Donna Spreitzer (Jackman Community Daycare).</p>	
<p>2. Agenda Review</p> <p>Agenda was reviewed. The Ministry of Education and Toronto Catholic District School Board were unable to attend the Forum meeting.</p>	<p>To request an agenda item for future Forum meetings, please email childcare@toronto.ca with 'Forum' in the subject line, at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.</p>
<p>3. Child Care and Early Learning Forum Update</p> <p>3.1 Forum Co-facilitators</p> <p>Co-facilitator positions are still open for North and East Forums. Elections will be held at the North and East February meetings, providing that nominations are available.</p> <p>3.2 Action items from last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no action items stemming from the last Forum meeting. <p>3.3 Forum Website</p> <p>Attendees were reminded of the Forum website (www.toronto.ca/children/forum). Forum schedule, minutes, presentations, and contact information are available through this site.</p>	<p>Nominations for Co-Facilitators for the North and East districts can still be submitted to childcare@toronto.ca with 'Forum' in the subject line.</p>

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<p>4. Licensed Child Care Growth Strategy-Phase one</p> <p>Dena Warman was introduced in her new role as Project Director, Growth Strategy Implementation.</p> <p>Shanley McNamee, Director, Strategic Business and Financial Services, presented "Growing Toronto's Licensed Child Care System" (see Presentation in Materials section of Forum website).</p> <p>Recent unprecedented investments in early learning and child care by federal and provincial governments. Very exciting time for child care in Ontario.</p> <p>Three goals of growth strategy: building capacity to meet demand; improving affordability for families; supporting a thriving workforce.</p> <p><i>General Operating Grant</i> has been renamed <i>General Operating Funding</i>. The investment is not a grant, but base funding to support affordability.</p> <p>CS will be supporting Operators to develop implementation plans to document how increased funding amounts will be used.</p> <p>Supportive tools are in development. Info sessions will be held for Operators and Boards of Directors early in new year.</p> <p>Communication will be delivered to parents via child care centres.</p> <p>A letter was sent to licensed child care operators from the Ministry of Education about a fund to assist operators in meeting the increased minimum wage which takes effect January 1, 2018.</p> <p>Children's Services does not yet have details on guidelines for this funding, but will report to the community once they are received.</p>	<p>Request for CS to communicate information on Supervisor/Director salaries to assist Board of Directors in addressing increased workloads for them as well.</p> <p>Q&A: <i>Due to the large number of questions, Growth Strategy staff remained past the close of the meeting to answer questions. All Qs asked are included below.</i></p> <p>Q: how are Kindergarten and School age programs being supported? These programs are legislated to be cost-recovery and centres are struggling to attract staff to these part time and split shift positions.</p> <p>A: Provincial investment is specifically for supporting infant, toddler, preschool children. However, federal funding had some flexibility, so maximum amount allowed is being used to increase subsidy spaces for KG/SA. Provincial Wage Enhancement is still available for all age groups and expected that it will continue in 2018. The Toronto Child and Family Network is working on the issue of staff retention. We will provide messaging to help manage parent expectations and assist Boards in working with the families and making decisions.</p> <p>Q: Bill 148 was recently passed and addresses more than the increase in minimum wage; it talks about fair wages and paying part time casual staff the same as the full time staff they replace. How is the City addressing the implications of Bill 148?</p> <p>A: The City is grappling with the implications too. A report is going forward to Community Development and Recreation Committee on Nov 27 about the pressures created by Bill 148.</p>

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	<p>Encourage operators to estimate the impacts and put them in your budgets.</p> <p>Q: Some schools still don't offer Before and After School programs for Kindergarten and School Age children. Is there a protocol to address these situations?</p> <p>A: We work closely with the Boards of Education to try to assess demand. There is a legislated mandate for Boards to respond when demand is demonstrated.</p> <p>Q: How will the City ensure that operators who have consistently not provided decent work for staff do not benefit unfairly from this newly announced funding?</p> <p>A: To date, we have no information on how the new minimum wage funding will be rolled out. Our role as Consolidated Municipal Service System Manager (CMSM) will be to administer the funding using Provincial guidelines once they are announced. Our usual accountability measures will apply.</p> <p>Q: Will the community have the opportunity for input and consultation on how best to implement the new funding?</p> <p>A: The General Operating Funding points system will continue to be used with more funding attached; this is not new. The funding model was extensively consulted on prior to approval by City Council in 2015. We have no details on the newly announced \$12.7 million Provincial funding targeted to address the increase in minimum wage in Ontario.</p> <p>Q: Communication with parents will be very important.</p> <p>A: Agreed. Children's Services is putting together a fact sheet with clear info for parents and plan to meet with Operators and Boards of Directors early in the new year and distribute the key messages to share with their families</p>

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	<p>Q: Is it possible Toronto will receive little of the \$12.7 million because most operators are already paying their staff \$14 an hour?</p> <p>A: We assume Toronto will get their fair share to mitigate the pressures of the minimum wage increase.</p> <p>Q: Will General Operating Funding change if we increase capacity, say from 10 toddlers to 15 toddlers?</p> <p>A: There will be a process for expansion. If you historically operate at 10 toddlers but you put 15 on your budget, you will be funded at 10.</p> <p>Q: The new funding is targeting the youngest children, but my centre has mostly school age children. Can I use the increased funding to reduce my school age fees?</p> <p>A: You would be expected to use the funding to address preschool fees, however we want fees to address actual operating costs, so it would be reasonable to look at all your fees, for example, is one age group cross-subsidizing another?</p> <p>Q: How can we determine January parent fees?</p> <p>A: We recognize timing is a challenge. We are asking that operators hold off on increases until your funding increase is known. We will be increasing your cash flow of General Operating Funding (GOF) in late December to mitigate the impact of delaying fee increases. Please see the Q & A that was e-blasted recently for more explanation.</p> <p>Q: If we are a site offering kindergarten and school age only, can we submit our budget later too, or is it still due Nov 24? What about if we operate two centres-one with GOF and one without?</p>

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	<p>A: We encourage you to submit KG/SA budgets now and not wait as nothing is changing for you and we can get working on your budget now. You can submit the non-GOF budget now and the GOF budget in January.</p> <p>Q: If we are planning on using the new funding to increase staff wages, should we do so effective Jan 1 or wait?</p> <p>A: we would generally advise that you work on your implementation plan and budget now but wait until your implementation plan is approved before increasing salaries. Can always provide increases retroactively.</p> <p>Q: The information provided on staff salaries is very helpful. Do you have info on Supervisor/Director salaries? It's important that Boards of Directors address the increased workload experienced by supervisors/directors too.</p> <p>A: We can get this information and add it to our upcoming communications.</p>
<p>5. Toronto Public Health-</p> <p>5.1 Traffic-related Air Pollution: What it means to child care</p> <p>Toronto Public Health presented on Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) and its effects; especially for young children. Toronto's Board of Health recently adopted a report about this issue and what can be done to mitigate impacts, including monitoring of Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), timing and location of outdoor play.</p> <p>A fact sheet on <i>Reducing Exposure to Traffic Related Air Pollution</i> was distributed and is available on the Forum website.</p> <p>Presentation also available under Materials on Forum website.</p> <p>5.2 Infection Prevention and Control</p>	<p>Q&A:</p> <p>Q: Can you clarify TPH's immunization requirements?</p> <p>A: Flu shot is not mandatory for child care staff. Hep B and Chicken Pox vaccine continue to be required. <i>Updated summary of immunization requirements: Ministry of Education & Toronto Public Health</i> is available on the Forum website.</p> <p>Q: Contradictory information regarding AQI and TPH requirements.</p> <p>A: Continue to communicate concerns to District Consultant. Community Quality Advisory aware of these issues and working with TPH to coordinate messaging.</p>

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<p>Child care operator in-service training sessions recently completed; encouraged participants to complete emailed survey. Anticipating protocol changes next year in response to Provincial updates.</p>	<p>Q: Confirming that the 2016 guidance document is still in effect?</p> <p>A: Yes. Posters are available on website (link). Guidance document had to be taken down re City web revitalization but are available by calling 416-338-7600-Toronto Health Connection line.</p>
<p>6. Toronto District School Board</p> <p>6.1 Board Closure Day and Permit Requests</p> <p>Reminder of board holiday closure Dec 25/26/27. Child cares in schools who plan to operate on Dec 27 must get a permit so caretaking staff can be scheduled to open and close the school.</p> <p>6.2 Capital Funding for Child Care Centres</p> <p>TDSB in partnership with Children's Services is undertaking the development of a number of new child care centres co-located in TDSB schools. Currently in initial design phase for six new builds funded through the Ministry of Education: Bala, Chalkfarm, Gracedale, Macklin, Milliken and Pelmo Park.</p> <p>There will be a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to identify operators for these centres in 2018.</p> <p>6.3 TDSB Research</p> <p>TDSB conducted a research study about the strengths and areas of improvement for Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) before and after school programs and current lunch time supervision of FDK children. To learn more, see the report on TDSB website: www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/Child-Care/Reports.</p> <p>Recommendations will be developed after further analysis.</p> <p>6.4 Early Years Advisory Committee (EYAC)</p> <p>EYAC is a community advisory committee comprised of early years representatives, who provide advice to the TDSB regarding Early</p>	<p>Q&A:</p> <p>Q: We recently had parent-teacher interviews and we were moved out of our licensed space into an unlicensed room by the Principal. We were not comfortable with this move, but feel we can't argue and that we are guests in the school.</p> <p>A: Please talk to us and we will work with you; we are here to provide support. Before and after school programs are mandated and are being provided by third party operators on behalf of the school board. You are tenants and partners, not guests in schools.</p>

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<p>Years policies, planning and programs. EYAC meets 4 times a school year and meetings are open to observers.</p> <p>EYAC south rep Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandylion) provided an update.</p> <p>Shared space and Facilities committees continue to meet. Resource manual revisions continue. New info will be posted to website (link).</p> <p>Facilities working on health and safety issues such as lockdowns/secure and hold situations that happen after 3:30 pm.</p> <p>Over 80% of TDSB elementary schools now have a Before and After School program. The continuum of education is important. Interest shown by families is the key driver for addressing gaps and goal is 100% of schools having B & A programs.</p>	
<p>7. Children's Services Update</p> <p>7.1 2018 City Capital and Operating Budget Schedule</p> <p>Public launch is November 30 with public deputation days Jan 8-9-10. City budget information and updates are available at: www.toronto.ca/budget. Divisional presentations and notes that explain the budget will be posted once public.</p> <p>7.2 Children's Services reports to Committees</p> <p>November 30 Budget Committee will have divisional budget info including Children's Services'</p> <p>No other Children's Services committee reports in Nov/Dec 2018 is an election year. Divisions asked not to bring any major strategic reports forward right before the start of a new administration whenever possible.</p> <p>Forecasted reports for 2018: update on option to authorize recreation and skill building programs; update on Assessment for Quality Improvement review. Dates/details to be confirmed.</p> <p>7.3 2018 Operator budgets</p>	

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<p>Operator budget deadline extended to Jan 26/18 to accommodate the requirement to have an implementation plan.</p> <p>7.4 Provincial Wage Enhancement (PWE) Currently conducting compliance reviews for selected operators. 2016 audit reporting requirement must be met by December 1. 2017 reconciliation will be available in January 2018 and due Feb 15. 2018 application process will be communicated once Provincial confirmation received.</p> <p>7.5 Health and Safety Funding Applications for 4th quarter 2017 will be reviewed by December 20 and must be received by Dec 8. 2016 approvals that have not started will require an extension-contact your District Consultant. See website www.toronto.ca/children/operators for info and application.</p> <p>7.6 Placement Directive Placing all ages, all wards. New target of 28,975 spaces due to increased provincial and federal investments. Please update vacancies to support families in securing placements.</p> <p>7.7 New Central Office New office opened on November 20 at 700 Lawrence Ave West Clients to be seen starting November 27. Initially new clients will be seen at the new office. By February, caseloads will be realigned and operators will be notified who their Caseworker will be</p> <p>7.8 New Expression of Interest Opportunities Advent (Bathurst/Finch) and Lansing (Yonge/Sheppard) upcoming. Both sites will have infant, toddler, and preschool. Expected by end of the year-notice will be e-blasted and posted on Children's Services website.</p>	

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<p>7.9 Children's Services website changes The City's web revitalization project has been a multi-year project aimed to make toronto.ca more engaging, intuitive and service-focused. Children's Services content will now be found under <i>Community & People</i> tab. Families looking for early learning and care info will find it under <i>Children, Youth and Parenting</i>. Service providers looking for information to support their programs will find it under <i>Community Partners</i> The friendly URL www.toronto.ca/children/operators will remain active.</p>	
<p>8. Closing Next meetings will be posted on Forum website once booked.</p>	