

## Toronto Child Care and Early Learning Forum

North York Civic Centre, Council Chambers

September 25, 2018

### 1. Welcome and Agenda Review

#### 1.1. Revised Forum structure reviewed:

- There will be (3) centralized meetings each year (January, May and September)
- Meetings will alternate between North York Civic Centre and Metro Hall
- WebEX will be available
- There will be four District-based Co-Facilitators roles
- Co-Facilitators
  - South – Donna Spreitzer
  - North – vacant
  - East – Irene Sheridan
  - West – vacant
- For nomination: Contact Donna or Irene or email [childcare@toronto.ca](mailto:childcare@toronto.ca)

#### 1.2. Revised Terms of Reference

- Changes have been made to reflect revised structure
- New: Criteria for Co-facilitator roles
- Updated Terms of Reference available on [Toronto Child Care & Early Learning Forum](#)

#### 1.3. There is a new Calendar of Events and Important Dates for Operators now on the website.

### 2. General Manager's Update and Growth Strategy Results from Year One

Toronto Children's Services (TCS) is working to align and update data to reflect the ward changes from 44 to 25 wards

An update on the Growth Strategy was presented by Elaine Baxter-Trahair and Nicole Warner (for details, the presentation is available at: [Toronto Child Care & Early Learning Forum](#))

## Questions and Answers

- Q.** Does this mean that centres who receive legacy funding may not receive increases?
- A.** That is correct. In some situations, centres will receive a lower amount from last year.
- A.** Operators whose current total (base) funding has been equalized to the current .57 cents a point, will receive the full .20 cent increase bringing the value up to .77 cents a point.
- A.** Operators whose current total (base) funding includes legacy funding for KG and SG in addition to their General Operating Funding will see the legacy funding transferred into a General Operating dollar value per point and will receive up to the .20 cents to equalize their funding into a single funding stream at .77 cents a point
- A.** Operators who's current General Operating Calculation for ITP is greater than the current .57 cents per point will receive up to .77 cents.
- Q.** How does this effect commercial centres?
- A.** Based on a Council directive, there is no expansion with commercial operators.
- Q.** Do we know how the new Provincial Government will affect PWE funding?
- A.** Children's Services has received no direction to date regarding changes to PWE funding. More information will follow once it is available.
- Q.** What is the timeline for General Operating Funding?
- A.** All operators will receive a payment in November to carry into 2019. In order to support eligible operators with lowering fees and increasing wages during the 1st quarter 2019, an increase in 2018 GOF will be paid up to \$0.20 cents a point in November, 2018. This funding is intended to support continued implementation of the agencies 2018 plan and provide cash flow for the initial implementation of the 2019 plan to increase wages and decrease fees, during the approval phase.

### 3. Toronto Public Health (TPH) Update

Owen Chung provided dates for upcoming training sessions offered by TPH

1. Sessions will be held from 9am to 12 noon, at:
  - Oct 22 – North York Civic Centre
  - Oct 25 –Scarborough Civic Centre
  - Oct 29 – Metro Hall
  - Oct 30 – Etobicoke

2. Owen clarified that at the last forum he informed operators that there was no requirement to keep records of pest control; however, he has since confirmed that there is a requirement as centres are considered to be food premises and food premises are required to maintain records
3. There was discussion related to garbage cans requiring latched lids - Owen confirmed that it is not a requirement
4. TPH is in the process of comparing their list from the school boards and Children's Services to update their data base on Before and After School Programs

### Questions and Answers

The following questions were raised as part of the discussion:

- Q.** How often must an operator have a visit from Pest Control?
- A.** Regular visits should be scheduled based on the recommendation of the Pest Control company and more frequently if there is an infestation.
- Q.** What if you have no Pest Control contract since there are no infestations?
- A.** It is a recommendation and should be done but Owen will confirm if it is a requirement for the next forum meeting.

**Action:** Owen to follow-up

- Q.** What do I do if I have a compliment or complaint?
- A.** Ask to speak to the Manager of the inspector to discuss.
- Q.** Is there a way to notify operators when directions change between Forum meetings?
- A.** TPH is working with Children's Services to be able to e-blast (i.e. email) messages as required.

**Action:** Owen to follow-up

- Q.** If TPH posts inspection results, how will the Boards be able to respond regarding issues of shared space?
- A.** There is more work to be done on this initiative. Owen will share as this becomes available.

**Action:** Owen to follow-up to let Forum know when this been done and will go into practice.

#### 4. Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

Liz Hoang and Louise Humphries represented the TDSB

- The TDBS opened and expanded new B&A programs, creating over 1500 spaces in September 2018

- 405 spaces were created in the Extended Day Program (EDP) in September
- These programs are eligible for fee subsidy but do not receive General Operating Funding
- Programs are cost recovery
- Calendars of school closures were sent out in February. There will be Board closures on December 24, 2018 and April 22, 2019. If a centre wants to remain open they must apply for a permit, permit fees may apply
- George Brown College, TDSB, Toronto Catholic District Scholl Board (TCDSB) and TCS have partnered together for an annual kindergarten conference which will take place November 3, 2018

### Questions and Answers

The following questions were raised as part of the discussion:

**Q.** Do operators have to pay for caretaking if they choose to open on Board closure days?

**A.** Costs are dependent on the lease agreement.

**Q.** How will quality be assessed in EDP programs?

**A.** The School Age Quality standards from 2016 will be used.

**Q.** Will these guidelines be available on line?

UPDATE: They are available online: [Guidelines for Early Learning and Child Care](#)

#### 5. Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)

- Connie Giordano introduced herself as the new Early Years Co-ordinator
- TCDSB calendars were distributed to schools and parents
- TCDSB continues to work on expansions and new child care centres

#### 6. Children's Services Update:

##### 5.2. Service Plan 2020-2024

- Children's Services is developing the next Service Plan: 2020-2024
- TCS will reach out to operators and families for feedback on Service Plan principles

More information will be available in the coming months

**6.2. EarlyOn**

- TCS will establish two new full-time centres and a 2SLGBTQ mobile service that will offer programs across the city
- Two new Indigenous EarlyON sites will be established. They will offer land-based language and culturally-secure fathering programs

**6.3. Inclusive Programming**

A list of resources for Operators for including and supporting 2SLGBTQ and Indigenous families is available on the Forum website

**6.4. Operators Budgets**

- Online registration for Budget Overview Sessions are now available to sign up for. Emails were sent out regarding the dates and locations
- It's important to submit budgets on time so we can approve system costs as soon as possible
- Budget Guidelines for the maximum allowable amount for administration costs have been updated for 2019 to include a 7% increase

**6.5. Fee Stabilization Support**

- TCS received new guidelines from the Province in mid-September
- A revised application, reflecting the changes will be posted for Operators to apply for Fee Stabilization in early October

**6.6. Provincial Wage Enhancement (PWE)**

Information about 2019 applications will be communicated to operators when info is available

**6.7. Minor Capital Health and Safety Funding**

- Application information can be found on the website
- To learn more about what measures could be taken at your centre to reduce exposure to TARP, contact your Consultant or call Toronto Public Health at (416) 392-7685

**6.8. Placement and Vacancies**

- We continue to place in all wards and all age groups
- If you have vacancies in your program, it is important to let your caseworker know so they can assist filling them

**6.9. Child Care & Before/After School Program Locator**

- In the next few weeks we will launch a new Child Care and Before/After School Program Locator for families

- The new locator will allow parents to filter for programs based on the age of their children and by fee subsidy
- New Before/After School Program webpage: [Before-After School Programs](#)

#### **6.10.Expression of Interest – New Web page**

- We have created a new Expression of Interest (EOI) home page on the City web site where you will be able to find EOI's for both child care and EarlyON as well as details about current and upcoming EOI's
- New EOI webpage: [Expression of Interest to Operate Early Years Programs](#)

#### **6.11.Every Child Belongs – Model Enhancements**

- In 2017 in partnership with the sector, 4040 children were supported through the Every Child Belongs model
- Child Care Support Funds (CCSF) were increased from 400 to 500 hours
- CCSF was increased from 6 to 7 hours for school age children on holiday / PA days
- Special Needs Resource Staff increased from 121 to 128 and 1 Indigenous position was added

#### **6.12.My Child Care Account**

- Presentation provided on the new My Child Care Account
- Postcards and Bookmarks will be sent out to Operators to advertise this initiative

### **Questions and Answers**

- Q.** How will centres receive notifications regarding clients?
- A.** The same way they do now
- Q.** Will all families have an account?
- A.** No, some families may choose not to set up an account. TCS will support families to sign up.
- Q.** Can clients make updates to their accounts now?
- A.** We are hoping that clients will be able to make changes in 2019.
- Q.** TCS has not sent anything out to operators recently to post on their bulletin boards for client's to see.
- A.** This will be brought forward to the Communication and Marketing Team.

**Question Period**

- Q.** Which consultant will support Wards 26 and 34?
- A.** Ryan Vender is interim Consultant supporting these Wards.
- Q.** Please clarify the administration increase?
- A.** The guidelines will allow for a 7% increase beginning in 2019.
- Q.** Can you clarify the stability payment?
- A.** It was received in August as a one-time payment. It can be used to support 2018 expenses. It must be used in accordance with budget guidelines.
- Q.** Will the Stability Grant affect my per diem?
- A.** No.
- Q.** Can the Stability Grant be used 2019?
- A.** Yes, but it has to be reported as received.
- Q.** Why doesn't Toronto have something like the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDDC) when smaller places like Peel and St. Catharines do?
- A.** Operators were encouraged to submit ideas that could be used to create more opportunities for operators.