

Date: March 28, 2017 9:30-11:30pm

Location: Salvation Army Village Day Nursery

Present: Diane Gordon, Barb Jackson, Julie Keens, Tamara Blaney, Nicole Blanchette, Margaret Whitley, Shari Carter, Kathy Harris, Kimberly Mitchell, Donna-Jean Godfrey, Joelle Rinker, Lee-Anne Cross (AKB) Sheri Spriggs

Resource Member: Anne Rae City of London Child Care Services

Regrets: Linda Granger, Cindy Machado

Guests:

<u>Welcome</u>	Agenda Item	Outcome/Action
<p>Barb welcomed attendees and extended a very special thank you once again to Shari Carter and the Salvation Army Village for hosting the meeting in their community room at the Day Nursery and for providing a delicious start to the morning!</p>	<p>Approval of Agenda for March 28, 2017 and Minutes of February 21, 2017(with amendments/clarifications)</p>	<p>Agenda Approved Minutes Approved with 2 amendments/clarifications 1) Family Info-Investing In children is the lead responsible with the money flowing through LCC. 2)QCCCC-Mentoring group hopes to have a better idea of what their community mentor work will be in the fall.(not initiating mentor pairs in the fall as stated in Feb minutes)</p>
<p><u>Family Info-Update</u>–Cindy Machado –Absent –Barb Jackson Reported</p>	<p>Barb reported that Cindy has had a job change and the Family Info updates will soon be moving to someone else. At the present time there is still monitoring of the LCCN Facebook page and regular updates being posted. The LCCN Twitter account still shows the old Partners logo. Barb will check with Cindy regarding the password for the Twitter account and will have tbk update the logo as required.</p>	<p>Barb to find out about updated logo for Twitter account.</p>
<p><u>Marketing Committee –Update</u> - Nicole Blanchette</p>	<p>Nicole reported the sub-committee met with tbk for a first look at the website and reported it looks great. Sub-committee members are pleased overall with the look and ease of the site. The site is still in the editing phase and some things are being changed and more content added. The sub-committee likes how tbk put the content together and included French and English. It is clear and concise. Tbk and marketing sub-committee discussed a custom email</p>	

address for user of the website to respond to. The cost would be \$405 +HST with a 5\$/month or \$50/year charge going forward. LCCN members present unanimously felt that a custom email address is the most professional approach. It is still to be decided by the sub-committee who will respond to any inquiries or responses that come from the LCCN website address.

A question was asked "Could Investing in Children (the person that updates the Facebook, Twitter) be the one to also moderate the email?" It was suggested that it is good to have one moderator for consistent messages. Eventually there will need to be a manager for the website due to the challenges of keeping a website up to date. It is the hope that the person replacing Cindy Machado at Investing In Children will be a funded position. At this point no budgets have been approved by the City, City is waiting for funding information from higher levels too. Everything (budgets/funding)is on hold.

QCCCC –Sheri Spriggs

Quality initiative is still waiting for 2017 budget approval for funding by the City of London. (the City is on hold from upper levels of government as well). QCCCC is moving ahead with developing a web platform, branding and logo changes. Some of the web content may overlap the LCCN site however there will be links back and forth between LCCN and QCCCC when it makes sense to do so. Through the website investigation process and rebranding everyone is learning about the differences between the two groups (LCCN and QCCCC) and the specific audiences for each and the parallels. The linking will give access to both. The RFP is out for companies and the deadline to apply back is early April with the tentative hope for a website soft launch in September. The website is a key component of the Strategic Plan's Communication Strategy.

Sheri reported that there have been community collaborations being made with community partners to see if there is a willingness to contribute funds and participate in the quality initiatives. As well Sheri has visited Oxford Community Child Care meeting and 3 First Nations reserves and PEACE meetings.(progressive strategies for culturally relevant child care). There has also been participation in pedagogical coaching and mentoring for Munsee First Nation. Sheri is also working on conversations and PD opportunities with Oneida First Nation and working on the possibility of a mentoring strategy.

QCCCC professional development calendar will be available with new opportunities from April-Aug.

Kathy Harris reported that the Networking group for new educators that had been started and had been meeting monthly began with lots of enthusiasm but numbers have since dwindled and the group never was able to grow as had been the hope. The planning group for the network met and it appears there may be many reasons for the low attendance; evenings, new educators may feel they don't fit in, nervous to come to something alone, don't feel connected yet to the ECE community(relationship) etc.

The planning group is now broadening the scope of the network group with the idea of bringing back a popular idea from the past. Centre Tours for 2017. The plan is for a summer call out to Centres interested in hosting tours from September to June. The intent is for the tours to be intentional with a briefing at the beginning and a debriefing at the end. Participants will be looking at the tour with a specific lens. This is an opportunity invite educators in to the group. There is an intentional focus to continuously evaluate professional learning to ensure it meets the needs of the community and the strategic plan.

Shari C. mentioned again to members in attendance how impressed she is with the PD learning opportunities being offered that meet everyone's needs and allows everyone to participate in whatever way works best for them.

Sheri discussed the intent is that the new quality initiative website will be very interactive as well, to offer another level of accessibility for professional learning.

Approval given to tbk to go ahead with custom email address.

Julie k. will check with LCC if this is a possibility (Investing In Children monitor LCCN email address)

Advocacy – Barb

A discussion was held with members in regard to past projects of the advocacy sub-committee. Sheri S. will send questions on behalf of LCCN and QCCCC from the Conversation event with the Ministry Program Advisors. She will differentiate between questions answered and those not answered and will include LCCN and QCCCC logos. Sheri will send the information to Holly Moran and Dana at the Ministry. Margaret W. will get the contact info to Sheri. This will be the sub-committee's first step. They will meet to discuss what further next steps to take. A discussion was held by members in attendance surrounding the shortage of ECE's. LCCN wants to make sure to not overlap on what QCCCC is already doing and wants to keep messaging consistent in whatever is decided upon. Anne will try to look into accessing the Labour Market Study that was previously conducted. It is thought that redoing parts of the study may be beneficial since the original study looked at the impact of FDK as well as asking different questions.

In looking at the make-up of the sub-committee it was noted that some members of LCCN are also on QCCCC advisory committee. It was felt that this is sufficient representation for now but that that may change in the future. The LCCN sub-committee can report to the QCCCC. At this point Kathy and Barb are on both committees. Members felt advocacy should go ahead with messaging on attraction and retention of ECE's due to the many changes that have occurred in the field over the last 4 years.(FDK,WEG etc.) It was also felt that new messaging be provided to those that are still giving out old messages such as guidance counselors, teachers, etc. There are other options for ECE's, not just child care anymore. It is important for students and teachers to hear what is really going on in the field. (degrees etc.). Questions were discussed on how do guidance teachers get their information, is there an association, what effort can be made to meet with them? Offer them a workshop? What can organizations do to recruit ECE's? Do Executive Directors need to sell London and the opportunities here to other cities? (road trip?) Joelle offered to connect with the YMCA in Toronto to ask if the demand for ECE's is at a crisis there as well.

A discussion was held with members who shared concern that students in the college ECE program may not always meet the qualities/skills employers are looking for. What/how does the college do to promote the ECE program to high schools? It was mentioned that there is more focus recently on goodness of fit at the college level. Other questions brought forth in discussion were How do we keep leadership degree students in the field? How do we make a floor position more enticing for degree students?

It was decided there is a lot of work to be done with Advocacy. Kathy H. agreed to lead the sub-committee with guidance and assistance and support of others. Barb, Kim, and Margaret agreed to sit on the sub-committee as well.

LCCN will take on the advocacy ourselves and report to the Advisory Committee of the QCCCC. At some point in the future there is the hope for a 3rd quality initiative position. That person would automatically sit on the Advocacy subcommittee as well. A suggestion was made for Advocacy to connect with the Ministry of Education to ask if they are planning any kind of campaign similar to the FDK campaign due to the increased number of spaces and ECEs required. A thought to add this question to the questions being sent already might be a nice way to end the letter.

Special Needs Resourcing – All Kids Belong Lee-Anne Cross

AKB is building capacity in Centres through education and professional learning to continue to include children with special needs. There is a pocket of money for the Program Assistant piece of AKB however there are 180 centres and at least 90 requests for Program Assistant hours. Lee-Anne's discoveries in her

new position have been eye opening. There is a desire to figure out the best way to divide the hours for centres since what is available currently is not meeting demands. There are many pieces to the larger picture. It is hard to find enough staff willing to do the hours. There are more school age programs needing assistance. Many requests are now for behavioral/social/emotional needs. There are huge demands in centres. There currently are a lot of time and resources being used getting children through the day in centres. Lee-Anne has been bringing awareness to QCCCC and LCCN and school boards to help begin a more community collaborative approach. Lee-Anne is inviting feedback from the community regarding the community's needs. Also looking at what pressures are there for organizations with children with special needs and how can they be reduced. AKB first step is to collaborate and then move forward from there.

Policy Writing

Originally there was interest in coming together to write policies, or to engage support through LCCN to assist in policy writing especially for standalone centres with limited expertise and support. The Ministry sent a Memo March 8, 2017 saying they would be moving forward in developing templates and more information would be provided. It was felt that with this action LCCN does not need to pursue a policy writer at this time.

Information Sharing

Centres discussed their bussing practices for young children on field trips. Most centres no longer go on field trips with children in Preschool or younger age groups or have decided to no longer allow bussing on school busses due to height and weight restrictions and parent's concerns. Many centres are only doing community excursions where children can walk in the neighbourhood of the Centre.

Many centres have also changed field trip policies due to the challenge of volunteers acquiring VSC.

City of London Child Care Services has moved to Citi Plaza.(above Fox and Fiddle) Anne reported the environment is very nice and spacious with an open concept. All social services, children's services and parks and recreation are on the same floor. There is a centralized waiting room with Ontario Works on one side. The hope is that now there is one point of contact for people using the services and that services will be more streamlined between departments.

All phone numbers, extensions and emails have remained the same and mail will be redirected for at least 6 months from the old address.

Future Meeting Dates

Marketing sub-committee: tbd

Advocacy sub-committee: tbd

LCCN Regular Meeting April 25 ,2017

9:30-11:30am

Salvation Army Village Day Nursery

Please note- CODE to enter building 4310*

Adjournment: 11:30am