



LCCN Meeting April 27, 2021
9:30 am

1. Welcome to all the guests.
2. Municipal Updates

Paul D'Hollander (City of London):

A few words on the National Child Care Strategy

Paul shared a shout out to Chrystia Freeland for her work. He also shared the exciting news from the Federal government about the commitment of 30B over the next 5 years towards the National child Care strategy.

Anne Rae (City of London):

Funding

➤ **Fee Subsidy**

A reminder that we are not able to pay for Child Care Fee Subsidy for School Age spots (before and after school) while the schools are closed to in person learning effective April 19th, 2021. When the in person learning and before and after care resumes, fee subsidy for eligible families will resume.

Please continue to use the comment section of the Web Record of Attendance to record when a child is away for COVID related reasons. These absences will not affect the child's paid days away for 2021.

Please refer to the email sent out last Tuesday April 20th for further billing details.

➤ **General Operating Grant**

There are no adjustments to General Operating Grants pertaining to licensed before and after school programs at this time. We will notify you should this change.

➤ **No New Additional Funding**

There is no new additional funding currently available. The challenges facing operators in our community are not unique to London and Middlesex and as such the CMSM and other CMSMs and DSSABs across the province continue to advocate for the needs of child care.

The Ministry of Education reminds all providers to access all federal programs available to them for financial assistance because of the impacts of COVID-19.

➤ **Attestations Due**

A reminder that the Attestations for both the Federal Safe Restart Funding (from September 2020 – March 2021) and the Reinvestment Funding (January – March



2021) are both due to our office by April 30, 2021. Please submit your attestations to childrensservicesadmin@london.ca

Serious Occurrences Pertaining to Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

As the Service System Manager, it is imperative that we are informed of positive COVID-19 cases as it pertains to child care (staff or children) as soon as possible. We continue to closely monitor the impacts of the virus on child care and as such need to know about cases prior to the submission of the serious occurrence report as this occasionally can be delayed. Please email childrensservicesadmin@london.ca with the subject line indicating positive COVID case and the name of the site. This request is in addition to submitting your serious occurrence report to MEDU.

Emergency Child Care for School Age Children

Emergency Child Care for School Age children started last Monday April 19th and the number of operators offering this care has increased steadily. We currently have 20 programs (including centre based and licensed home child care) in London and 6 programs in Middlesex offering school age ECC for a total of 272 children served as of last Friday and growing each day. The waitlists also continue to grow daily for both London and Middlesex. As of Friday, of last week, we had 541 in London and 201 in Middlesex, so we encourage you to assist in any way possible. Even if your agency has spaces in preschool classrooms for JK and SK children, please consider reaching out to express your interest in providing ECC for this age group with the details indicated from the April 20th email sent. Approval is required from the province so please respond to childrensservicesadmin@london.ca if interested in exploring this option further.

Other options being explored to alleviate the waitlist include discussions with the province regarding an exemption to offer some form of camp. Approval and details yet to be confirmed.

Elizabeth Gough (City of London)

There was a recent LCRN [status and next steps] report that went to council early April and one of the directions from the report is to invite organizations for community-led LCRN ideas to submit business cases if they are seeking municipal funding to kickstart the ideas. The one action item included in the original LCRN Action Plan that was felt to be most important right now is 3.8 Recruitment and Retention of RECEs.

LCCN is submitting a business case for COVID-19 recovery funding to action efforts to address RECE Recruitment and Retention. LCCN would like to leverage the existing assets of the “Unsung Heroes” campaign to expand and mobilize a local digital strategy to increase recruitment and retention of RECEs during COVID.

Business cases are due April 30th. Small working group (Elizabeth, Diane, Barb, Julie, Nicole, and Kathy) working on the development of the submission – stay tuned.



Joe Winser (Middlesex)

Fee Subsidy – Business as usual – centres are on average 60% full.

Emergency Child care – Working with our 6 sites to provide ECC in the county. We are meeting Tuesday to discuss issues, concerns, and options to open new spots. Our waitlist is hovering around 200. Kelly Smith is answering tons of questions related to this piece. Feel free to reach out if needed.

3. Middlesex-London Health Unit – Early Years Team Update – Heather Bywaters and Jan Tomlinson

The team shared that they are very busy with lots of email questions, mainly Covid related. They wanted to remind us that they are available for all other child care related issues as well. The team congratulated the LCCN on their Advocacy efforts with the recent announcement that child care workers are now eligible for the vaccine. The Early Years team announced that their next newsletter would be available next week. They shared that with some lessening of number of Covid cases in the area, the Covid team is able to be more up-to-date and timely in their contact tracing. There is positive news in that the number of contacts for positive cases is decreasing.

4. National Early Years Framework Prototype Update – Celine Bourbonnais-MacDonald

Introduction of the four ECL students who will be joining us for their internship for the next four months:

- Amber Price: will be working with LCCN along with supporting the national framework research
- Alicia Vanderwerf-McNeil: will be working with Kirsti Cheese, Childreach, on the collecting and analysis of the community connectors' impact stories, and supporting the national framework research
- Lexy Rancourt: will be working with Céline on the national framework research study, including scheduling next sets of interviews in the community
- Zichen (Elizabeth) Li: will be a student volunteer; Zichen will be with Investing in Children; she is quite interested Early Years policy and will be helping us when she can

Overview of research study at this point in time:

- Working on refining interview guide
- Adding appendices to current Ethics application; new interview guide and interest of Indigenous Early Years professionals in participating in research
- Starting to push out emails for participants (parents, child care providers, Early Years professionals and employers) end of May 2021
- Still waiting to hear from federal grant application; should be this month



5. LCCN Internship – Diane Gordon

Diane introduced Amber Price who will be doing her internship with the LCCN and sharing her time between LCCN and work with Celine. Amber is interested in data collection and in policy. She has a strong focus on the emerging child care plan.

6. Skills Advance Ontario (SAO) Project – Meaghan MacDonell

This project continues to move along well. We did receive an extension for the ECE portion of the job seeker curriculum development. We now have until the end of May to put that framework together.

- We will be making some website updates soon to allow for a more permanent home for this project on Strive’s site. There will be direct links for folks to get more information, apply, etc.
- Still seeking individuals to deliver the curriculum to the job seekers once Cohort 1 starts in June. There has been discussion around how to make this more flexible and amenable for folks who may like to help deliver the content but would not be able to get release time during “business hours.” May look at offering evening or weekend classes. No set teaching schedule at this stage but know that there is flexibility. If you have any interest at all in potentially supporting curriculum delivery, please get in touch (m_macdonell@childreach.on.ca). We see a real benefit in having someone with a background in Early Childhood Education and Care deliver this part of the curriculum.

7. SAO- Incumbent Curriculum Development Discussion – Barb Jackson and Diane Gordon

Ann Marie Curtin led us through an Incumbent Training – Draft Curriculum Framework and collected feedback from the members.

- Looking at 4 cohorts of 10 (2 French and 2 English)
- This is for emerging leaders already in the field
- Began as a skill building project and changed direction as succession planning is now a priority and focus in the field
- This is a multi-year project
- Looking for mentorship between the incumbent and the Director
- They are looking at the possibility of incumbents taking modular courses of interest or need rather than taking the whole course.

8. Advocacy Committee Update – Kara Pihlak

Kara shared the National Child Care news and the news of the vaccine eligibility for child care workers. Kara is going to be involved in the Decent Work Common table for advocacy work and will also attend a panel with Janet Foster around gender equality and child care. Kara announced the exciting news that the LCCN will be meeting with the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce. This meeting came about in response to



letter previously sent to provincial offices to thank them for 2020 Reconciliation and 2021 Re-investment Funding. It also sent an invitation for collaboration and sharing how our sector can support the hardworking families of Ontario. The Advocacy Committee will meet to work on best strategies for preparing for this informative and inspiring meeting. The Committee is hoping to get some insight on the provincial plan for how we get from when the federal support ends and the National Child Care Plan is in place.

9. All Kids Belong Update – Lee-Anne Cross

Lee-Anne shared that AKB offers virtual in-class observations with appropriate consents for organizations that would like or need this type of support. This is in response to the restrictions of Covid and in-person Resource Consultants visits with the centres. Lee-Anne reported that new contracts requests for support for the period of May – August have been sent by the Resource Consultants. Lee-Anne reported that they are re-allocating money from the Before and After school pot since the schools have moved to remote learning to the Emergency Child Care programs. A question was asked whether AKB would reach out to the ECC programs about identified children in their programs. Lee-Anne explained that as they no longer have consent for these children, AKB is relying on programs to reach out to them.

10. Strive Update:

Strive is very excited to introduce our new Project Coordinator, Amanda Seabrook. Amanda comes to us with an incredible depth and breadth of experience and is actively involved in our local early year's community. We are very happy to her onboard. Welcome Amanda!

Community of Practice: Be Well

Thursday, April 29

6:30 – 8:00 PM

This Community of Practice we will explore and reflect on all areas of self-care and personal wellness from the emotional, to the psychological, to the social, physical and professional too. Participants will be introduced to a variety of practices and tools, hear from wellness professionals, but moreover, cultivate a strong social support network. This Community of Practice will gather monthly, on the last Thursday of the month.

Strive Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 12

6:30 – 7:30 PM

The Strive Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month, alternating between evening and afternoons.

This is an opportunity for information sharing, networking and collaboration through meaningful conversation.

Understanding the Continuous Professional Learning Portfolio

Thursday, May 13



6:30 – 7:30 PM

CECE representative and RECE, Meredith Farley, will provide an overview of the CPL program requirements and discuss how RECEs can support each other in professional learning. We will learn about how other RECEs are enhancing their practice through the CPL program and reflect on how to set and meet our professional learning goals.

The ABC's of Consent

Tuesday, May 18

6:30 – 8:00 PM

****This is a repeat opportunity of the same session offered on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.**

This session, facilitated by Allison Preyde from Anova, discusses not only the importance of modelling consent and body autonomy to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and beyond, but also how to navigate boundaries and ensure safety. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of early childhood consent education, as well as the tools for putting theory into practice.

Community of Practice: Infant Educators

Thursday, May 20

6:30 – 8:00 PM

This opportunity invites educators who work in and/or support infant programs to come together and collaboratively reflect on the unique joys and the challenges that come with caring for our youngest children.

Community of Practice: Cooks and Dietary Planners

Wednesday, May 26

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Cooks and Dietary Planners are invited to meet, share ideas, and engage in conversations with fellow professionals

Community of Practice: Outdoor Play

Wednesday, May 26

6:30 – 8:00 PM This Community of Practice occurs monthly to discuss the challenges and successes of outdoor programming.