

## Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition

### Meeting Minutes

#### January 12/17 – AlephBet Daycare

Present: Cathy Horbas, Melanie Duncan, Verland Force, Rowena Hernandez, Audrey Balgobin, Robyn Avery, Donna Giesbrecht, Jennifer Vanwinkle, Catherine Cooke (Healthy Child)

Regrets: Susan Madzik, Evan Zarecki, Tracy Miller, Brigit Insull, Rabiena Sharif

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Review of Minutes from September's meeting.
  - Struck a committee for creation of a performance review for the Coordinator's (Cathy's position). Members will be Evan, Audrey, and Bridget will be asked to join.
3. Reports
  - 3.1 Coordinator's Report- As Circulated

Registration for Rock and Read/Bookmates 2 day Training at 950 jefferson has exploded to 25 (should be 18max.). Includes 5 Syrian refugees, attending with translator, and 4 Punjabi speaking moms, who have agreed to run at least 3 programs once trained. Also, 5 from the high school childcare program, 1 from Alephbet, and a community parent. In partnership with the Coalition, Settlement services and the Adult learning Centre. Might have to do 2 sessions to split numbers and meet language needs. We get 1 free training from Bookmates and there is enough money in the budget to cover more sessions if needed. May be postponed due to bad winter weather. Translations of materials could happen thru settlement services.

Catherine commented we are doing amazing work with Newcomers, largely due to good relationship with settlement services.

Robyn asked about the Food Handler course offered thru Settlement Services /Food Matters. 3 spots available. 2 are taken. \$15 per person.

- 3.2 Financial Report- As circulated

Coalition budget year different from School Division's.

Melanie commented that the registration for the 6 people sent to the National Child Forum doesn't show.

Grants can come out of the \$11,537 that's left.

Website piece – Given up on Webtastics and will use Changemakers. \$1400 will be used from last year's budget, \$1000 from this year's.

**Motion-** To hire Changemakers to do website and increase budget by \$600 to a total of \$3000. Motioned by Audrey Balgobin/ seconded by Melanie Duncan. All in favor.

Gaps for new Mom's (cultural and language). Could grant money be used to help? Catherine will check. Also, outcomes for Newcomer children need to improve. Round table discussions are coming up. No date yet, but Cathy will participate. Short time frame from the minister to give concrete steps for all ages and stages and support for families.

Catherine stated we need to spend the budget money by end of March. There can be a 10% carry over, but permission and a specific plan for the money is needed. Catherine recommends spending the money and documenting any changes made. If you know of a change in the first 6 months, put it in the report.

Cathy recommends we split Bookmates training into 2 sessions. Melanie will check with Bookmates to see if spaces are being used by all coalitions so that we could possibly have more.

**Motion-** Do a second Rock and Read training program using budget funds if needed. Motioned by Robyn Avery/ seconded by Rowena Hernandez. CARRIED.

### 3.3 National Child Day Forum

Attended by 5 Coalition members.

Robyn said it was the best conference she had been to. Keynotes by Michael Unger and Kevin Lamoureux. Breakout sessions covering anxiety, self-regulation, babysitting, etc. Good booths and networking.

Melanie mentioned Author and Keynote speaker Monique Gray-Smith.

Cathy stated some daycares not aware of the Forum.

## 4. Business Arising

### 4.1 Applications for Granting Purposes- Evan/Tracy(both absent)

Have started the process and are vetting through other organizations. They will keep us posted.

### 4.2 Coordinator Evaluation

We already have a job description and a committee made up of Evan and Audrey. Cathy will ask Brigit Insull to join to create/do an evaluation. Committee should include members from several sectors. Other Coalitions would like a copy of our performance review once we have it ready.

### 4.3 AGM-

Will take place May 10, 2017 at Garden City Community Center from 5-7PM.

### 4.4 Professional Development

Rowena stated Settlement Services can send interpreters with Families First Home Visitors. She is wondering if we can train someone in our Coalition to deliver Positive Discipline in Punjabi? Should have 2 people. Need is presently met by Mosaic. Bookmates training sessions/PD's covered in Coordinator and Financial reports.

#### 4.5 Website/Facebook/Twitter

Covered in Financial report. Cathy will work on Facebook page. Jennifer commented that Instagram works well. Quick and easy. Cathy will consider it.

#### 5. Other Business

7 Oaks BAG program has a Facebook page. Jennifer gave feedback from some parents she has spoken to. Both negative and positive comments.

Prenatal classes not happening anymore, as they were meant to address equity issues and weren't. Looking at adolescent prenatal classes after school in the high schools. Catherine thought the WRHA didn't want a duplication of services. Verland mentioned the Public Health Nurse is Nicole Prime. Settlement Services also offers prenatal support to Newcomers.

Next meeting February 15, 2017, 9:00AM, at Alephbet Daycare