# **Logo Toronto Child and Family Network Toronto - Together for our childrenToronto Child & Family Network**

**Steering Committee Minutes**

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30pm

Webex meeting

| **Present** | **Regrets** |
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| * Kevin Pal (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) (TCFN Co-chair) * Karen Gray (Children’s Services) (TCFN Co-chair) * Diane Banks (Toronto Public Library) * David Willis (East Metro Youth Services) * Paula Carrie (Aisling Discoveries) * Cynthia Grundmann (Toronto District School Board) * Connie Giorando (Toronto Catholic District School Board) * Nancy Hendy (Children’s Services) * Brenda Weitzner (Primary care physician) * Anna Patola (Humber College) * Siobhan McCarthy (AAPC Co-Chair , Native Child & Family Services of Toronto) * Margaret Howard (Surrey Place) * Isilda Kucherenko (Ministry of Education) * Leanne Nicolle (Big Brother Big Sister of Toronto) * Patricia Chorney-Rubin (George Brown College) * Cheryl Webb (Lumenus) * Jillian Sewell (YMCA) * Sarah Jimenez (Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network) * Lee Soda (Agincourt Community Services Association) * Danielle Layman-Pleet (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) * Jennifer Miles (Catholic Children’s Aid Society) * Ashley Burger (EarlyON, Children's Services) * Agnès Sesboüé (RLFEFT co-chair, Garderie Rayon de Soleil) * Terri Hewitt (Surrey Place) * Annique Farrell (United Way of Greater Toronto) * Michele Lupa (Mothercraft) * Michele Antunes for Marie Klaassen (Public Health) | * Dr. Lee Ford-Jones (Sick Kids Hospital/ UofT) * Pamela Hart (Native Women's Resource Centre) (AAPC Co-chair) * Jeffrey Schiffer (Native Child & Family Services of Toronto) * Pam Blanchfield (Parks, Forestry & Recreation) * Anne Lambert (Viamonde) |

**Staff Support:** Kelley Baldwin (Children’s Services)

**Observers/Guests:** Matt Hilder (Toronto Children's Services), Glory Ressler (Toronto Children's Services)

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| **Agenda Topic & Lead** | **Action** |
| 1. **Welcoming remarks** (Lead: Karen Gray)  * Welcomed TCFN members, recognize a year since lock down * Land acknowledgement |  |
| 1. **Approval of minutes and agenda** (Lead: Karen Gray)  * Karen thanked those who participated in the listening tour, and how they will inform future work now that we have reconfirmed the inequities in the system and how to move ahead * Also appreciated hearing how the work at TCFN and Raising the Village is being used by members * CABR will continue to be a standing agenda item, and for today, when we are going through listening tour feedback have a CABR lens * And also will look at the work of the working tables and receive an update * Approval of agenda and minutes | Agenda and January minutes approved |
| 1. **Listening tour results and response (Lead: Kelley Baldwin)**    1. **Report back on listening tour themes**  * Purpose of the listening tour of steering committee members was to assess the impact of TCFN and engage on how we can collectively move ahead in COVID-19 response, recovery and rebuild * In total, Kelley interviewed 25 members and created the attached summaries of common themes and responses to the 6 questions assessing:   + Impact of TCFN   + Impact of RTV   + Strengths to build on   + Challenges to address   + Ways to move forward   + Outcomes to focus on   + What we heard and what we're doing   + Confronting anti-Black racism * Polled members on the strategies and outcomes to get a sense of emerging priorities * Poll results: What are your top 2-3 priorities/strategies (you can select multiple)?   + Understand and address the unique needs to Black and Indigenous families 10/28 (36%)   + Address heightened inequities as a result of COVID-19 9/28 (32%)   + Advance service coordination 8/28 (29%)   + Consider changes in service due to COVID-19 8/28 (29%)   + Advocate and communicate child and family needs 8/28 (29%)   + Identify current gaps and barriers 7/28 (25%)   + Define specific priorities 6/28 (21%)   + Shared understanding and knowledge mobilization 5/28 (18%)   + Increase representation at TCFN steering committee 2/28 (7%)   + Broker partnerships 1/28 (4%)   + Host an event 0/28 (0%)   + No Answer 5/28 (18%) * Poll results: What are your top outcomes that we need to focus on?   + Mental health 15/28 (54%)   + Child and social development 12/28 (43%)   + Resiliency and support 11/28 (39%)   + Lack of access to services 8/28 (29%)   + Social isolation 8/28 (29%)   + Early identification 5/28 (18%)   + Physical health 4/28 (14%)   + Learning and education 3/28 (11%)   + No Answer 5/28 (18%)   1. **Discuss results and decide on immediate next steps and work moving forward** * Leanne Nicolle - How can this group work on future-proofing not just over next 12-18 months, but as children prepare for the next phase of their life. Indicators around ACEs, knowing the pandemic is an ACE and all the other things children are experiencing in the how. What does prevention of long term lasting impacts of the pandemic? What do we need to put in place now? Investments to ensure that kids have positive, caring adults around them to mitigate impacts of toxic stress – move from acute side of equation to prevention/early intervention * Brenda Weitzner - Mental health critical, but getting a lot of focus right now, and might be worth focussing on a different area to not be redundant * Patricia Chorney-Rubin – from post-secondary perspective, need to also consider the workforce, and how we support the workforce who are facing their own challenges and supporting families directly – preparing, supporting and resources the workforce to support families * Nancy Hendy– go back to the structure of the TCFN, and figure out how we pivot when something of this magnitude happens; need to figure out how the current, existing work happening at the working tables pivot to address the new needs from COVID-19 * Kevin Pal – agreed that this is a lens, also look at the challenges to address to make sure we respond to what was heard at the listening tours and advance the work and address perceived gaps * Karen Gray – heard we have excellent membership and spent a lot of time on network development. Consider what our role as steering committee members and our work plan as system leaders, and look at that with the lens of COVID. What does that system look like? Where are the barriers? How do we work better together? Need to articulate what child and family needs are to communicate and advocate broadly * Michel Lupa – we have the work and mechanisms in place for what it is we are all here to do and focus on and prioritize – and connecting the dots to the working tables and keeping that in our minds at every meeting, and we need to reframe for how we do that in a COVID context. TCFN has moved ahead and matured to accomplish great things over past few years. A question as well on how we as a network can mobilize quickly when needed, and maybe a small group can come together to think through that. Need to continue to be grounded and reminded * Matt Hilder – lot of potential actions and strategies on the list, and lots of TCFN members are busy in response. Missing at system level taking a birds eye view to be aware of what is happening and pointing out the gaps. New perspective as a collective to identifying the gaps and narrowing the scope of the TCFN * Leanne Nicolle – COVID is the test of the Theory of Change, and a good starting point to anchor and pick the activities to advance the theory of change   Next steps   * Continue to support working tables as they pivot to response to COVID * Ground the theory of change as reminder at the meetings * Pull together a small group to think through current TCFN work, what is happening, and what are the gaps, funnelling through the theory of change to set priorities with collective impact coach Lynn Fergusson | **Resources**  Slide deck on Listening tour results    **Next steps**  Bring a small group together to think through connection of existing TCFN work and system gaps (chat or email Kelley if interested in participating)  Keep getting grounded in the same framework and articulate what we are working towards, where are we at, and what are the measures |
| 1. **Working tables updates (Conveners)**  * Conveners gave updates on Raising the Village and the 4 working tables   **Raising the Village (Glory Ressler)**   * Focus on targeting knowledge mobilization and capacity building, look at use of RTV, and re-establish the RTV committee and connect with the working tables/advisories. * To move needle, need to focus/target on specific outcomes and indications * Develop COVID relevant and collective approach to mobilize and build capacity on a few key indicators   Discussion   * Great to see this happening – have been wanting this plan in place for some time   **Online Portal (Nancy Hendy and Brenda Weitzner)**   * Increase importance of digital solutions during COVID 19 * Working with 211 to develop categories based on taxonomy * Continuing to meet with data partners to map out listed services using 211 and City data sources * Will need to do data testing and user testing down the road * Consider the sustainment and maintenance of the portal   Discussion/next steps   * Important to include the provincially funding service data * Table will come back with the TCFN with costing of the portal as well as reach out to needed data partners to discuss further   **NW Scarborough (Paula Carrie and Lee Soda)**   * Post-pandemic, table reconvened in the fall to look at what we can do and child and family needs – high instance of virtual school enrollment and families isolated from programs * Hearing a concern around the table about who we are not in touch with, who are we not seeing, how do we reach those families and do something to support that * In response, looking to provide wrap around screening services to families in partnership with the Check it Out virtual model being developed * Current providing screenings virtually with ASQ and follow up parent consultation with the families in partnership with screening staff at Strides EarlyON Centres in NW Scarborough; also looking to support the language needs of the families – roll out in spring * SAAAC Autism Centre providing M Doc program to support referral and assessment   Discussion   * Will look at TCFN to assist with outreach and community promotion * Continuing to keep sight of purpose of table to address the inequities, and COVID has only heightened these inequities – many NW Scarborough partners have existing relationship with these families and urgent next step to reach out to these families, and connect with those families who we know we are not reaching * Question on whether the table is considering the impact of return to school after high rates of virtual programming – Answer, it has not come up at this point as a table but will continue to monitor, and continue to seek bringing resident voice to the table to help think through the needed supports   **Screening and Check it Out (Michele Lupa and Sarah Jimenez)**   * Talking about how to shift model to a virtual approach and what is needed to transpose the model * Piloting the model in partnership with the NW Scarborough group and then hoping for a wider roll out * Help to address the emerging concerns around child development and gaps in access to service – children are being seen less during COVID, and the long term implications of not being assessed and directed to early intervention services * Update that Michele Lupa and Malini Dave will be giving an update on Check it Out at upcoming WAIMH conference   **Professional Development (Anna Patola, Jillian Sewell, and Patricia Chorney-Rubin)**   * Continue to provide virtual Communities of Practice, has been attended by over 269 attendees over 4 sessions * Planning future community of practice on April 9 on supporting families during difficult times * Fall, plan to rethink how to deliver professional development opportunities and seeking community input on future topics * Want to start mapping CABR resources and tools * Build a strategy to promote City Wide Training as a professional development hub to create one access point to professional development opportunities relevant to anyone working with children | **Resources**  Working table report on action plans  **Next steps**  Glory to reach out to RTV members to re-convene the committee for plan  Complete this survey to direct future professional development opportunities  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83KXVFF> |
| 1. **Wrap up and next steps (Kelley)**  * Standing agenda item for working tables on support needed (What do you need from us?) | **Next steps** |

**2021 Meeting Schedule:**

* Thursday, May 13 from 2-4pm (Webex)
* Thursday, September 30, 2-4pm (Webex)
* Tuesday, November 23, 2-4pm (Webex)