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

**Steering Committee**

Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2020

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 3:30pm

**Webex meeting**

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

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

**Observers/Guests:** Margery Konan (Toronto Central LHIN), Lynn Fergusson (Social Impact Advisers), Eve-Anne Tremblay (Toronto Children's Services, RRLF), Matt Hilder (Toronto Children's Services), Glory Ressler (Toronto Children's Services)

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| **Agenda Topic & Lead** | **Action** |
| 1. **Welcome & Introductions** (Lead: Kevin Pal)
* Welcomed back TCFN members
* Land acknowledgement
* Acknowledged changes since last meeting in March for the Raising the Village conference, and that many TCFN members have been a part of the COVID-19 frontlines
* Thanks everyone who helped with the Raising the Village conference
* Explained decision to deferred the past two meetings to not take away focus of TCFN in responding to the pandemic
* Wanted to think through how we find a new way to continue important work of TCFN, find way to use technology to leverage connections and relationships to carry on important work
* Never a more important time to come together as a planning table and carry on work, COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated inequities
* Purpose of the meeting to hear from members, come back together, discuss the working tables

Agenda approval* Ask if anyone wants to add anything to the agenda
* Approve the agenda
 | Agenda approved |
| **2. Check in with TCFN members** (Lead: Karen Gray) **2.1 What is happening across sectors?****2.2 How TCFN can support work?*** Purpose is to ask TCFN members to discuss for their sector things we should know, highlights, and opportunities to reach out and collaborate
* EarlyON sector update (Ashley):
	+ 52 of 53 EarlyON and Indigenous-led programs continuing to provide virtual services
	+ Indigenous language program at NCCT has seen uptake in enrollment
	+ Challenges of families with inconsistent or no access to internet; working actively with community partners and SDFA through Community Clusters to support families without computer/ internet access
	+ Green light for EarlyON to reopen for in-person service but waiting for TPH guidance document required before reopening in-person
* Mothercraft (Michele Lupa)
	+ Challenges of runny noses and exclusions
	+ Have virtual EarlyON service delivery and child care centres
	+ Transitioned families staying at home to EarlyON to support access to early learning supports to cope being at home
	+ ECE Collage shift to online and complete virtual practicums
	+ Families struggling with family violence and substance use – had to pivot to more supports for those vulnerable families (i.e. maternal depression, impact on child health)
* Surrey Place/ Special Needs Strategy (Margaret Howard)
	+ Update on autism services and coordinated service planning – work translated in-person work into telehealth
	+ Prepare for long term inclusion of telehealth methodology for service offerings
	+ Building capacity within the sectors, work with school boards to tooling to support children and youth with ADS and developmental disabilities for in-person school and virtual school delivery
	+ Discussion to overcome barriers experienced, including access to technology
	+ Announcement of Foundational Support Services, families registered with ON Autism program can now access as much free service through foundation support services pathway, mostly telehealth delivered currently (workshops, coaching, consultation models, support groups)
	+ Coordinated Service Planning teams focussed on developing more urgent responses for complex care situations
* School boards (Cynthia Grundmann, Toronto District School Board)
	+ School has reopening, over 70K children enrolled in virtual school, looked at separate offering with separate staffing model
	+ Reopening Extended Day Programs (before and after school) with significant vacancies across site but made commitment to continue to serve children and families
	+ Gearing up to start planning for reopening of TDSB EarlyON programs
	+ Supporting continued operations of child care program in the schools
* Toronto Public Libraries (Diane Banks, TPL)
	+ Most branches currently open (80%+ locations), impact to children's programms, 100 online programs like [Dial a Story program](https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/services/dial-a-story.jsp) (multiple 16 languages) and [Virtual Children’s Program](https://www.youtube.com/user/torontopubliclibrary/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=11) (only in French and English)
	+ Challenges of not being able to digitally get children's library cards – importance and challenge to get physical books into kid's hands – suggestion to flag that barrier at provincial level
	+ Programs supporting school like Homework Help closed, but slowly resume in person and virtually
	+ Pushing forward as advocates for internet and tools
* Raising the Village (Tamara Augsten, Children's Services)
	+ Drew attention to the RTV indicate around access to internet and a computer, and those inequities [Access to computer/internet disaggregated data](https://raisingthevillage.ca/indicators/#difficulty-finishing-homework-at-home) on Raising the Village
* Health/LHIN (Sarah Jimenez, Toronto Central LHIN)
	+ Continued services with virtual-first approach of care across board
	+ Pediatric populations – lots of work with school boards and families LHINS support in schools
	+ Large community of practice between health and child stakeholders to put together guidelines for school reopening specific to children with medical complexities ([Guidelines of the Delivery of Home and Community Care Services for Children with Medical Complexity at School](http://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81571-covid19-school-guidelines-medical-complexity.pdf))
	+ Challenge with respite and lack of respite options for children with medical complexities (programs not opened)
* Child welfare (Jennifer Miles, CCAS)
	+ Continue to provide essential in-person services (staff/families supported with PPE), started virtual contacts with service recipients
	+ Access and community visits programs resuming, but continuing virtual programming as can be in-depth and longer versus physically distance in person services
	+ Provided technology to families in the community
	+ Access program has resumed, school conferencing, runny noses and symptoms management
	+ Increase in DV, lots of other services had to shut down in person services, so child welfare one of only systems continuing in person care, had to change services (like groceries, touch base, etc) – positive feedback and learned a lot that will be incorporated into practice
 | **Next steps**Suggestion to discuss in person services at TCFN table and how different sectors are navigatingSuggestion to look at RTV data as well as TPH data on COVID-19 hot spots**Resources/links*** [Access to computer/internet disaggregated data](https://raisingthevillage.ca/indicators/#difficulty-finishing-homework-at-home) on Raising the Village
* Toronto Public Library’s [Dial a Story program](https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/services/dial-a-story.jsp) and [Virtual Children’s Program](https://www.youtube.com/user/torontopubliclibrary/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=11)
* [Guidelines of the Delivery of Home and Community Care Services for Children with Medical Complexity at School](http://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81571-covid19-school-guidelines-medical-complexity.pdf)
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| **3. Check in with TCFN Strategic Goals****3.1 Update on work of the tables and advisories****Online Portal (Nancy Hendy and Brenda Weitzner)** * Working table has not met since March, but online portal development continued during COVID-19
* Past work, looked at other regional models, worked on service category and sub-categories for development for the portal
* Since COVID-19, looked at the data sources (211 data primary source) and got a small 211 data sample to test the categories, and using Tableau to map the data and test categories
* Next steps – look at data map, do prototyping and identify data gaps; table will meet again on October 14 to discuss prototype and get table to invest in identifying data gaps

Discussion* Ask the portal team to come back to TCFN steering committee with visual mock-up of the portal for direction

**Screening*** Screening table has not convened since last six months, many partners from health and public health sector
* Conveners discussed starting to meet again in the fall and discuss how to change the model to be virtual
* Recap of the recruitment and training that happened prior to COVID-19, and hoping to regroup and energize in not too distant future
* Challenge that with COVID-19 families have less access to screening professionals, less eyes on children right now

Discussion* Table can come back to steering committee to get direction on what are the next steps for this table and guide the direction
* EarlyON services providers have reached out to inquire whether Check it Out is available virtually, interest from the community
* Challenge that many professional screening partners were going to be from TPH, which is otherwise directed now in COVID response
* Margaret (Surrey Place) happy to connect on contributing to the CIO process and draw on Surrey Place screening professionals

**NW Scarborough** * Large impact in NW Scarborough, most community services shut down; ACSA one of few agencies that remained open (food back and homeless services deemed essential); continued to connect to families in NW Scarborough
* NW Scarborough EarlyON programs have gone virtual, library shut down impactful so community hub for families
* Table work to reach out and engage those families who were not accessing services and unengaged; table about to start engagement process with funding and work plan, but work put on hold since COVID-19
* Importance of continuing to reach those unengaged as we know those families are likely more impacted by COVID-19
* Currently a lot of work and concern around the impacts on mental heath
* COVID-19 has intensified isolation and growing inequities
* Table conveners discussed the possibility of using the City's cluster tables to raise awareness around the child and family issues, and see if partners at cluster tables could make suggestions or step up with intermediate interventions
* Want to get back to the work plan

Discussion* Importance of supporting the NW Scarborough team and role of TCFN steering committee to address these inequities being looked at by the table – question on how to support this work; and response of importance of bringing to the Scarborough cluster table and neighbourhoods pods to generate conversations with those we need to get to the table, and importance of bringing resident voices to the table
* Take away from TCFN steering committee members to think about as to how your sectors can support NW Scarborough – email Kelley with ideas, thoughts, etc to give to conveners

**Professional Development*** Provided an update on the development of a Community of Practice model for child and family sector staff to come together
* Held first community of practice on pedagogy during COVID-19 with YMCA, George Brown, and City of Toronto child care supervisors to discuss how learning happens during COVID-19 with breakout sessions
* Surveyed participants to identify future topics, and working with extra support needs was number one, plus trauma-informed practice and mental health
* Request TCFN members to think if they can provide expertise for future communities of practice

**AAPC*** A few calls since March, had a great strategic planning day last fall and call recently to discuss with goals of the strategic planning day and move forward
* AAPC members discuss supporting each other and supporting development of virtual programming

**RRLF*** Changes in structure of RRLF, province setting regional tables that
 | **Next steps**Online portal table to come back to the steering committee for a demonstration of portal test and categories |
| **4. TCFN Theory of Change update*** Deferred Theory of Change feedback to future meeting
* Kelley to share the slides and Theory of Change with notes for feedback
 | **Next steps**Kelley to share the slides and Theory of Change with TCFN members for feedback |
| **9. Discuss next steps and agenda** (Lead: Kelley Baldwin)* Discussion of how TCFN should continue, and think through how to deal with families in crisis and address inequities
* Discussion of whether we need to meet more often/frequently to discuss – agreement on setting up a meeting at end of October
* Importance of coming together, doing things differently during COVID-19 and use that energy to start looking at the needs of our vulnerable communities

**Next agenda topics identified*** Continue to connect and collaborate
* Discuss in person services at TCFN table and how different sectors are navigating
* Look at RTV data as well as TPH data on COVID-19 hot spots
* Look at prototype for online portal with 211 data
 | **Next steps**Kelley to send Doodle poll with possible dates for end of October meeting |

**2020 Meeting Schedule:**

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| Thursday, October 29 | 2 - 3:30pm | Virtual meeting |
| Thursday, November 26 | 2 - 3:30pm | Virtual meeting |