



**Toronto Child & Family Network
Steering Committee Minutes**

Date: Tuesday May 24, 2023

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

WebEx meeting

Present	Regrets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherri Rennie (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) (TCFN Co-chair) • Karen Gray (Children’s Services) (TCFN Co-chair) • Jillian Sewell (YMCA) • Vicky Tourkalias (Toronto Public Library) • Liz Hoang (Toronto District School Board) • Marie Klaassen (Toronto Public Health) • Eunice Lee (Toronto Children's Services) • Nancy Hendy (Toronto Children's Services) • Paula Carrie (Strides-Aisling Discoveries) • Regine-Anne Brammer (CSC Mon Avenir - French Catholic school) • Patricia Chorney-Rubin (George Brown College) • Melissa Hamonic (NCFS) • Sasha Delgado (Surrey Place) • Donna Saleh (Toronto Children's Services) • Michele Lupa (Mothercraft) • Anna Patola (Humber College) • Cheryl Webb (Lumenus) • Jennifer Miles (Catholic Children’s Aid Society) • Audrey Spence (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) • Struan Remedios (MCCSS) • Andrea Wong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Weitzner (Primary care physician) • Anne Lambert (Viamonde) • Domenic Gratta (Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto) • Connie Giorando (Toronto Catholic District School Board) • Leanne Nicolle (Big Brother Big Sister of Toronto) • Trevor McAlmont (Macaulay Centre) • Karen Turner (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) • Denise Palermo (Lumenus Community Services) • Isilda Kucherenko (Ministry of Education) • Jeffrey Schiffer (Native Child & Family Services of Toronto) • Johanne Dupré Le Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir) • Pamela Hart (Native Women's Resource Centre) (AAPC Co-chair) • Karima Sidi Mammam (Conseil scolaire Viamonde) • David Willis (Strides) • Kristin Legere (Central LHIN) • Terri Hewitt (Surrey Place) • Annique Farrell (United Way of Greater Toronto) • Pam Ryan (Toronto Public Library) • Siobhan McCarthy (Native Child & Family Services of Toronto) • Lydia Sai-Chew (Lumenus Community Services) • Pam Blanchfield (Parks, Forestry & Recreation) • Kelly O'Gorman (Toronto Children's Services) • Reta Hamlin (Toronto Children's Services) • Joe Rock (Toronto Children's Services) • Lee Soda (Agincourt Community Services Association) • Lisa Binns (Surrey Place) • Marie Nyamabu (Centre Francophone)

Staff Support: Stefany Hanson (Toronto Children's Services), Janvere Lyder (Toronto Children's Services Bethany Zack (Toronto Children's Services), Shagithya Deivendran (TCS), Eunice Lee (Toronto Children's Services)

Agenda Topic & Lead	Action
1. Welcome and introductory remarks (Karen Gray / Sherri Rennie)	
2. Approval of minutes and review agenda (Lead: Sherri)	
<p>Network Development Update (Stefany)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recap discussions, engagement, and planning on the Toronto Child & Family Network's: Terms of Reference, 2023 Action Plan, and restructuring of purpose and goals • To discuss and finalize a renewed Terms of Reference for TC&FN for 2023 on wards • Slido used to gather responses. <p>Leadership Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen – there was a time when co-chair was not ministry, but a member of community • Maybe develop agenda during meetings • Everything is aspirational – may be where we want to end up • Michele - I think we need to have a co-chair model that shares responsibility for this important network/system planning body between community and government (the city as the service system manager). Community co-chair role held for a set period. I worry that rotational leadership will be difficult to maintain momentum on activities, objectives, and goals. • Marie – intimidating role to jump into given the resources. Secretariat coming from organizations? • Should the co-chair roles be based on the work that is being done and who is best to lead it? • Sherri – ongoing backbone support if they step away – cannot continue • Training grounds for young people – co-chairing committees like this, build organizational capacity, coordination capacity, networking capacity, strategic visioning, priority setting capacity • Michele - I think there is some cart before the horse happening here. Do we need to get clear about what we are here to do before we can meaningfully decide on a leadership model? It could/should look different if we are functioning as a support to the city's role as CMSM and inform service system management versus TCFN morphing into something more oriented toward info sharing and project-oriented collaborative work? • Patricia - Do not have time or capacity to do the heavy lifting to support this kind of work – portfolio with TCS + Ministry to do this 	<p>Network development group to present back to steering committee in the fall</p>

- Does not matter who chairs, focus is in the agenda
- How to get a rich diverse agenda – setting agendas happen every 3 months type of thing – where are priorities, what do we really want to focus on
- Training + ensuring there is a prepared workforce
- Who can help inform the agenda – building it out that way, may be the way to go without losing the support/expertise/resources of city and province
- Strategic planning day – Oakham house – systems level service integration, figuring out ways to support the city in CMSM role, as well as to integrate other service sectors that touch the lives of children and families that fall outside of scope – to ensure whoever is there with systems responsibilities, can think about each others work as much as possible in an integrated way
- Need to figure out leadership model based on what we are aiming to accomplish here
- Cheryl – think of it as a continuum – feedback from today is information sharing, supporting – other end of spectrum is action oriented + strategic focused, sounds like we are somewhere in the middle
- Can support in deciding leadership as we decide that
- Could the networking be for others as well, not just us?

What should be the core values of the TCFN?

Themes:

- Collaboration
- Equity
- Inclusion
- Knowledge transfer
- Diversity
- Collective action

What would you like to see as the key benefits of TCFN and your organization and the sector? How can your organization assist with obtaining these benefits?

Themes:

- Learning and seeking broader perspectives
- Information/data/knowledge sharing
- Informing policy
- Leverage strengths from each participating organization
- System planning and co-ordination (e.g., professional development)
- Collaboration and integration; cross-sectoral co-operation

What are potential goals and/or actions for a restructured TCFN?

This is about setting up an accountability framework – how are we measuring the work? With current resources, how do keep the network manageable?

Themes

Clear purpose, plan, and outcomes:

- Define purpose of network to address expectations
- Clear action/strategic plan based on sector priorities
- Outcomes that are measurable (e.g., # of presentations/info sharing) and relevant to the system

Member-level actions:

- Updates on special projects from members so we know what is going on in our shared world
- Clarifying who is represented, who might be missing from this table
- Active participation from Network membership and sharing work
- Small working groups to report back to larger group
- The City as a leader in knowledge sharing and inspiration

What are the expectations we have of members? (i.e., role within respective organizations, attendance, etc.)

Steering Committee

Historically – network gathered sectoral leaders to inform decisions – are we still building a network of sector leadership?

Themes:

Commitment to participation

- Memorandum of understanding for network membership
- Regular attendance (Quorum – what would this look like?)

Member contributions

- Leadership in driving change forward
- Resource and information sharing
- Making the group a “safe space” for those who may be new/coming from a place of “not knowing”

Representing the Network

- Bring back information and actions to respective organizations
- Integrate network priorities within organizations and bring them to communities (“many stewards”)

Do you think a rotational chair + network model of leadership would fit the needs of TC&FN?

More agile network? Rather than centring focus on co-chair model (city and province set agenda and top-down approach to working groups)

A lot of City resources keep this afloat –

- Expansion from Leadership model notes above
- Nancy – Should the co-chair roles be based on the work that is being done and who is best to lead it?
- Sherri – recognizes the richness of resources that support this meeting that come from City of Toronto (inclusive of backbone support)
- Sherri – [expressed reassurance] if an organization does not have ability to provide backbone support, this should not stop them from participating
- Marie – high number of staff are retiring – required to invest in training – co-chairing is an opportunity to build organizational, networking, strategic visioning capacity/skills
- Is there someone we can support and raise up to succeed (and be closely mentored at same time)
- Janvere –backbone role – builds relationships with organizations, to support the contribution of agenda (actions to support objective) items
It is important that organizations being represented are informing the agendas, we may not be experts in all areas – other organizations can fill in gaps (there are risks to not getting multiple perspectives and going down a single path)
- Patricia – supports any model She doesn't have time/capacity to do heavy lifting of co-chairing It's in the portfolio of the City and the Province
Doesn't matter who chairs – agenda items are the things that drive the work. How do we get a rich, diverse agenda (priorities, what do we want to focus on?) (e.g., training, and prepared workforce) – get SME network members to support. This might be a way to do it – w/o losing city and provincial resources
- Michele – Are we putting the cart before the horse? We need clarity on what this network is here to do. We have been around the table a good long while (many of us) Good to have fresh faces and new energy. Need to be rooted in what we 're here to do and what is the purpose and mandate. Looking for service systems managers integration points. Before defining roles and responsibilities or leadership until it is clear what it is we are trying to accomplish
- Cheryl – Michele captured a lot of what she was going to say. We need to determine where we are as a group. We will see who has the skills to provide leadership based on this. There are good examples out there (e.g., autism group (RAPON)). It will also inform who can/should sit around the table. May not be the current composition...

How do working tables fit in an updated TC&FN structure?

- (deferred)

What role(s) should RTV have in the TC&FN?

- general data resource for TC&FN members
- operational arm
- RTV as “operational arm” – creates high visibility for the Network
- RTV as both product and process
- We want to support work that RTV is doing in terms of trending and analysis, and mobilization
- Data is not enough in and of itself – how are trends manifesting themselves in communities? Analysis that makes the data more applicable and grounded
- Karen G – It is a public document that illustrates the experiences of children and families that helps agencies respond through adjustments in service delivery. It should influence change.
- Marie, overlapping circles – networking, action, Toronto – sets us apart
- In Toronto, issues are housing insecurity, food insecurity, CABR work, mental health. RTV is an example of an “action” circle we network and then we action, how do we overlay with Toronto piece?
- Data is a connector point that can bring us into collective action
- Connecting people on Toronto-based issues
- Stefany – Can RTV be used as a driver to inform conversations – find requisite information we need to drive work (as a substantive and useful resource)
- How do we use this as a tool to inform community, and each other – on what we see on education, etc.
- Patricia – there is so much info coming at us. The challenge is distilling down to info you trust, and think will help inform responsible action. RTV is a tool for us. What is RTV telling us and how can we use it to prioritize? Use in an effective way.
- How do we use that to leverage why we are making some priorities/activities we are doing/engaging in
- Marie – it reflects the reality of our 'workspace' which is the Toronto community, and it helps us plan and rationalize our programming
- Karen - Program outcomes vs. population outcomes – not about program outcomes. High level population outcomes – helps inform anybody
- We should be planning for 3 years out. For example, what are we expecting the key challenges or priorities to be and, how do we prepare to be a stronger as a system to address the issues we expect. and how can we use the data to speak to our identified indicators.
- Amazing facilitation by Stefany

<p>Working Groups Updates:</p> <p>Online Portal (Nancy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working table did background work – compiled data, taxonomy, categories for the past 3 years • Project reached a plateau – deployment stalled (had trouble finding channel/host for content). City of Toronto digital team is working on this now • Ontario Health and Social Service directory – met with this team – they were interested in having this data brought into web site • They are ready to move forward • [Toronto Health and Social Service directory screen shot shared] • Health and social service info for families and people in Toronto across age groupings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Officially launched in June ○ Does not have a “Services for Children” section yet – this is where this project can contribute (with a separate landing page) – working on what this would look like • Working table will be re-started – will also welcome new members who are interested • Ask for the Network: Can TCFN logo be displayed in “our Partners” section of Ontario Health Team website -emphatic “Yes” in the chat <p>Raising the Village (Eunice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Mobilization: RTV featured in Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario’s Transparency Showcase (highlighting innovation in government transparency and open data sharing) (https://transparencyshowcase.ipc.on.ca/en/) • Data Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Census 2021 data being incorporated in Child Demographics section of RTV. ii) 2021-2022 EQAO data extracted received and being processed for visualization updates • Staffing: Welcome back Donna Saleh, TCS Policy Development Officer who will be leading RTV work <p>Equity Framework (Bethany)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group concluded 6-month mandate (at end of Nov 2022) • Gathered examples of equity-based work • Online resource – hoping to finalize content by fall (including bringing tool into RTV). Start user testing in Fall • Will be coming back in Fall to get testing volunteers • Projected launch: Dec. 2023 • Stefany – Can we get a sneak peak for the network? Add to upcoming Steering Committee agenda? <p>Screening Committee (Michele)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back in 2021—able to secure MCCSS funding for pilot (Check it Out (screening model) adapted to a virtual tool) • Wanted to evaluate its efficacy (virtual vs. in-person) 	<p>Request for Equity Framework sneak peak in the fall</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key partners: TCS, MCCSS, TPH, Macaulay, Malvern, Agincourt Community Services Association, Francophone centre, Mothercraft • Virtual model launched – at mid-point – project to continue to July • Presented at early education and care conference (leveraging tech for child development) in Peru. • Michele along with Dr. Jean Clinton will present at mental health conference in July in Dublin • Got e-mail from Lee Ford Jones – champion of Check it Out – continues to advocate for this in retirement – ran into Minister [Karina] Gould [Federal minister of Families, Children and Social Development] and told them about Check it Out – suggested it be integrated into CWELCC • Working group has not met for a while (will re-convene towards end of summer to look at data) • Going to conclude project – take learnings from virtual and in-person screening models and look at disseminating/systemizing it • Funding ends September 2023 <p>Karen – Can we help figure out how to push it out when funding ends? (e.g., Engage EarlyONs, and other methodologies for dissemination]</p> <p>Michele – we need people with frontline experience to give their perspectives; how do we apply these learnings and integrate Check It Out into our systems (e.g., EarlyONs, libraries, schools, etc.?)</p>	
<p>7. Wrap Up Logistics and Next Step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please expect to see a draft Terms of Reference email out for your review ○ Inquire for knowledge mobilization topics call out 	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> June 29,2023 rescheduled to Sept 6,2023 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (WebEx)</p>