



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

Date: Wednesday Sept 6, 2023


Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

WebEx meeting

Present	Regrets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherri Rennie, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services-TCFN Co-chair               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Karen Turner</li> <li>○ Audrey Spence</li> <li>○ Struan Remedios</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Karen Gray, Toronto Children’s Services-TCFN Co-chair)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stefany Hanson</li> <li>○ Angela Hutchinson</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Big Brother Big Sister of Toronto- Leanne Nicolle</li> <li>• CSC Mon Avenir - French Catholic school- Regine-Anne Brammer</li> <li>• Humber College-Anna Patola</li> <li>• Lumenus- Cheryl Webb</li> <li>• Macaulay Centre-Trevor McAlmont</li> <li>• Mothercraft -Michele Lupa</li> <li>• Toronto Catholic District School Board- Connie Giorando</li> <li>• Toronto District School Board- Liz Hoang</li> <li>• Surrey Place- Sasha Delgado</li> <li>• YMCA of Greater Toronto- Jillian Sewell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agincourt Community Services Association-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lee Soda</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Centre Francophone -Marie Nyamabu</li> <li>• Catholic Children’s Aid Society- Jennifer Miles</li> <li>• George Brown College               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Patricia Chorney-Rubin</li> <li>○ Bernice Cipparrone</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lumenus Community Services               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Denise Palermo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ministry of Education -Isilda Kucherenko</li> <li>• Native Women's Resource Centre- Pamela Hart</li> <li>• Native Child &amp; Family Services of Toronto               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Melissa Hamonic</li> <li>○ Jeffrey Schiffer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parks, Forestry &amp; Recreation-Pam Blanchfield</li> <li>• Primary Care Physician- Brenda Weitzner</li> <li>• Strides Toronto-Paula Carrie</li> <li>• Surrey Place-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lisa Binns</li> <li>○ Terri Hewitt</li> <li>○ Kim Daniel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Toronto Children's Services               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nancy Hendy</li> <li>○ Kelly O’Gorman</li> <li>○ Joe Rock</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Toronto Public Health-Marie Klaassen</li> <li>• Toronto Public Library- Vicky Tourkalias</li> <li>• Viamonde-Anne Lambert</li> </ul>

**Staff Support:** Toronto Children’s Service: Eunice Lee, Janvere Lyder, Bethany Zack, Shagithya Deivendran,.

Agenda Topic & Lead	Action
1. Welcome and introductory remarks (Karen Gray / Sherri Rennie)	
2. Approval of minutes and review agenda (Lead: Sherri)	No changes to minutes
3. Child Resiliency Project (Karen) – Toronto Urban Fellow will setup a framework to support ACEs understanding and responsiveness corporately within City of Toronto and within TCFN	Leanne Nicolle (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto) offers to

<p>Marie will join next meeting to present, and generate information on what this looks like for the network</p> <p>Leanne Nicolle – offer to help BBST Done a lot of work on understanding, and using ACEs work in US on middle class Americans – and adapted this to suit children in Toronto with a PhD student 28 ACEs that they measure on, not 14 on original study Adverse community experiences – adversities that children face below the surface.</p> <p>Michele Lupa – urgent need for greater understanding of this, and strategies and solutions for children and families Looking forward to offering whatever Mothercraft can contribute to the conversation. Mothercraft developed a training program for early learning professionals during COVID called Building Resilience to address ACEs and how to support educators in utilizing a trauma-informed approach in early learning Have delivered early childhood mental health clinical programs for decades Offer to help as well</p> <p><b>Discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse childhood experiences above the line. How can we as a collective provide the interventions required to address the long-term outcomes of ACEs?</li> <li>• Important to think about early intervention points?</li> </ul>	<p>share their learning and framework</p> <p>Michele Lupa-offered to share Building Resilience to address ACEs</p>
<p><b>Childcare Expansion Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CWELCC) (Stefany)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CS submitted a report to Council on expansion regarding CWELCC system</li> <li>• TCS’s role in the CWELCC system</li> <li>• Many existing childcare programs face challenges fully implement their childcare program due to i.e., workforce challenges (shortage of ECEs). This is very concerning in the context of expansion - how can we increase number of spaces if we cannot staff up to fill existing spaces?</li> <li>• Supply will never meet demand unless fully funded, and everyone who wants a spot gets a spot</li> </ul> <p><b>Q.</b> Ideas around equity and intake at enrollment has been thought about, and how to address ideas on prioritization if any, when speaking about equity-seeking groups or groups for inclusion? <b>Response:</b> Considerations for enhancing equity and inclusion will be in next CS service plan.</p>	<p>Childcare Expansion will provide future updates</p> <p> CWELCC Expansion_TCFN Sej</p>

It is on the radar but CS consult with the community about what equitable access.

We have heard from operators that staff are so busy, unable to answer the phone to even add families to waiting lists

Heavy administrative burden on operators

Difficult for operators to address special needs supports, especially with workforce shortage.

**Q.** Would Toronto be able to use the OneList waiting list system as other regions do?

**Response:** CS looked at OneHSN, but it could not be supported with more than 1000 operators in the system.

**Q.** How can we focus work on Consolidated Municipal Service Management (CMSM) solutions and strategies when there are Provincial cuts/changes to availability of programming for autistic children?

**Discussion:** Do not have the stats, however anecdotally, there appears to be an increase in kids with multiple support needs in early learning/childcare centres.

Anecdote of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of children in room has extra support needs – seeing it across the board

The importance of Service Planning to identify who is being served and keeping children with Special needs at the centre of this planning work. Who are our customers, greatest benefactors to inform the plan.

**Discussion questions:**

- How to address that it is not a universal funding program whereby there is availability for all that need?
- Workforce staff shortage challenges: how can we increase number of spaces if we cannot staff up to fill existing spaces?
- What is in place to address equity regarding intake and enrollment? Will priority be given to equity seeking or inclusion groups?
- What is the capacity with funding? Could there be more operators?

**7. Wrap Up Logistics and Next Step:**

- October 11, 2023, meeting cancelled
- Child welfare redesign, Child Resiliency Update
- Raising the Village – (Census Data)- New data and tool demonstration, draft terms of reference
- Network Development continues: Angela to join

**Next Meeting**

Nov 7, 2023  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00  
p.m. (WebEx)