



early childhood community development centre

Francophone Supervisor Network
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 - 10:00am to 12:00 pm
Minutes

Meeting Highlights:

- The meeting opened at 10:00 am and adjourned at 12:00 pm. There were 6 supervisors in attendance, along with Jean/RMN, Susan/MCYS and Glory and Nickie/ECCDC.
- An ECCDC update on French Training and Resources was shared by Nickie Boucher, as were the summary documents from the Francophone Operator and Partner Focus Groups.
- Next Meeting date: **Wednesday, June 2, 2010 from 10am-12pm at the ECCDC.**

Information, Ideas and Tips Shared:

- 1) Copies of Late Fee Policies brought to the meeting were made for all attendees and the topic will be brought forward for follow-up at the next meeting.
- 2) No Best Start Francophone Network and QCCN updates were available. Arlene and Raymonde will provide at next meeting.
- 3) Susan Foebel provided the following updates from MCYS:
 - The Early Learning Program (ELP) is being implemented and MCYS is receiving lots of community input.
 - No changes in the DNA have been approved to-date. Feedback and other ideas still welcome.
 - Please send your 2009 Serious Occurrence Summary and Lead Water Testing Results if you have not done so already. Students are assisting MCYS with the collection of these so you may be contacted.
- 4) Jean McBrain provided the following updates from the Region:
 - Thank you for completing the recent survey. The results are being tabulated and will be sent to MCYS.
 - Due to financial constraints, there will be no new purchase of service agreements this year.
 - RMN is being audited for wage subsidy in the next month or so, due to late submission of information last year. Your timely submission of this information are very important!
 - Budgets will be reviewed, along with wage subsidy, in mid-April.
 - We are awaiting the release of the provincial budget to see whether there will be further impacts to fee subsidy or service agreements.
- 5) The following program updates were also shared:
 - Lucette shared that enrolment is already increasing at her centre and it appears to be a good blend of full fee and subsidized.
 - There is an upcoming professional development session in Hamilton on parents as partners in education. Attendees had received the information but were unable to register, indicating that March is the worst month for being able to attend trainings and that ½ day sessions are more easily managed. The Network is interested in offering this locally (eg, in Niagara).
 - A discussion on engaging parents also took place and the consensus was that both food and child videos/pictures and displays were required to solicit participation.
 - A discussion of information shared at a recent Immigration Forum (March 12th) hosted by College Boreal took place. Network members who were in attendance shared that many French speaking immigrants and refugees are not being captured as such when they enter Canada at Fort Erie and that there are no Licensed Francophone child care centres in Fort Erie. The community multicultural centre provides onsite child care and the Centre de santé has plans to expand into the area.

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Information, Ideas and Tips Shared (cont'd):

- Appreciation for QCCN's outreach to Francophone centres was expressed and the Network would like to ask that the Executive consider promoting this work to local school boards (English and French) as an example of the developmentally appropriate individual program planning that occurs in licensed centres in Niagara.
 - La Boite developed a French songbook that they will share with Nickie.
- 6) Nicki Boucher provided the following Francophone training and resource updates:
- Cards in at least 40 kits have now been translated
 - The list of resources provided are on order
 - The DNA website brochures were appreciated. Members have found the website very helpful to-date.

Work produced, actions taken or decisions reached:

- The Network would like to enquire whether Nickie can deliver Lunch & Learn sessions at their centres.
- The Network is also wondering whether the ECCDC might send information on French training and resources available to school boards and principals (noted that MCYS and RMN approval would be needed).
- The Network would be interested in having an annual, year-end, opportunity for bulk purchasing of resources/materials through ECCDC. Is this possible?
- The Network is wondering whether the March Hamilton session on Parents as Partners in Education could be offered locally.
- The summaries from the Focus Groups were reviewed and the following updates provided: the Centre de santé is developing a kit/package on Francophone services for distribution to Fort Erie partners; College Boreal is working on a list of services; Information Niagara may have complete listing or need information; and , Leah Philbrick developed French activity kits for Fort Erie Anglophone centres as part of her work in last year's Mentoring Pairs for Child Care (MPCC) program. As a result, the goal of improving public knowledge of available francophone early learning and care services was identified and the following strategies adopted as the short term action plan:
 1. Ensure that all Francophone child care centres are included in the Centre de santé kits being developed and enquire whether network members and ECCDC can obtain copies. Can ECCDC follow-up on this?
 2. Develop a list of child care centres that can be shared with politicians, Multicultural Centres, Welcome Wagons, Information Niagara and other municipal and regional new resident information providers as well as at local events and displays. Information Niagara may also have information to share. List to be developed by email; Lucette and student will take lead on this with Nickie's assistance.
 3. Can ECCDC enquire about kits developed by L Philbrick to see whether these could be replicated by ECCDC and made available at no or low cost to Fort Erie Anglophone child care centres?
 4. Niagara Child Care Sector may be the agency to act as a link to all Francophone centres in Niagara. Can Francophone Network be added to an upcoming agenda to share information and make request?
 5. Francophone Supervisor Network to look at hosting an annual Focus group for operators and partners.
- The following items from the summaries were identified as important to bring forward in the mid to long-term future (eg winter 2010/11 and beyond): pilot program linking transition from child care to school (eg. developmental program plans); put formalized plans in place with all schools where possible and keep good records when not, so knowledge transfer is maximized; educating education and parents on value of quality child care; and, develop an annual 'all Francophone services' joint planning session in partnership with College Boreal.

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Upcoming events and sector news:

- The ECCDC offered upcoming Francophone trainings were reviewed with the group.

Resources required for next meeting:

- Late Fee Policy questions or comments (members and ECCDC)
- List of Francophone centres, formatted for sharing (Lucette and Nickie)
- Updates on requests form ECCDC noted above (eg. training, resources, QCCN, Child Care Sector)
- Francophone training and resource update (Nicki Boucher)
- Next Meeting date: **Wednesday, June 2, 2010 from 10am-12pm at the ECCDC.**