

## **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

**11:45 a.m.**

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** William (Bill) Russell, The Lord's Kitchen  
Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre / Vice-Chair  
Val Toner, Community Living Timmins (Alternate)  
Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services  
Elizabeth King, NCDSB Trustee  
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Vice-Chair  
Katie Mundle, SAT  
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education  
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher  
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

**EXCUSED:** Mark Lionello, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Joel McCartney, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre / Chair  
Billie Richer, VOICE for Hearing Impaired

#### **1. Welcome and Prayer**

Daphne Brumwell welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer.  
Kim Bordignon chaired the meeting.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

MOVED BY: C.Landers

SECONDED BY: V.Toner

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY: V.Toner

SECONDED BY: C.Landers

THAT the minutes of December 19, 2018 be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

### **4. LD Session at OHS in November**

Presentation from Catherine Hoven

- Focus: Accommodating the LD Learner
- Rationale: The staff at the provincial demonstration school are experts in meeting the needs of students with a wide variety of learning needs. They have an ongoing focus on supporting transitions of students with LDs to enter back into regular high schools after time spent at the provincial schools. As such, they are eager to work with high school teachers to help them build an understanding of how to most effectively support students with LDs.
- All teachers and educational assistants took part in the session, with each session lasting 1 period
- Topics covered include:
  - The characteristics of a Learning Disability
  - A review of the cognitive processes that are assessed in a psychological assessment
  - A discussion regarding the various pathways at the high school level and how to best accommodate students with a Learning Disability based on their individual strengths and needs
  - A review and sharing of the various apps and software that can help students access material and course content
  - Sharing of an example of a class profile
  - Good overall feedback

### **5. RT Learning Session with Provincial School Outreach Team**

- Explored the waterfall chart that has been developed by York Region School board and is available for purchase; Understanding Learning Disabilities: How Processing Affect Mathematics Learning
- Together we worked in small groups to develop appropriate accommodations in math for students that have a learning disability
- Explored the possibility of creating class profiles to help the teachers better understand the strengths and needs of students in their class.
- Discussed various tools and strategies to assist with math instruction including various websites and apps

## **6. Future of Autism Assessment Team**

- Autism Assessment team is a community based multidisciplinary team that was developed to provide screening and comprehensive assessments for children for whom autism is suspected. The committee was comprised of a representative from each school board, representatives from local agencies such as CTRC, PHU, CTCTC, TFHT, and NEOFACS. Currently the cost of the clinic is \$3,350 to \$4,000.00 depending on the complexity of the case. This cost only includes the cost of the psychologist, psychometrics and travels costs incurred by NEOFACS. It does not include any time for scheduling and for other professionals to assess clients prior to the clinic and/or attending the clinic (which is provided in-kind by PHU, CT CTC, CTRC/IDP, school boards).
- NEOFACS could not continue to support this as therefore the committee explored other funding options. However, they were unsuccessful in finding other money to support the clinic.
- As a result of lack of funding, the community Autism Assessment Clinic is no longer sustainable and is therefore not accepting new referrals. Children who were on the waitlist and approved for assessment will remain on the list and assessment will be offered as available. If any of these children are clients of the Family Health team, they will be seen through that avenue.
- For the 13 children waiting to be assessed there may be longer than usual wait times; families are encouraged to explore other potential avenues for assessment. Other options for assessment were provided to the families whose children are on the waitlist. NCDSB currently has only 1 student on this waiting list.

## **7. ASD Pilot Update**

Presentation from Katie Mundle

- All 15 participants have completed the first part of the registration process, some have fully registered
- 1 of 18 school boards taking part in the pilot
- This year, 7 EAs, 7 CYWs and 1 Board Behaviour Specialist participating
- All participants must be registered by Feb. 22
- Still no correspondence from the Ministry about how this program, but we are moving ahead as funding has been flowing
- Principals aware of release time of EAs (13 half days) and flexible scheduling available to CYWs
- Alex Freeman, BCBA will support the Timmins group in 10 hours of professional learning (to take part over 2 days)
- Sylvie Kennedy, who is working towards her BCBA designation, will support the South in 10 hours of professional learning (to take part over 2 days). Her first day booked is March 21.
- South has 7 participants (3 CYWs, 3 EAs, 1 Behaviour Specialist)
- Central/North has 8 participants (4 CYWs, 4 EAs)
- Participating in the pilot will allow more support at the school level

## **8. Psychological Services**

Presentation from Daphne Brumwell

We have recently received a transfer payment agreement from the Ministry to support Special Education Professional Assessments in the amount of \$71,539. These funds are intended to support the following:

- Improve the educational outcomes for students with special education needs by supporting timely access to professional assessments;
- Reduce the number of students currently on a wait list or waiting for a professional assessment;
- Better manage the allocation of professionals completing assessments through better data collection and record management;
- Improve practices related to the assignment of professionals to complete assessments; and/or
- Improve early intervention supports to reduce the number of required professional assessments.

We are just finalizing our plans, however, we intend to increase the number of assessments conducted by our contracted firm (Bassis and Carter) by 10-15 assessments this year. We hope that this will allow us to do a few more in the Central/North region as well through the work Catherine continues to do under Dr. Bonniferro. We will also be working with John Stark, our contracted Speech/Language Pathologist to determine if we can increase the number of language assessments that are completed. At the present time we do not feel we need a new system to track wait lists or to manage data collection. As a small board, we already have pretty effective systems in place for this. Finally, we will be fully implementing the use of the Brigance Early Learning Screen in all schools for all 5 & 6 year olds. Some of the funds will be used to purchase the screen and a web-based scoring and reporting tool. We will also use some of the funds to provide some release time to our resource teachers so that all the screens can be completed as quickly as possible. The assessments are performed in December, which allows for 6 months of data.

## **9. Agency Reports**

NEOFACS advised of Children in the Middle program offered via Facebook and the NEOFACS website. Program dates are March 6 & 13 2019. The focus of the program is for parents separating or divorcing and building a capacity for co-parenting.

An additional program offered is Advanced Caregiving for Prevention Parenting & Mental Health Series. The program begins February 20, 2019 and includes 4 sessions. The focus of the program is

- Understand why you end up in negative patterns of relating to your child
- Avoid common parenting traps
- Manage your own emotional reactions i.e. anger, guilt and resentment
- Overall, improve your relationship with your child

No fee is required to participate in the series. To register for the group sessions contact the NEOFACS office directly.

NEOFACS is currently running a pilot program with Conseil Scolaire Public Du Nord-Est for the Triple P program. Parents register that night and begin the program shortly thereafter. A suggestion was made that a link or poster be provided to the Northeastern District Catholic School Board to be placed on the website or at schools of programs being offered.

Update provided by Bill Russell from the Lord's Kitchen. There recently has been an increase in single children taking part in the program. Bill has reached out to families to ask if the single children may join the family for their meal. This has created a positive impact on both the children and the families. 17-19 families have participated within the last month.

There has also been an increase in the number of serving's 240-300 plates per week. The servings have gone as high as 450. The increase varies based on the time of the month.

Starting February 8 2019 a Breakfast program will begin. A 5:00am breakfast will be available every Friday and if the program is successful, it may be extended to include Mondays as well as Fridays. On February 7, 2019, all the Clergy will be attending for the first time.

Updated provided from Kim Bordignon, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre. The CTTC has appointed a new Clinical Services Manager Paula Croteau and will begin shortly.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 27, at 11:45 a.m. at Northeastern Catholic District School Board or via videoconference.

#### **11. Other Business**

Daphne read a letter from the Durham District School Board addressed to the Minister of Education in regards to Special Education/SIP funding.

#### **12. Adjournment**

MOVED BY: C. LANDERS

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:10 pm.

CARRIED.