

## Strive Community Meeting Minutes

Friday September 20, 2019

**Attendees:** Ally Scott, Michelle Valladares, Sheri Spriggs, Meaghan MacDonell, Amanda Benton, Tanja Linkes, Sheryl Third, Teresa Sulowski, Jessi Keenan, Dana Hansen, Sierra Ayris, Cheryl Read, Lauren Goosens, Jan Gaudet, Cora Burns

**Present via Zoom:** Barb Jackson, Aimee Kelly, Kinderville

Agenda item and Discussion	Actions
1. Welcome and Introductions	
2. Agenda approval / additions	Agenda approved.
3. Approval of June 14, 2019 minutes	Minutes approved.
4. Updates from Project Manager  a) Elgin Partnership Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-day School-Age offering with ECCDC on October 2 &amp; 3 has been opened to London and Middlesex participants. The days have been coordinated to allow those working in Before and After school programs to attend. Participants are able to register for the full two days or select individual sessions to attend. Please share.</li> <li>• HDLH? contest is underway. This is an opportunity for Educators to highlight the learning in their programs over several months. A showcase will be hosted in November. Date TBA. This will be a celebration of all the great work being done in Elgin/St. Thomas. There are 100s of amazing resources to be awarded to participants.</li> <li>• A 4 week attachment series was held over the summer for EarlyON staff. These sessions were facilitated by Tina Bonnet and Sheri Spriggs. The intent was to enhance programming for children and families through the attachment theory lens. Now reflecting on the experience</li> </ul>	



and looking at next steps, such as how to share this information with others.

- Children’s Services will be piloting some leadership Communities of Practice. There will be opportunities for both Operators/Directors and Supervisors/Coordinators.
- Teresa and Sheri attended a great event put on by the Elgin Children’s Action Alliance around trauma stewardship and compassion fatigue for those in caregiving roles. The session was led by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky and focused on the importance of self-awareness, self-reflection and self-care. Really valuable insights. Now considering how this information may be used to address ECE burnout and better support Educators.

b) Centre of Excellence

Over the summer the Ontario Reggio Association (ORA) announced that they would no longer be a COE partner, citing ‘irreconcilable differences.’ This past week, the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO) was named as the new co-lead agency.

“Through this partnership, the AECEO seeks to make public the work and value of ECEs while supporting their pedagogical journey. This not only benefits children, families and societies but also advances the early childhood profession.”

A new cohort of pedagogists being their learning journeys on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We recognize that the times of their pedagogist gatherings conflict with our Strive community meetings. Strive is happy to find those affected work spaces within Childreach to make participation accessible. Please connect with us.

c) Strategic Planning

Our thanks to everyone who completed the survey that was circulated in July. We received 116 thoughtful responses that will be used to inform our vision for Strive over the next four years.

d) Middlesex PLC

In the hopes of having greater reach and increased participation from professionals living and working in Middlesex county, we have formed a Middlesex specific Professional Learning Committee. We want to ensure that the voices and needs of county professionals are being well represented and accommodated.



<p>5. Professional Learning Opportunities</p> <p>a) Spring/Summer Calendar Debrief</p> <p>We faced some challenges with registration over the spring/summer calendar, seeing lower numbers overall across all events. Attendance rates dropped 18%. This has been a great opportunity for us to reflect, and we will be taking what we learned, as well as community feedback to inform how we plan for this unique time of year in the future.</p> <p>The Niki Buchan event in August was very well attended. We had an absolutely perfect evening and it was inspiring to hear Niki’s global perspective on nature-based programming and children’s mental health.</p> <p>b) Fall Calendar</p> <p>We reduced our printing to 200 copies which should hopefully be a good test of ongoing demand for hard copies. We want to encourage programs/Educators to reuse the calendars whenever possible. They would make great additions to a creative arts/expression area.</p> <p>We have also ordered Strive postcards. Postcards are much more cost effective and do not become outdated with each new calendar cycle so we hope to move more in that direction going forward</p> <p>We have seen some really strong registration for this calendar so far. As of today, over 600 tickets have been claimed and 3 events have sold out.</p> <p>This calendar features an increased partnership with the London-Middlesex Francophone community, as we offer three unique sessions in French.</p> <p>We have also continued to focus on our relationship with our local Indigenous communities. Together with the Culturally Safe Space committee we will be revisiting the seed planting sessions that were offered in the Spring, with a nurturing process. So important to keep those conversations going.</p> <p>We also have some really unique storytelling session scheduled in partnership with the Aboriginal Babies and Beyond Coalition.</p> <p>The Family Literacy Conference for Professionals is October 26<sup>th</sup>. The day will focus on the voice and rights of the child. Karyn Callaghan from the Ontario Reggio Association will be delivering the keynote address, and will, along with two colleagues from Hamilton, be discussing the process they</p>	



undertook for creating Hamilton's Charter of Right of the Child. Participants will then engage in a reflective dialogue about what that may look like in the London context.

We are looking for early years professionals to contribute display items, be it photographs, documentation, artifacts, etc., that demonstrate how they capture the voice of the child in their programs. If you are interested in contributing please contact Shelley ([shelleyb@lcc.on.ca](mailto:shelleyb@lcc.on.ca)) or Ally ([ally@striveswo.ca](mailto:ally@striveswo.ca))

We are so pleased to be able to offer the Community Connector training again this calendar. This information is so valuable for any professional who works with young children and families in any setting. Spaces are limited.

You may notice some changes to our reflective feedback process. We have updated our questions to align directly with the CPL program.

c) Winter Planning

Due to overwhelming interest, we have connected with Anova to bring their Understanding Trauma session back for the Winter calendar. We are hoping to offer it in all three service regions.

We are putting together a pathways panel focused on the apprenticeship process. Representatives from the College, the Ministry of Labour, as well as successful graduates will help clarify the apprenticeship process for providers and Educators. If you currently support, would like to support or have been considering becoming an apprentice yourself, keep an eye out for this opportunity.

We have narrowed down to either February 29<sup>th</sup> or March 7<sup>th</sup> for Winter Rethink 2020. So keep those dates in mind and stay tuned for more details.



<p>6. Information Sharing</p> <p>a) LCCN</p> <p>The recruitment and retention campaign is officially live! The video is so beautiful and really speaks to the heart of Early Childhood Education and Care. The landing page is also a great resource for information sharing. We know how much work went into making this campaign a reality. Kudos and thanks for the LCCN Advocacy sub-committee for their amazing vision and dedication to this project.</p> <p>Watch the video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo8fgzeekbg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo8fgzeekbg</a></p> <p>Visit the landing page: <a href="https://unsungheroesece.com/">https://unsungheroesece.com/</a></p> <p>b) OCBCC</p> <p>The federal election is October 21<sup>st</sup>. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for Educators to get out to the polls. Strive has put together a resource guide of information related to the election, from ensuring you are properly registered to where the parties stand on issues related to childcare. This guide can be found in the News section on the Strive website.</p> <p>Read it here: <a href="https://striveswo.ca/our-news/election-guide-2019/">https://striveswo.ca/our-news/election-guide-2019/</a></p> <p>Strive will continue to update on election news and happenings via social media.</p>	
<p>7. Community Updates</p> <p>On October 16<sup>th</sup>, LCC is hosting Nate Sheets from Oregon Behaviour Consultation to deliver a session around supporting children through a 'rough day.' The focus will be on executive functioning skills and programming strategies. Spaces are being opened to the public for his 12:30-2:30 presentation. It will be held at Western Fair (Carousel Room) and is free to attend.</p> <p>Register here: <a href="https://www.universe.com/strive-lcc-a-rough-day">https://www.universe.com/strive-lcc-a-rough-day</a></p>	
<p>8. Open Spaces for Conversation</p> <p>What is our responsibility when it comes to reconciliation? What does a Land Acknowledgement compel us as a community to do?</p>	
<p>9. <b>Next meeting:</b> October 11, 2019 9:00 to 11:30 am @ Childreach</p>	

