
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

VIRTUAL, MICROSOFT TEAMS – 6:01 PM TO 7:10PM

SEAC Members:

Donna Nielsen (Chair)

Trustee

Natalie Cameron (Vice Chair)

*Children's Aid Society
of the United Counties of SD&G*

Tom Jordan

*Family and Children Services of Lanark,
Leeds, and Grenville*

Cathy Bridson

Rural FASD Support Network

Natasha Scott

*Child and Youth Mental Health Services
Cornwall Community Hospital*

Anna Lafrance

Easter Seals

Sue Wilson

Alternate Trustee

Board Resource Staff:

Heather Gerber

Superintendent of School Effectiveness

Angela McNamee

Principal of Special Education

Kariane Schinzel

*Administrative Assistant to
Superintendent Gerber*

Guests:

April Hackett

CDSBEO, Speech Language Pathologist

Julie McDermid

CDSBEO, Speech Language Pathologist

Rhonda Peterson

CUPE

Stacey Weagant

Parent, St. Thomas Aquinas CHS

Approved regrets with notification: n/a

Nicole Taylor

Autism Ontario - East Region

Amanda Petch

Alternate, Autism Ontario, East Region

Karen McAllister

Trustee

- 1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call**
- 2. Land Acknowledgment**
Tom Jordan acknowledged the Land.

3. Opening Prayer

Principal Angela McNamee led the group in opening prayer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Natasha Scott CARRIED

5. Receiving Minutes from the two meetings on December 14th, 2022

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on December 21st, 2022.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan CARRIED

6. Presentation:

The Right to Read – Board-wide Structured Literacy Approach (Part 2)

An Introduction to UFLI Foundations, an Explicit and Systematic Phonics Program

Presenters:

April Hackett and Julie McDermid, CDSBEO, Speech and Language Pathologists

- Word-level reading difficulties are the most common challenge for students who struggle to learn to read well. Most students who struggle with reading comprehension have word-level reading difficulties. Despite their importance, foundational word-reading skills have not been effectively targeted in Ontario's education system.
- The *Balanced Literacy* approach, currently in the Ontario curriculum, (uses the three-cueing system, sprinkling of phonics, and focus on language comprehension) does not work to create the reading brain.
- Using a Structured approach to literacy, (The new curriculum is expected in September 2023) uses explicit and systematic instruction, no guessing, and initial focus on decoding words.
- To be a skilled reader, fluent execution and coordination of language comprehension and word recognition must be achieved.
- Classroom instruction must shift toward teaching word recognition skills; students need the foundational phonemic awareness skills and phonics knowledge to attack new words that they've never seen before.
- The majority of the literacy blocks from kindergarten to grade two should be word recognition; by grade three, shift the focus to reading to learn.
- In response to the Right to Read recommendations, the CDSBEO has purchased a board level program that can be used in all classes from kindergarten to grade two.

- (Tier one-whole classroom instruction) Intro to UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) program:
 - Whole class k-2
 - Lesson Plans
 - Online Support/resources
 - Researched
 - Evidence based

7. Association Updates:

Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Tom Jordan

Report update:

- **Staff Training Update**
 - A number of staff members recently participated in a webinar entitled: *"Reconsidering Maslow and the Hierarchy of Needs from a First Nations' Perspective"*
 - **Synopsis:** Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is one of the most well-known depictions of human needs.
- **Educational Liaison Position**
 - The Educational Liaison position is going to become a shared position in FCSLLG starting the end of January 2023.
 - Cathie Knapp Fisher will be sharing these duties with Tom Jordan.
- **Signs of Safety Update**
 - FCSLLG is participating in an exciting project with other agencies in the Eastern Zone in an attempt to begin to capture our Signs of Safety work consistently in our province-wide database.
 - We hope to be able to demonstrate your great work with families, align our practices with the Eastern Zone, and perhaps advocate for changes in the system that would facilitate Signs of Safety work. This project will be rolled into our existing annual file reviews which will take place in January 2023.
- **FCSLLG is providing additional *Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training***
 - Several staff have already been trained in ASIST with more to come.
 - The program is presented by LivingWorks, an organization with an industry-leading approach to suicide prevention, who aim to empower everyone to play a role to help make communities everywhere safer from suicide.

- LivingWorks ASIST trainees make their communities safer from suicide by providing life-saving interventions. Like all of LivingWorks' core programs, LivingWorks ASIST is evidence-based.
- **January 18/23 Ottawa Senators Game**
 - FCSLLG took 14 students to the January 18/23 game and dinner in Ottawa.
- **FCSLLG recognized and promoted Martin Luther King Jr Day on January 16/23**
 - the link below to a very short video to remind us of how Martin Luther King Jr. Day was declared a national day in the United States following his assassination.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4BwYMNyJwE>
 - If you are looking for a resource to help children understand the important contributions of MLK Jr., here is a 15 minute video geared to kids.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlllg284u20>
- **Again this year we will be promoting Bell Let's Talk Day on January 25/23**
 - More than 1 in 2 people struggling with their mental health aren't getting the help they need.
 - One in four Canadians have been experiencing high levels of anxiety.
 - The number of opioid overdose deaths in Canada went up more than 90% during the pandemic. It's now 20 per day.
 - On January 25 and every day throughout the year, we can all take meaningful action to create positive change.
 - For more information:
<https://opentext.fcsllg.ca/otcs/cs.exe/app/nodes/4369900>

Rural FASD Support Network – Cathy Bridson

Report update:

- Rural FASD has been selected as the 2024 recipients for the 30th annual Perth Polar Bear Plunge, sponsored by the Perth Legion. This event takes place on New Year's Day and each year, they select a different community group to support. To date, the Perth Polar Bear Plunge has raised an estimated \$385,000. We are extremely fortunate to be entrusted with such support.

- Rural FASD welcomes Claudia Reed, an MSW (Master of Social Work) placement student from Carleton University. Claudia's primary project is to research and publish a small environmental scan report on the current status of health care and accessibility for people with FASD as defined by Canada's Accessibility Act of 2019. She will be conducting interviews with both representatives of health care providers and individuals with FASD and their caregivers in rural areas. Once completed, this report will be shared with representatives from the Public Health Agency, the Ontario Ministry of Health, Kids Brain Health Network, CanFASD, Ontario Brain Institute and Ontario Health as well as all participating organizations.
- The new case management system, Sumac, has gone live. Judith (Program Coordinator) and Samantha (Program and Marketing Assistant) have been applying their time implementing and entering data into the system. With Sumac we can track information like contacts, referrals, services and case plans. This system will also help track key metrics, so we can easily report back to funders and donors.
- Rural FASD is happy to announce that Youth Accessibility Leader, Shelby De Rose, has been successful in securing the School Health Grant for Youth Programs. The project title is "Building FASD Awareness on Positive Mental Health and Well-Being". While working with a multidisciplinary team, Shelby will promote student mental health and wellbeing from a FASD perspective. These wrap-around workshops will be presented to high school students, staff, and parents at three local high schools. A live recording will also be made available and shared through public communities.
- Rural FASD members Judith (Program Coordinator) and Samantha (Program and Marketing Assistant) have joined the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) FASD Action Team whose purpose is to advocate with Canadian Governments and service providers for equal access to assessments, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation services for the children and youth with FASD.
- Judith Peak continues to make connections and build new networks within the community. Judith has begun connecting with clients in the office and in the community. Judith is very passionate about education and has been attending a series of webinars and training opportunities regarding FASD, resiliency, youth transition into adulthood, and substance abuse.

- Samantha Tse continues to build on Rural FASD's presence in social media. Starting this month, she has created a monthly e-newsletter for Rural FASD to be distributed each month. The newsletter is to be adjusted to reflect each month's news, events, initiatives, so that community members can stay up to date on Rural FASD. Samantha has also created both business cards and pamphlets for Rural FASD which are now available at the office.
- Using the donation Rural FASD received from MP Scott Reid back in December, we can appoint Shelley More as our Part-time Executive Director beginning late January.

Other Information:

- Judith Peak (Program Coordinator) has been accepted to participate in the 8-day long Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Facilitator Certification Training. Upon completion, Judith will be certified to facilitate the MHFA Training course for members of the community.

Child and Youth Mental Health Services – Natasha Scott

Report update:

- Current wait times for services:
 - Ages 0-3: immediate assignment
 - Ages 4-6: 5-6 months
 - Ages 7-18 for standard priority: 7 months
 - Ages 7-18 for rapid response: generally, within a few weeks
 - Ages 7-18 for urgent: immediate assignment
- Staffing updates: We hired two psychologists through contract work to offer psychological services (i.e., one assessment each per month). Currently, all other positions are filled.
- Team has received the foundational training for Autism and Mental Health through CMHO (Children's Mental Health Ontario), 'Building Integrated Capacity in Autism and Mental Health', also registered for the advanced training that will be coming up. CYMHS is part of the community of practice for this and occurs on a monthly basis; staff are able to attend these meetings and to consult with the doctor in regard to any clients that are experiencing mental health issues and who also have an FASD diagnosis.

- Our CYMHS team is looking to reinvigorate groups to help with the wait list pressures. Groups that are being explored are mindfulness, grief, and anxiety with a plan to run groups in late winter/early spring. We are currently running our DBT-based group (Doing Better Together).
- One Stop Talk: The One Stop Talk/Parlons maintenant (OST/PM) is a virtual platform that allows clients to connect from anywhere in Ontario and get evidence-based, brief, solution-focused mental health services. It is intended to help streamline access to mental health support for children, youth, and their families and reduce wait times across Ontario. CYMHS will allocate 6 hours in total/week of 2 of our clinicians' time to provide virtual counselling as part of the OST/ PM. Training begins in February 2023. Each client receives approximately one-hour session with a plan by the end of the session to address their issues moving forward. In many cases, one session is all that a client needs to move forward, but if they require additional support, OST/PM will arrange to provide clients with a direct referral to services in their community. Clients will have access to OST/PM after hours and on weekends.
- The Provincial Training Initiative (PTI) is a three-year project collaboration between the Lead Agency Consortium, Children's Mental Health Ontario and the Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions. The goal is to increase the number of clinicians trained to deliver evidence-based treatment services designed for children and youth with complex and significant mental health needs. A province-wide training model will increase capacity across the province and be sustainable.
 - All lead agencies and their Core Service Provider partners will be organized into training networks to receive training in the 2 evidence-based treatments most appropriate for their communities to best meet the needs of children and youth with complex and significant mental health concerns.
 - Training updates for the Provincial Training Initiative:
All staff in registered positions in all three core services in our community (CYMHS, Equipe psycho-sociale, and Laurencrest) are being trained in February/March for Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and the other staff in non-registered positions will be trained in Attachment, Regulation and Competency Framework in March.

Autism Ontario, East Region – Nicole Taylor

Report update: n/a

Children’s Aid Society of the United Counties SD&G – Natalie Cameron

Report update:

- Planning an educational review of the CAS individual kids in care and what their educational journey has been, determining what the trends are and what supports are needed to be successful to pass grade 12.
- Will be presenting the findings to the board of directors.
- Focus on ensuring that they are successful in school and have the post-secondary plan.
- Power up symposium OVOV program is excited to present the fourth edition of PowerUp, a symposium specifically designed for Black-identifying children and youth actively involved with child welfare. The goal of PowerUp is for Black youth to build connections, community and celebrate Black identity. CAS are sending youth from the community to the symposium.
- Will be providing a conference on March 2nd that will focus on trades and the steps needed to become certified.

Easter Seals Ontario – Anna Lafrance

Report update: n/a

8. Department Update – Principal of Special Education, Angela McNamee

- Education Workers have been completing their Behaviour Management System training – our CDSBEO BMS trainers have been providing the physical training session at home schools throughout the month of January.
- As our guest presenters have described, the Structured Literacy Team has been busy providing UFLI Manual – Structured Literacy presentations to all kindergarten to grade 2 classroom teachers during the month of January.
- During the last few weeks and leading into February, Education Workers and Special Education Resource Teachers are collaborating to update and create new annual goals, subject and alternative expectations for student IEPs. IEPs will be sent home with report cards for high school and elementary students during the month of February.
- The Special Education Professional Staff are gearing up to provide lots of different PD topics for education workers for the February 1st PD. Training sessions will include PD on social skills groups, ABA Strategies, Suicide Prevention Intervention and Risk Review refresh, Developmental Language Disorders – Implications in the classroom.
- The Special Education department is piloting the Everyday Speech digital resource in some of their special education classrooms. It consists of videos, activities and practice tasks that facilitate the learning of social communication and social emotional skills.

- In response to last month's inquiry into St. Matt and St. Luke's transition days. I reached out to the principals and received some information to share with the committee: Both schools are currently receiving information from feeder schools on potential new students.
 - St. Luke's is having an open house on February 23rd at the school from 5-6:30pm. The school is waiting for all construction to be completed and the school in its entirety before hosting the transition days for upcoming new registrants.
 - St. Matthew's is hosting an open house in February (they are in the midst of finalizing a date). Currently, the school is in contact with feeder schools to complete individual transitions based on the needs of students. In May/June, the school hosts Phoenix fun days for new students. On a rotary basis, students participate in STEM, construction, and hospitality activities – each student leaving with a finished product from each activity.

9. New Business

- Chair Donna Nielsen had the pleasure of bringing forth recommendations from SEAC to the Board of Trustees at the December 20th board meeting and The Board of Trustees unanimously agreed with SEAC's recommendations to appoint: Natasha Scott (Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital), Amanda Petch (alternate representative, Autism Ontario, East Region), and Anna Lafrance (Easter Seals Ontario) to the Special Education Advisory Committee, term ending November 14th, 2026. At this time everyone will have received a Board welcome letter and we welcome our new term SEAC membership.

10. Correspondence Received

- Proposed CDSBEO 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

11. Motion to Excuse Regrets:

Nicole Taylor, Autism Ontario
Amanda Petch, alternate representative, Autism Ontario
Karen McAllister, Trustee

Moved by: Tom Jordan

CARRIED

12. Next SEAC Meeting and Land Acknowledgment Presenter:

- Wednesday, February 22, 2023
- Land Acknowledgment presenter: Natalie Cameron

Topics for Presentations for 2022-2023 school year:

Presentations	Date
Land Acknowledgement Informative Presentation	Wednesday, Sept 28, 2022
Supporting Exceptional Learners Through Technology	Wednesday, Oct 26, 2022
The Right to Read – what it means for CDSBEO (Part 1)	Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022
The Right to Read – Board-wide Structured Literacy Approach (Part 2)	Wednesday, Jan 25, 2023
Child First Initiative, a Federally Funded Program for Inuit Children and Youth	Wednesday, Feb 22, 2023
Sonderly Training: ABA Strategies and Autism Training	Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023
Transitional Planning, Grade 12 to Community	Tuesday, Apr 25, 2023
Transition to Kindergarten – T2K	Wednesday, May 31, 2023
Kids in Care	date to be determined

13. Good News Sharing

Members shared items of good news from across our eight counties.

14. Closing Prayer

Principal McNamee led the group in the CDSBEO Board Prayer.

15. Motion To Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Natalie Cameron CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	September 28, 2022	October 26, 2022	December 14, Meeting #1	December 14, Meeting #2	January 25, 2023	February 22, 2023	March 29, 2023	April 25, 2023	May 31, 2023	June 5, 2023
<i>Chair,</i>	P	P	P	P	P					
<i>Vice Chair, Children's Aid Society of the United Counties SD&G</i>	X	X	P	P	P					
<i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	P	P	P	P	P					
<i>Family and Children's Services of LLG</i>	P	P	P	P	P					
<i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	X	X	P	P	P					
<i>Child and Youth Mental Health Services - CCH</i>	X	P	P	P	P					
<i>Autism Ontario</i>	P	P	P	P	X					
<i>Past Vice Chair, Lanark County Support Services, retired</i>	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Member at Large, retired</i>	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Easter Seals (as of January 25)</i>	-	-	-	-	P					
Total	6	6	7	7	7					