



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 29th, 2020 – Meeting #1

6:00 p.m.



Present:

SEAC Members:

Sue Wilson (Chair), Trustee
Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair), Lanark
County Support Services
Karen McAllister, Trustee
Fran Brauneisen, Association for Community
Living
Karen Moore, Open Doors for Lanark
Children and Youth
Deena Shorkey, Cornwall Community
Hospital
Rob More, Rural FASD Support Network
Shelley More, Rural FASD Support Network
(Alternate)

Board Resource Staff:

Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School
Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Principal of Special Education
Heather Bovey, Coordinator of Special
Education

Approved Regrets with notification:

Guests:

Lorraine Boyer, Member-at-Large
Vicki Storaas, ABA Expertise Professional
April Helmkey, Speech-Language Pathologist

Meeting Called to Order

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

Opening Prayer

Heather Gerber led the group in a prayer entitled, "*Easter Prayer*".

I. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Lorraine Boyer

CARRIED

II. Sharing January 29th, 2020 Minutes

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on February 7th, 2020.

Motion:

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Rob More

CARRIED

III. Association Updates

Association for Community Living – Fran Brauneisen

New Initiatives:

- The Development Services sector was made painfully aware of their vulnerable position in the early months of the Ford administration. Consequently, they have looked at partnerships with community, other agencies and various government ministries as a way to work together and efficiently deliver services to the most vulnerable members of our society. The Executive Director of Community Living North Grenville (CLNG) is encouraged by “*the positive relationships the Provincial Network has been able to foster*” and has confidence in Minister Todd Smith’s “*commitment and vision for the sector*”. It is a good start but there is still work to be done to create a sustainable model to meet the needs of the future.
- One of the partnerships CLNG treasures is its association with CARF, an independent, international organization that assesses quality of service, core values and governance. Three surveys have been completed since 2010 and each time, CLNG received a 3-year accreditation (the highest level) with the last one being September 2019. CLNG sees many benefits in continuing to partner with CARF so that our commitment to quality improvement continues to remain our number one goal.
- Another partnership of great value has been the affordable housing project which includes several levels of government and a construction company. This will eventually provide nine town-home units plus an existing duplex with a mix of 1-3 bedrooms. Construction commenced in 2019 with occupancy expected to be summer 2020. The coronavirus pandemic will alter this plan somewhat, but applications are being accepted through the Administration Office for future consideration.

Other Information:

- The annual comedy night and auction had been planned for March 21st. It has been tentatively postponed until September 26th, 2020 with the hope that people will be starting to resume social activities by then.

- May is also Community Living Month. The usual round of activities has been either cancelled or altered to reflect the new behaviour to remain safe but still celebrate who we are.

Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield

New Initiatives:

- During this pandemic LCSS has continued to stay connected to participants and families through technology. We have started a closed group Facebook page for participants and families of LCSS to communicate and complete activities. We also have up and running morning and afternoon Zoom sessions – we have weekly coffee talk, bingo, trivia, exercise and this week we even had a make your own volcano activity. We are posting highlights on our regular Facebook page.
- Staff are being provided the opportunity for additional training through Open Futures Learning, Core Competencies and about using technology to stay connected.

Other Information:

- During this pandemic, our Life Skills and Activity Centres and the Transition Support Services are closed until deemed safe to reopen and provide face to face supports. We are however, being creative and supporting our participants through the internet and by phone.
- Our group home is still actively running and at this time everyone is healthy.

Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

- May 16th, 2020 – Rural FASD Support Network with Terrilee Kelford, Cornerstone Landing

New Initiatives:

- Cogeco TV broadcasting speaker series on Perth, Smiths Falls, Brockville and Kemptville channel on Podium.
- Lanark Mobile Crisis Intervention Team received national attention on CBC News. Members of our group have used this service.
- Provincial Awareness brought to Queen's Park on February 24th. FASD Education Bill resurrected and passed first reading requiring school boards to develop an FASD strategy in conjunction with caregivers.
- Rural FASD Support Network partnering with Beckwith Tech Camp, Hackergal and Shopify to bring attention to girls in STEM occupations and Lynx Programming. Trustee Jennifer Cooney joining us. We are also bringing St. Francis de Sales Parish services to our area.

Other Information:

- Rural FASD Support Network had its first AGM and Shelley More has been named Chair of the organization. We currently sit at 130 individuals with FASD and 460 members across North America.
- Beckwith Tech Camp now established as a social enterprise for the Rural FASD Support Network.

- The Rural FASD Support Network was chosen to serve as the FASD rep on the Ontario Health Council.
- FASD Ontario website and Lanark, Leeds-Grenville FASD Worker received MCCSS funding.
- Rural FASD Support Network now on Twitter @FasdRural.
- Two youth from our organization created a video documentary of our trip to Queen's Park and submitted it to the My View Film Festival <https://youtu.be/8b-G7MeyjuM>.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth – Karen Moore

- Children's Mental Health went offsite the middle of March. Services are now offered virtually and have been focused on coping with COVID-19, parenting, dealing with home schooling, the challenges of working or unemployment and managing schoolwork issues. There have been positive comments about schools connecting but families are still overwhelmed by the situation and unable to complete the schoolwork with their children. Parents are worried about what this will mean for their children's success in school.
- A new Model called "talk in" instead of "walk-in" provides service within 48 hours and people can call as much as needed.
- Wellness Wednesday videos on various mental health topics are being offered through the website. The agency wants to get the word out that they are still available for service as they are not getting as many calls as before.

Cornwall Community Hospital – Deena Shorkey

- Cornwall Community Hospital has shifted all services to a virtual platform and phone calls. All staff are working from home and managers are onsite to provide some face to face support. Calls have decreased so the wait list has been worked through and eliminated.
- Referrals are down because of schools and CAS not working the same way and because various offices in Cornwall are closed.
- The hospital is working hard to let parents know that services are available and that they can access services without a referral. There is information on Facebook and on the CDSBEO website regarding access to services.
- The hospital is providing services to healthcare workers on short turnaround times and are connecting within 24 hours.
- The front of the building is a COVID assessment site for Cornwall and some of the greeters are mental health workers.

IV. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – June 2020

The following sections were shared:

- Section I – Introduction
- Section III – Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies
- Section V – Educational and Other Assessments
- Section VII – Provincial and Demonstration Schools
- Section XIII – Coordination of Services with other Ministries or Agencies

- Section XIV – Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings

V. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Deena Shorkey

CARRIED

CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Trustee / Chair	Trustee	Assoc. for Community Living	Rural FASD Support Network	Lanark County Support Services	Member at Large (vacant)	Cornwall Community Hospital	Open Doors	Total
August	P	P	P	P	P		P		6
September	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	7
October	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	7
November – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	7
November – Meeting #2	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	7
January	P	P		P	P		P	P	6
February – Cancelled									
March – Cancelled									
April – Meeting #1	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	7
May									
June									

New 4-year term of office effective December 1st, 2018.

(4 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)