



Childcare Working Group

April 14, 2020 at 1:00pm
GoTo Meeting Teleconference

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Renee Chadwick, Manager, Recreation Services
Christine Cho, A/HR Business Partner, Human Resources
Anur Mehdic, Housing/Childcare Planning Analyst
Lisa Paterson, Community Development Worker, Ministry of Children and Family
Tazeen Bharucha, Program Supervisor, YMCA Childcare Resource and Referral
Jody Mischuda, Licensing Officer, Fraser Health Community Care Facilities
Licensing
Stephanie Erdelyi, Childcare Operator

REGRETS:

Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent, School District #40

The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

1. New Committee Member – Anur Mehdic

2. Agency Updates

a) City of New Westminster

Renee Chadwick and Christine Cho provided an update for the City of New Westminster.

The City facilitated delivery of hand sanitizer and gloves last week to operators in need of supplies.

The resource package that Tazeen Bharucha of the YMCA shared with the group members was circulated with other Working Group Teams at the City.

Christine and Renee are working together this on compiling information and resources to be uploaded to the City's portal. Renee requests that Working Group members send links and resources directly to Christine Cho for addition to the portal.

b) Fraser Health

Jody Mischuda gave an update for Fraser Health. Managers and Supervisors with Fraser Health are working together on scheduling calls for childcare operators to call in and speak to them regarding questions and progress.

The Fraser Health produced resource package was finalized and sent to the print shop. They will be circulated to operators once printing complete.

c) School District

Maryam Naser of School District #40 was not in attendance so provide an update via email.

The school district have opened up childcare for Essential Service Workers at 5 of our school sites and are providing childcare and learning opportunities between the hours of 7 am to 6 pm.

d) Ministry of Children and Family Development

Lisa Paterson provided an update for the Ministry.

The MCFD office is open and serving families but has been quiet, which has raised concern, particularly for families facing domestic violence situations. Lisa has reached out to the Team Lead for New Westminster and is waiting to hear back.

e) Childcare Operators

Stephanie Erdelyi gave an update for childcare operators.

Stephanie maintains one child in care at her facility. Other operators have reported that that still have less children in care than expected, averaging approximately 1-4 children in each facility.

Operators reached out to families over Easter to advise that care is available. There could be an increase in the number of children that return to care in May.

In response to a question from a group member, Stephanie advised that facilities entered into an agreement with the provincial government that facilities will receive base funding, at seven times the base rate, in order to remain open, regardless of the number of children that are in care at their

facility. Facilities that close also receive base funding at two times the base rate in order to continue to pay expenditures. This was to ensure that families did not have the stress of having to pay for or lose a spot for their child in care for when the child returns to care. The Ministry has provided information on childcare facility funding on their website.

f) YMCA Childcare Resource and Referral

Tazeen Bharucha gave an update for the YMCA.

Calls from essential workers looking for referrals have decreased. In response, the YMCA had reduced office hours to Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 7:00pm, and Saturday from 8:00am to 3:30pm.

The YMCA will begin to offer online workshops and networking opportunities for ECEs and childcare providers within the coming week. This initiative may continue to be available after Covid-19 recovery. A webinar learning series is also being made available.

3. Challenges & Opportunities

a) The initial deliveries of supplies to childcare facilities were by donation. The challenge going forward will be in how to procure payment from facilities for future supply deliveries.

Renee Chadwick spoke with the City's Procurement Manager to determine ways to bill operators for deliveries. Suggestions from the group members include:

- Contact Rob Dick, who is a member of other working groups, and has a Google Docs interactive resource request form that is being used by other groups to requisition equipment

4. Action Plan

1. Group members to forward links and resources to Christine Cho for inclusion on the City's web portal.
2. Renee, Christine and Anur to meet prior to next Childcare Working Group meeting and discuss resource items to be posted on the web portal
3. Renee and Anur to discuss Google Docs supply request sheet and touch base with Rob Dick
4. Renee to contact Maryam Naser for update from School District

5. Renee to send contact sheet to working group members.

5. Other

No items

The next meeting of the Childcare Working Group will occur on:

Date:	April 21, 2020
Time:	1:00 pm
Location:	Zoom Meeting