

**Report to Board
October 20, 2014**



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

Inspired Learners – Tomorrow's Leaders

SUBJECT: Choices/Section 23 – Care, Custody and Treatment – Program Updates

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Mary Lou Mackie, Executive Superintendent of Education, Scott Lomax, Superintendent of Education – Learning Services, and Peter Rubenschuh, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Education - Learning Services – Program

PURPOSE:

This report provides an overview and update of the Choices for Youth (Expulsion) and Section 23 (Care, Custody and Treatment) programs being offered by the Waterloo Region District School Board or in collaboration with community partner agencies. This report relates to all of the strategic directions with particular emphasis on *Fostering wellness and well-being, Pursuing student achievement and success for all* and *Embracing diversity and inclusion*.

BACKGROUND

Alternative program delivery models such as Choices for Youth and Section 23 - Care, Custody and Treatment programs provide students in-risk (acute) or at-risk (prolonged) the opportunity to continue their education while addressing a variety of social-emotional, behavioural or mental health issues that negatively impact engagement in school. Academic achievement, personal growth, healthy and supportive relationships, and overall well-being are the intended outcomes of these programs.

Choices for Youth (Expulsion Program)

This voluntary program is geared towards students who have been expelled. When a student has been fully expelled from all schools of the Board, the Choices for Youth (Strict Discipline) program provides the student the opportunity to change his/her behaviour and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful within a home school environment. The focus of this program is on academic and non-academic components. Program components are customized to address the needs of individual students. The length of the program varies, depending on individual student needs and progress in the program. Before being transitioned into a mainstream school, the student is required to meet the standards of the Strict Discipline Program. In many cases, students will return to their home school with a detailed re-entry plan, after the expulsion has been served. This will involve conferences with administrators, Student Services, Social Workers, and/or Child & Youth Workers to develop a re-entry plan. The student is expected to demonstrate respect, responsibility and the ability to comply with standards set out in the Waterloo Region District School Board Code of Conduct.

Section 23 (Care, Custody and Treatment)

Students enrolled in Care, Custody and Treatment programs are demonstrating difficulty coping within their home school, in spite of supports provided by teachers, guidance teacher, the Student Success teacher, Child & Youth Worker and/or social worker. Students are provided with an alternative approach to care and treatment, by engaging with a community partner agency.

Students enrolled in Section 23 programs are clients of the agency providing the care, treatment or custody programs. In Section 23 programs, students are considered clients of the agency with specific treatment goals being established in the form of a personalized “*Plan of Care*”. Co-operative planning is essential in developing programs to meet the needs of children and youth requiring specialized services in a multi-disciplinary environment.

The Waterloo Region District School Board works with the partner agency to provide the educational programming for students subscribing to these programs. The Section 23 Care, Custody and Treatment programs help students continue their education while receiving the care, treatment, custody or corrections necessary to address barriers to academic achievement, personal growth and well-being.

STATUS:

Choices Programs are for students under expulsion from the Waterloo Region District School Board. These programs:

- are optional for students who are committed to changing their behaviours
- combines academic, social and personal management skills
- addresses special learning needs and Individual Education Plans (IEP)
- provides the potential to achieve up to three credits in a semester
- includes outdoor education, service learning and entrepreneurship
- is staffed by both teachers and child and youth workers
- offers social work and psychological support for students
- may be modified to meet the needs of students

Choices for Youth programs are located in Kitchener and Cambridge, with two classes being offered at both Alternative and Continuing Education sites. These state-of-the-art facilities and associated program resources demonstrate a commitment to providing high quality supports and educational opportunities for at-risk and/or marginalized youth. All classes are supported by a classroom teacher and Child and Youth Worker. Current enrolment data and program details are summarized in Appendix A: Waterloo Region District School Board – Choices for Youth Program Summary. (see attached)

Section 23 Programs

The Waterloo Region District School Board currently co-sponsors twelve Section 23 (Care, Custody and Treatment) Programs in collaboration with nine distinct community agencies. A complete list of Section 23 programs, partner agencies, related student profiles, program enrolment capacity and related referral processes are summarized within Appendix B: Waterloo Region District School Board - Section 23 Program Summary. (see attached)

New Dawn / Z by the Y Programs

The New Dawn and Z by the Y programs address service and treatment gaps for students in the intermediate division (Grades 8-11). Students exhibiting extreme internalizing behaviours are directed to these programs through formalized assessment services offered by Front Door (formerly the Canadian Mental Health Access Centre). This care and treatment program is being co-sponsored by Carizon–Family and Community Services in collaboration with the Waterloo Region District School Board. Treatment goals include increased social engagement, increased self-advocacy skills, identification and development of specific strategies that the youth can generalize across a variety of environments and situations. These programs service youth ages 12-17 whose ability to effectively participate within their family, school and community has been compromised by symptoms related to, but not exclusive to: anxiety, mild oppositional behaviour, depression, somatic symptoms and other mental health needs.

A comprehensive “*Plan of Care*” is developed for students enrolled within these programs by agency staff in collaboration with the youth, the family and education staff to support the intended treatment and educational outcomes for individual students. Teachers and Child and Youth Workers coordinate with the home school to ensure that, as much as possible, the student is working on subject material that will transition with the student back to their home school.

During the summer of 2014, the New Dawn and Z by the Y programs moved to new locations. The New Dawn program has been integrated at the Alternative and Continuing Education site in Kitchener. The Z by the Y program has been integrated at the Alternative and Continuing Education site in Cambridge. The integration of these programs has enhanced access to high quality programming, facilities and services, at a reduced cost to the Waterloo Region District School Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Regular program updates and highlights have been provided to students, parents/guardians, staff, Administration and Trustees.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation. For information only.

 **Director of Education**

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Choices for Youth (Expulsion) - Program Summary

Appendix A

	Choices for Youth Program	Location	Focus of Program	Referral Process	Capacity	Current Enrolment
1	Choices – Entrepreneurship/Service Learning	Alternative and Continuing Education 151 Weber Street Waterloo	Academic Support Social-Emotional Skill Development Career Development Individual Support Parental Outreach	Principal Recommendation WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Expulsion Upheld	10	10
2	Choices – Outdoor Education /Service Learning	Alternative and Continuing Education 151 Weber Street Waterloo	Academic Support Social-Emotional Skill Development Career Development Individual Support Parental Outreach	Principal Recommendation WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Expulsion Upheld	10	10
3	Choices – Entrepreneurship/Service Learning	Alternative and Continuing Education 256 Hespeler Road Cambridge	Academic Support Social-Emotional Skill Development Career Development Individual Support Parental Outreach	Principal Recommendation WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Expulsion Upheld	10	8
4	Choices – Outdoor Education /Service Learning	Alternative and Continuing Education 256 Hespeler Road Cambridge	Academic Support Social-Emotional Skill Development Career Development Individual Support Parental Outreach	Principal Recommendation WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD Expulsion Upheld	10	8

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD - Section 23 Program Summary

Appendix B

	Section 23 Program	Location of Agency	Focus of Program	Referral Process	Capacity	Current Enrolment
1	New Dawn -Care & Treatment 151 Weber Street, Kitchener	Carizon (KidsLink) - 1855 Notre Dame Dr., St. Agatha	Treatment for youth aged 12-17 who, due to social, emotional, behavioural or mental health struggles,demonstrated difficulty navigating age-appropriate social situations and who have had inconsistent school attendance	referral through Front Door (Access to Child and Youth Mental Health Service)	12	8
2	Z by the Y - Care & Treatment 256 Hespeler Road, Cambridge	Carizon (KidsLink) - 1855 Notre Dame Dr., St. Agatha	Treatment for youth aged 12-17 who, due to social, emotional, behavioural or mental health struggles demonstrated difficulty navigating age appropriate social situations and who have had inconsistent school attendance	referral through Front Door (Access to Child and Youth Mental Health Service)	12	8
3	Foundations -Care & Treatment 130 Woodbine Avenue, Kitchener (located at Jean Steckle)	Family and Children’s Services of the Waterloo Region – 200 Ardelt Ave, Kitchener	Treatment for students identified with more than one category of exceptionality and demonstrating severe social, emotional and learning needs.	referred to Supervisor of School Services at F&CS or to Consultant to Section	8	8
4	“The Fort” (FASD) - Care & Treatment	Carizon (KidsLink) - 1855 Notre Dame Dr., St. Agatha	Treatment for students formally identified with the FASD diagnosis.	referral through Front Door (Access to Child and Youth Mental Health Service)	6	6
5	St Monica House - Care & Treatment	231 Herbert St., Waterloo	Treatment for students who are young mothers or mothers to be.	referred by the parent/guardian	20	14
6	Adonai - Sunbeam Lodge Care & Treatment	389 Pinnacle Drive, Kitchener	Treatment for students who are developmentally handicapped and identified with more than one category of exceptionality and demonstrating severe social, emotional and learning needs.	referred by the parent/guardian	6	5

	Section 23 Program	Location of Agency	Focus of Program	Referral Process	Capacity	Current Enrolment
7A	Hope Manor Secure Custody RR2 Petersburg	Ray of Hope 230-659 King St E, Kitchener	Custody	Referred by the Courts	18	15
7B	Hope Manor Secure Custody RR2 Petersburg	Ray of Hope 230-659 King St E, Kitchener	Summer School	Referred by the Courts	18	15
8	Pinegrove - Care & Treatment 80 Burlington Dr. Kitchener	Pioneer Youth Services 26 Dorset St, Waterloo	Treatment for students identified with more than one category of exceptionality and demonstrating severe social, emotional and learning needs.	referred by Pioneer Youth Services or by Consultant to Section	40	32
9	Lutherwood Care & Treatment	285 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo	Treatment for students who have a diagnosed need for mental health services.	referred by the parent/guardian	24	23
10A	Lutherwood Open Custody	285 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo	Custody	Referred by the Courts	10	9
10B	Lutherwood Open Custody	285 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo	Summer School	Referred by the Courts	10	9
11	Hatts Off - Care & Treatment 20 Haddington St Cambridge	Hatts Off Specialized Services 153 King St. W. Dundas	Treatment for students identified with more than one category of exceptionality and demonstrating severe social, emotional and learning needs.	referred by Hatts Off	12	11
12	7 th Inning – Care and Treatment 581E Langs Dr, Cambridge	Langs Farm Village Association, 1145 Concession Road, Cambridge	Treatment for students who have a diagnosed need for mental health services	referred by the parent/guardian or school	8	7