



Special Education Advisory Committee

Minutes - November 10, 2021

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was held virtually on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: Cindy Watson

Association Members: Jennifer Checkley (Easter Seals), Sara Penny (Epilepsy South Central Ontario), Angela Sider (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Roberta Thompson (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Kathy Waybrant (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy)

Association Alternates: Jane Martin (Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy), Kathy Moreland (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Shannon Taylor (Epilepsy South Central Ontario)

Non-Association Members: Deb Jack (Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services), Carmen Sutherland (Waterloo Region Family Network), Selena Saini (WRDSB Student Representative)

Board Staff in Attendance: Leonilda Gil (Administrative Assistant), Stephen McCrae (System Administrator), Scott Miller (Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being)

Guest: Angela Holmes (parent)

Regrets: Dale Babiy (Autism Ontario), Michelle Hughes (FASD/ONE Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Ontario Network of Expertise), Christine MacDonald (Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County), Candice Mason (Parents For Children's

Mental Health - Waterloo Region), Jeff Senior (Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society), Kathi Smith (Trustee), Sharon Weishar (Parents For Children's Mental Health - Waterloo Region)

Call to Order

Sara Penny called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement - Sara Penny

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Kathy Moreland, seconded by Angela Sider:

That the agenda of the November 10, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, be approved.

- Carried -

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Jane Martin, seconded by Roberta Thompson:

That the minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting, Special Education Advisory Committee, be approved.

- Carried -

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

SEAC Presentation - Deb Jack

- **Family & Children's Services - Indigenous Services**

WRDSB Special Education & Student Well-Being Report – Scott Miller

- [Guide to Remote Learning for Students with Special Education Needs](#)
 - [Educator Tip Sheet](#), [Parent Tip Sheet](#), [Student Tip Sheet](#)
 - We received these resources from the Ministry to share with staff and SEAC
 - Provides specific recommendations for best practices for educators, parents and students
 - Currently we have roughly 3000 elementary students and 1000 secondary students that are participating in remote learning
- Review Individual Education Plan Resources
 1. [Collaborating with Students and Families Consultation for IEP Development](#)
 2. [Identifying Student Strengths and Needs An Asset Based Approach to IEP Development](#)
 3. [Documenting Through Non-Clinical Assessments an Asset Based Approach to IEP Development](#)
 4. [Tier 1 Interventions - Differentiated Instruction, Universal Design for Learning and Accommodations - An Asset Based Approach to IEP Development](#)
 - Currently staff is working on a new resource focussed on an Asset Based Approach to IEP Development
 - These documents have been shared with a number of groups and stakeholders for recommendations. We will continue to review with SEAC to provide opportunities for feedback
 - The Special Education Department will center their attention to the ongoing work with IEP development and supports for our students
- Staffing Updates
 - Interviews have taken place for the temporary Mental Health Lead position. Currently we are finalizing the hiring of a candidate and an announcement will be made once the person has been hired

- PRO Grant
 - [Parent Involvement Committee](#) (PIC) information on the WRDSB website provides an overview of this committee
 - [Parents Reaching Out Grants](#) (PRO) information on the Ministry website.
 - The PRO grant evaluation committee is looking for two SEAC members to join the committee to review and approve applications received from schools and PIC
 - The PRO Grant Evaluation Committee meets 1-2 times (depending on the number of applications received) between February 1 and February 10 for approximately 2.5 hours to evaluate the applications received from schools and PIC. A quick follow-up meeting, during this time frame, may be required to finalize the decisions regarding successful applications
 - The PRO Evaluation Committee includes representation from the following areas: Parent Involvement Committee (2), Special Education Advisory Committee (2), the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group (2) and a Trustee
 - If you are interested in volunteering to be part of this group, please let Leonilda Gil know and she will pass your contact information to the group
 - Angela Sider provided further clarification on the work from previous years when she has sat on this committee and can assist if there are no other volunteers
- [Jordan's Principle](#) - Stephen McCrae
 - Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle that aims to eliminate service inequities and delays for Indigenous Children and Youth. Jordan's Principle states that any public service ordinarily available to all other children must be made available to Indigenous Children and Youth without delay or denial
 - We have seen an increase in families beginning to use this resource
 - There is an application process which we work with school administrators and the Human Resources and Equity Department

- This funding can be used to hire supports for Indigenous Children and Youth
- We are learning how to best access the use of Jordan's Principle by connecting with other school boards as this is new to process to many administrators and school board

Chair Report - Sara Penny

- [WRDSB Special Education Website Review](#) and [Feedback](#)
 - Breakout Rooms with members continuing to review and discuss updates to the website information. Focus on what is missing.
 - Future meeting we will review the internal staff website under the Special Education page and the resources provided to staff.
- [Trillium Lakelands DSB Letter](#) in Support of Bill 172
 - Reviewed letter and will prepare a reply in support. To be shared at the December meeting.

Trustee Report - Cindy Watson

- Shared the motion that was brought forth at a recent Committee Of the Whole Meeting calling for further public consultation and clarity on how the board intends to identify books to be removed from libraries and classroom libraries in local schools

Round Table Association Reports

1. Roberta Thompson, Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society
 - The Canadian Down Syndrome Society has updated its education resources to an education hub available online (no longer paper format): <https://cdss.ca/resources/education/>.
 - 'Believe with Me' Fundraising Calendars are available for pre-order, our campaign this year has received positive feedback from the likes of People.com, BT Television, and CTV News - we are very proud of Hillary Gauld-Camilleri and her models! Great advocacy happening!

2. Kathy Waybright, Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy

- Ontario Health, in partnership with the [Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health](#) has drafted a quality standard for care for young people who are transitioning from youth to adult health care services. We are hoping for your help in collecting feedback on this draft.
- This quality standard outlines what quality care looks like for young people aged 15 to 24 years who are transitioning from youth to adult health care services based on the best evidence and with input from clinicians and people with lived experience.
- Quality standards are designed to improve care in Ontario and target priority areas in need of improvement. They will help:
 - Patients, residents, families and caregivers know what to discuss about their care with their health care professionals;
 - Health care professionals offer the highest-quality care based on the best available evidence;
 - Health care organizations and professionals measure, reflect on their practice and improve the quality of their care; and
 - Health system planners create the environment for healthcare professionals and organizations to deliver quality care.
- We hope you will provide us with your feedback on the draft transitions from youth to adult health care services quality standard. View the draft quality standard in the online form (links below). The deadline to provide feedback is **November 22, 2021**.
- Click [here](#) to share your feedback in an online form (English version)
- To access the French online form, click [here](#)
- It would be greatly appreciated if you could please share this email within your community, encouraging others to provide feedback.
- We appreciate your time and thoughtfulness in helping us make this helpful for clinicians, young people and their parents and caregivers.
- If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Quality Standards, please email QualityStandards@ontariohealth.ca.

3. Jennifer Checkly - Easter Seals

- A [Memo](#) was sent to school boards regarding health services at school, and the planned review of [Policy/Memorandum 81](#), Provision of Health Care services in School Settings.
 - This PPM was developed in 1984 and together with the [Interministerial Guidelines for the Provision of Speech and Language Services](#) (1988) have been key documents in the provision of nursing and rehabilitation services at school for many years.
 - Easter Seals is excited that the PPM is to be reviewed and will be asking to be one of the stakeholders who participate in the review.
- Next year is Easter Seals Ontario Centennial as the Ontario Society for Crippled Children was founded in 1922.
- Easter Seals Ontario is currently gathering testimonials from donors, volunteers, sponsors, former camp counsellors, past ambassadors, client families and any other types of supporter to help us capture the impact Easter Seals has had on many people's lives. The testimonials will be used within various promotional content to help celebrate and communicate our century-long legacy of making a meaningful difference for kids with physical disabilities and their families.
- We want to know how you became involved with Easter Seals, whether you continue to be involved, and how your involvement impacted you and/or your family.
- Below is the link for the testimonial survey. Please complete the survey and share with anyone else that you think has been impacted by Easter Seals Ontario.
- Link to testimonial form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J9JBPHY>

Date of Next Meeting

The next SEAC meeting date is December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Shannon Tylor, seconded by Jennifer Checkley:

That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.