**Communities 4 Families**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 20, 2024**

**1:30 pm**

**Attendees:** Karen Bryce, Gertrude Hambira, Zebiba Ibrahim, Corrie Monk (staff), Jennifer Neufeld, Ingrid Peters Derry (staff), Barby Sewrjugin (staff), Jess Smith, Fatuma Sufi, Nancy Tovell, Cheri Wright-Kaguah (staff), Gabriela Galli, Cathy Seitz, Anne Sikora

**Regrets**: Cherylann Byard, Kedeen Cummings, Genny Funk-Unrau

**Chairperson:** Zebiba Ibrahim

**Minutes:** Ingrid Peters Derry

1. **Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement**
2. **Consent Agenda** – all approved
* Approval of Agenda
* Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2024
1. **Agency Profile:** Thrive Abecedarian project – Karen Bryce (see attached document for more details)
	* “Abecediarian” – someone who is learning the basics. A program developed as a study in 1972 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
	* It was a comprehensive test of the idea that providing an active learning environment along with warm, responsive caregiving would lead to lifelong learning, health, and positive relationships.
	* The Abecedarian Approach was designed to be incorporated throughout the child’s day using routines and play with a strong emphasis on language.
	* Foundational elements:
		+ Language Priority: Offers an opportunity throughout each part of the day for talking, listening, and learning language.
		+ Conversational Reading: Reading books and other print materials.
		+ Interaction Games: interactively playing to encourage learning through adult-child games.
		+ Enriched Caregiving: Using the daily routines of caregiving to add educational content and social-emotional connection.
		+ For Further Information:
			- 1 hour online free course from Red River <https://secd-sspd.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/SSPD-mod8/home.html>
			- Community of Change Website <https://communityofchange.org/index.html>
			- Book - can be ordered on Amazon.ca *A Primer for the Abecedarian Approach*
			- *The Abecedarian Approach to Healthy Development* by the Abecedarian Education Foundation - Joseph Sparling, Craig Ramey, Kimberly Meunier, and Sharon Landesman Ramey 2022
2. **Budget 2024/25 and 2024/25 grants** – **all approved this budget, including proposal to accept grant applications in spring 2024**

2023-24 Budget column is our approved budget from last year, not actual expenditures (we won't know that until final figures are in).

* We have not heard from the Province yet to confirm our income. This amount from the Province was reduced during Covid and was never replaced.
* Line 9 and 10 (Workshop and Miscellaneous Recoveries) will be rolled up into one line - including all recoveries from workshops ($10), Books 4 Babies, manuals.
* We won't know the amount of deferred revenue until all 2023-24 figures are in.
* Stepping Stones is expecting to raise $1700 in revenue. This shows up as a surplus at the end. Our fees for outside agencies will rise in January (from $65 to $75 per person).
* Our staffing line remains the same as last year. These are approximate figures at this point - allowing some leeway for staff time off without pay and additional contracted hours if needed.
* Last year's budget included printing costs for Books 4 Babies, which we didn't use. We don't anticipate needing printing dollars this year.
* All IT and website costs are rolled up in one with. The contract with Gadgets is larger than in the past. This line included a new computer last year, but not this year.
* Meetings includes some additional costs for meeting space rental as we are meeting more frequently in person.
* Admin line is the amount we pay Klinic for providing banker services for us.
* Grants line balances the budget, so will not be finalized until we have final 2023/24 figures with our deferred revenue amount.
* The increase in the Resource Committee budget line reflects the reality of increased costs of providing training/workshops in person - supplies, space, catering, etc. Bursaries can also be provided out of this line if there are sufficient funds.
* Literacy Line - our grant from Literacy for Life (Winnipeg Foundation) for our Raising the Village project. This shows as income above.
* Social Enterprise (Stepping Stones) - no costs are expected in this line.
* $1700 balance is money that we hope to make through Stepping Stones.

There is some money from past recoveries (deferred savings that does not belong to the Province) that can be used in case we need it to pay staff if we don’t get funding. We could use it for a special project if we wish.

**Grants line** – we normally put out a call for grant applications in April, with a deadline in May and decisions in June. **All agreed that we should continue to provide grants.**

1. **Member Sharing: agency updates and/or emerging issues**

**Question of the day**: Can you share a delightful experience you had at work recently?

**Agency updates:**

**Messengers of Change** – received a grant from C4F last year and were very pleased with the response. During the month of February (Black History month), they had an event with cultural dances and songs. May 23 (Africa Day) more activities will be planned.

**WRHA** – Public Health (downtown East and West). Concern about red measles outbreak. Encouraging full immunization. Follow up with primary care provider to determine if immunizations are up to date. Meningococcal immunizations catchup for children – April 23. Details to come.

**[Thrive Community Support Circle](https://thrivecommunitysupportcircle.com/)**

* Circle of Security training with Thrive ECEs. Karen is doing CoS and has one more space (no spaces drop-in childcare for that remaining).
* Nobody’s Perfect and NP Tween.
* Men’s group – starting April 3 (new facilitator - Steve Peters).
* Anger Management for Women.
* Grief Circle and Women’s Circle (registration required).
* Smudge and Share on Wednesdays.
* Fun Friday (movie or Bingo).
* Free tax clinics – April 2 and 19 (10am – 3pm).
* Outreach on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Mosaic** – finishing family programs before spring break. Mini pow wow ceremonies (dancing and explanation) last week were very popular.Partnerships with IRCOM, CMWI, Seven Oaks online and in person.

**CMWI** – wrapping up programs before spring break. Focus is refugee claimants. Men’s group, and other programs being planned.Free tax clinics.Fundraising event coming.

**Bookmates** – *We Dig Dinosaurs and So Much More* workshop on April 16 in person (9:30 to 12) or online in the evening. (see attachment). Following a child’s interest and providing learning opportunities. There is currently space in both sessions.

**IRCOM** – finishing winter programs and planning for spring programs. Hosting some cultural workshops.

1. **Staff updates**
* **Raising the Village updates** – finishing pilot at Acorn Family Place on April 23. Parents are feeling encouraged as parents and first teachers of their children. Looking for agencies to test the project in the fall.
* **Outdoor Play updates** – updating website and passing on resources for outdoor play. Watch for updates. Cheri is working with parents and staff at Thrive in April. Lunch & Learn on April 11 is about Wiggling and Giggling Outside.
* **Mentoring/training updates** – hoping to track where WGM programs are running through the Level 2 training. Training in February went very well with 18 participants. 14 came to the in-person practical part. Most were from outside downtown – from family rooms in other school divisions.
1. **Committee Updates**
	* **Executive Committee** – budget,
		+ AGM on June 19, probably at WEC. Highlighting “Growing Connections”
		+ meeting schedule, always 3rd Wednesday of each month except July and August. alternate months – regular meeting, M & M and/or tour
		+ Klinic MoU,
		+ space for trainings and training materials.
* **Resource Committee**
	+ *Mindful Munchkins* workshop – sign up. Resources for mental health for young children. Minimum of 10 people **by April 10**. No limit as this is a zoom meeting.
* **Social Enterprise Committee**
	+ Reviewed the past year and the social enterprise model.
	+ Getting some income, hoping to become profitable.
	+ New resources are being developed to revitalize an established program like WGM.
	+ *Outdoor play* is a unique concept for small and urban spaces – will be available online and through custom instruction.
	+ *Stay Afloat* – for agency teams as support - 90-minute session. Hoping to partner with agencies to test the workshop.
	+ Fee review – updated to $30 workshops, $75 for WGM training.
1. **Next Meetings**
	* **April 11@ noon –** Lunch & Learn- *Wiggling & Giggling Outside* (Zoom) [Register here](https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/4fa6dc38-4d29-4bb2-9d3a-12296eaf6f79).
	* **April 17, 2024 @ noon -** Munch & Minglein person (Theme: *Sensory Experiences for Inclusive Programming*). No registration needed.
	* **April 25, 2024 (9:30-11:30 am)** – *Mindful Munchkins* workshop (Zoom). [Register here](https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/e6cb85fc-617c-4123-a534-5e997ef1d8ce) before April 10.
	* **May 15 @ 1:30 regular meeting** – in person at CMWI
	* **May 28, 29, 30** - Wiggle, Giggle & Munch Leader Training (online and in person). [Register here](https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/a37f2316-411d-49c6-b3be-9ed5746b57c7).
	* **June 19 @ 1:30** – Annual General Meeting (details to be confirmed)