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**Children and Youth Subcommittee
River Cree Resort and Conference Center
March 18 & 19th, 2015**

Co-Chairs:

Bruce Iron Shirt, Treaty 7
Coreen Everington, FNIHB

Liaisons:

Helene Wolfe, Treaty 7
Kris Janvier for Nora Alook

Guests:

Carol Schimanke, AANDC
Ann Nipshank, Treaty 6 Confederacy
Sarah Sy, FNIHB
Connie Morin, Kehewin, Observer
Violet McGuinness, C & Y
Dustin Twin, Treaty 8
Charles Wood, Elder, Treaty 6
Emily Vespi, FNIHB
Rose Crowshoe, Elder Treaty 7
Reggie Crowshoe, Elder Treaty 7
Kathy Laforge, Community Health Promotion
Rayann Alvic, Teddy Bear Fares

Subcommittee:

Marcella Schnurr, Treaty 8
Patricia Rain, Treaty 6 – Maskwacis
Parmimder Thiara, FNIHB
Selena Schmidt, FNIHB
Janis Manyheads, Treaty 7
Tamara Elm, FNIHB

HCOM:

Beverly Swampy

Regrets:

Bernadette Sawan, Treaty 8
Nora Alook, Treaty 8
Arleen Thomas, Treaty 6 - YTC
Julia Turner, FNIHB

1. Opening Prayer

Bruce Ironshirt

2. Additions to Agenda

- Select meeting dates for fiscal year

3. Review of Agenda & Minutes

Subcommittee

2015-03-18-#01 Moved by Janis Manyheads, to adopt the minutes for January 21 & 22, 2015, seconded by Marcella Schnurr, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Early Learning and Complex Needs Presentation Carol Schimanke/Tamara Elm

When requests come in for early learning and complex needs they are forwarded to Tamara Elm as well as any potential Jordan's Principles cases. The ages are 4 to 5 and under for specialized services. Nationally the National Child Benefit program was increased and the income support program was reduced. If a child is in a group home there are more supports available as AANDC can cover the costs. AANDC and Non Insured presented to internal management teams to inquire on receiving funding to fill the gaps but since that time have not heard anything back. The issue was also brought to the national office but nothing has changed and no solutions were identified. Within the



Education MOU work has been explored and they are looking at gaps and who can cover the costs. There is not a standardized form for Jordan's Principle in Alberta. There needs to be a formal process. Suggestion: to host a meeting with all the partners and identify options to address the gaps. To date, we are only meeting the needs for 3 children a year but are there other options for supports. **Full presentation sent to subcommittee and attached to meeting summary for reference

Action Item: Presentation on Admin Reform to be included in the next agenda.

Discussion: The province and AANDC previously invited Kimberley Loh to present the history on Jordan's Principle. Previously Mary Berube from the province came to the table to make a presentation but since has resigned. There are 2 separate pieces within Jordan's Principle and the gap in funding. The Jordan's Principle process is trying to ensure that the family is supported. The early intervention funding presented is not Jordan's Principle monies. In Alberta, no cases fall under the Jordan's Principle. The region may want to go back and consult with Co-Management Chiefs before they proceed with the joint meeting. The region is waiting for the Education MOU to identify supports. The team needs to determine whom they would invite to this joint meeting. Some suggestions are: AANDC, Alberta Education, Handicap and Disability, FSCD, NIHB, Human Services, AHS.

Action Item: This can be an agenda item at the next meeting and we can potentially host a joint meeting in June. Funding has been allocated for the next fiscal year, so the status will be will be status quo, the outcome of the meetings can determine next steps.

5. **Community Health Promotion**

Update

GPRC Evaluation: Maskwacis contracted an individual and they forwarded a draft document for the subcommittee to review. FNIHB provided feedback and the CHIP team helped in clarifying some of the items. The contractor will contact former students and Head Start Coordinators.

Action Item: Follow up requested.

TBF Evaluation RFP: YTC is the CA holder and the RFP went through the Subcommittee and there is a request for clarification on how much the subcommittee wants to be a part of the evaluation. The Co-Chairs stated that the subcommittee would only require updates via email on progress.

Saddle Lake Request: Summary of request was presented to the Subcommittee. The subcommittee is not in the position to fund the request at this time as the request is classified as core funding and other Head Start programs are also seeking additional funds. The committee could consider this request if there was additional funds but there are none available.

6. Lunch: 11:50 – 1:00 p.m.

7. **ECD Strategy Update:**

Violet McGuinness/Emily Vespi

A meeting was hosted a few weeks ago and Elders were invited to attend this meeting. At the meeting there were priorities set and themes identified. The initial draft of the ECD Strategy is being presented and we are now requesting direction. The team wants to ensure that the strategy continues and asked have asked the Elders for a blessing at the end of the presentation. This strategy is for the children and is important for the future. The communities that were presented to were: Beaver, Sturgeon Lake, Sucker Creek, Ft. McMurray, Janvier, Ft. McKay, Ft. Chip, Saddle Lake, Frog Lake, Cold Lake, Heart Lake



Beaver Lake, Masckwacis, Keheewin, TCV, Stoney, Siksika, Kainai, and Tsuu T'ina. There are 4 key priorities and principles identified with recommendations under each theme. Suggestion: Recommendations for First Nations and Tribal Councils, this is concept for delivering awareness to community and a lot of the workers who are doing work at that level. Review children programs working at a community level and the tribal council level. Recommendations from the C & Y Subcommittee and FNIHB this seems like the decision process to find experts to deliver. The goal is to have a draft strategy by March 31 for a first review and to be sent out to First Nations to see if this captures everything, once there is feedback there will be a cultural ceremony to launch the strategy and will need to be a dissemination plan and for communities. There has been a request for funding in the amount of \$5k for the cultural ceremony that will happen in April 2015. The draft will be available in the new fiscal year and will ensure they integrate the cultural concept. Subcommittee will do the dissemination and implementation, this project has the potential to be a 5-year strategy and want this to continue. The Co-Management Chiefs will meet and this strategy will be presented to them when C & Y presents their update and further to the AOTC. The validation process is key. Children are gifts of the Creator and suggestion that this be added into the document.

2015-03-18-03 Moved by Marcella Schnurr to support a year end cultural closing ceremony for the ECD Strategy in the amount of \$5000.00 moved by Patricia Rain, all in favor, motion carried.

8. ECD Evaluation Charter Review: Coreen Everington/Parminder Thiara

At previous meeting there was funding allocated for an ECD review and to identify options, at the last meeting there were some options presented such as to initiate community mapping and develop an RFP. A recommendation came forward to develop a project charter for the C/A holder. Below are a few key areas within the charter:

Project Overview: All programs to be included in the review.

Access Piece: does this need to be added? Ensure they are hitting on that.

Service Mapping: very tangible for the scope. If there are 45 First Nations how many do you think should get this? 60% would be good but if there are more communities who want in can come in.

Subcommittee need to determine funding that may be required by the contractor or other items such as Elder representation.

Action Item: Selena Schmidt will draft a sample of the funding and send via email to the committee. Question: Is how much do they want to pay the consultant and how much work is there going to be?

Next steps: Team to revise document and forwarded to Coreen and draft an RFP and forward to the Subcommittee then the to Arlene Thomas. There will also be a letter from the Operations and Support committee that acknowledge the use of OCAP in these strategies.

9. Closing Day 1

4:00 p.m.



10. Opening Day 2

9:00 a.m.

Introductions and Serenity Prayer by all.

11. Teddy Bear Fair Update

Rayann Ulvick

What is the impact on communities in terms of follow up and clinical referral? Final reports are provided to communities within 6 weeks of the referrals. There haven't been any indigenous healers at the fairs but there are stations for Mental Health. The Health Center staff provides Teddy Bear Fair notifications to the communities. Could there be more information with the consent form to provide further information on referrals? Guidelines as to what information could be provided up front. There is no personal information taken from community other than the number of parents and children that are seen. How do you de-stigmatize that your children are being assessed? There some potential work that the subcommittee can do to show that assessments done early prove the benefits. Maybe a brochure can be drafted for parents about the fairs. Letters are sent to the community health directors about the fairs, if there hasn't been a fair in a community and people can contact Rayan at rayann@telus.net. There is no limit to how many children can participate.

12. Break 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

13. ECD Programs Overview

Kathy Laforge/Kelly Saper

It has been identified that there is a high rate of staff turn over in the program and that staff are often sent for training and then go work in other areas. The subcommittee requests that a salary grid be drafted. It was noted that salaries vary form community to community and that there are some staff that have been in the program for many years and have never had an increase in salary. There is also some staff whose salaries are very low. There should be some consistency in salary parity. Regionally, a salary grid could not be dictated but we can find out from the salary levels and what they being paid compare to the province. The team committed to initiating some work with the province in around accreditation.

Action Item: To explore a pay grid, when developing the accreditation piece. Salaries are part of the core funding and when the staff receives the training they often find other employment, as the salaries are not competitive. There is a potential to use BFI to increase salary but the BFI program is distributed based on community priorities.

Example: One community did use that option, however the program changed and cuts had to be made. It also depends where Head Start is under in each community as some fall under Education. How many communities have the Head Start Program and where do they fall under? Is it Education or Health?

Action Item: In the evaluation determine where the programs are structured and what are the benefits of each. Eventually the C & Y Subcommittee to work and explore different opportunities.

14. Dates for new fiscal year:

- June 3 & 4th
- October 1 & 2
- January 19th & 20th
- March 8 & 9th

15. Lunch and Closing

12:10 p.m.