

LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

~ Thursday, December 14, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. at Employment Transitions -jobPath Sarnia~

Present:	Chris King, Community Living, Sarnia Lambton Jennifer Howell, Autism Ontario – West Region Lori Richardson, Lambton County Development Services Lisa Veenendaal, Community Integration through Cooperative Education – Lambton College Lori Marvin, St. Clair Child & Youth Services Judy Dawson, Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent Sarah Simmons, LINCK Child, Youth & Family Services Melanie Coll, Pathways Health Centre for Children Wendy Smith, Community Living, Wallaceburg Trevor Aldous, Member-at-Large Mackenzie Horner, Vice-Principal, L-K Secondary Administrators’ Rep. Caley Evans, Principal, L-K Elementary Administrators’ Rep.	
Regrets:	Kelley Robertson, Lambton Kent District School Board Trustee Malinda Little, Lambton Kent District School Board Trustee Melani Rich, Autism Ontario – West Region Vicki Ware, Four First Nation Education Authority Representative Steve Stokley, Community Living, Chatham-Kent Gillian Hueniken, Children’s Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Michelle Holbrook, Rebound: A Program for Youth Carrielyn Smith, System Coordinator LKDSB Cori Savo, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Heather Touzin, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Secondary Emily Colvin, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator – Secondary	
Resource Staff:	Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education Jeff Brosh, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Emma Blundy, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Tara Mitchell, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Ryan Spencer, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Dawn Hyatt, Student Support Services/Well-Being Coordinator - Elementary Mary-Ann Tuer, Recording Secretary	
Guests:	Katie Colameco, Supervisor of Social Work/Mental Health Leader LKDSB Evan Dawe, Employment Transitions Heather Allen, Employment Transitions Corry Thomas, Community Living Sarnia Lambton Jennifer Howell, Pathways Health Care for Children	
Agenda Item	Details/Discussion	Action Items
Call to Order, Territorial Acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris King called the meeting to order</li> <li>Chris King introduced Community Living Director, Corry Thomas</li> <li>Tara Mitchell recited the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment</li> </ul>	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melanie Coll Moved, Lori Richardson Seconded <i>“That the Agenda be approved”</i>; All in favour</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Veenandal Moved, Melanie Coll Seconded <i>“That the Minutes of November 16, 2023, be approved”</i>; All in favour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary-Ann Tuer</li> </ul>
Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no business arising from the Minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting</li> </ul>	
Presentation - LKDSB’s Coaching for Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent Barrese introduced LKDSB Mental Health Lead – Katie Colameco</li> <li>Katie Colameco, Mental Health Leader/Supervisor of Social Work, shared with SEAC members the current delivery model for LKDSB Mental Health and Well-being supports.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie gave an overview of new Grade 7 and 8 Mental Health Literacy Modules, which are new mandatory curriculum provided by the Ministry of Education in consultation with School Mental Health Ontario.</li> <li>• This curriculum is intended to educate students about mental health, encourage help-seeking behaviour, and reduce stigma associated with mental health.</li> <li>• Students across Ontario provided information to the Ministry indicating they want to learn about this in the classroom setting with their peers.</li> <li>• Katie highlighted the newest LKDSB curriculum, the Mind Up! program that equips students, educators and families with mental fitness tools that build greater emotional literacy and improve resilience to face challenges with optimism, strength, and compassion. This program is currently being piloted in schools that expressed interest, with the plan to move to full implementation in the following school year.</li> </ul>	
Presentation – Employment Transitions / jobPath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris King introduced Community Living’s Employment Transitions /jobPath Manager Evan Dawe and Coordinator Heather Allen</li> <li>• Evan and Heather gave an overview of the jobPath program, which helps work-ready individuals in the community with a disability gain the skills to obtain employment and supports job seekers who have not found success on their own.</li> <li>• jobPath is a six-week readiness program that runs four times a year, working on goal setting, conflict resolution, time management, customer service and interview preparation.</li> <li>• Evan and Heather spoke about the Employment Transitions program, which partners employers in the community with employees in the job path program, enabling anyone with a disability or significant employment challenge the opportunity to earn a competitive wage and raise their quality of life. This often includes a job coach who can help alleviate the employer's time and ensure new employees learn their jobs effectively, in turn setting the employee up for success.</li> </ul>	
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education Meeting Highlights were shared with the committee.</li> <li>• Superintendent Barrese said this is an ongoing document highlighting our meeting discussions. This connects the Ministry with organizations that represent families and students.</li> <li>• Chris King addressed that the Ministry funds a Human Rights Equity Advisor in 18 other boards, questioning why not all boards are provided funding for this position.</li> <li>• Superintendent Barrese said that this continues to be an underfunded portfolio in all boards across the province and that there is persistent advocacy for the position.</li> <li>• Chris King recommended that the committee write a letter supporting this position.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary-Ann Tuer</li> </ul>
Motion to write a letter of support - Human Rights Equity Advisor	Trevor Aldous Moved, Lori Marvin Seconded “That the committee write a letter inquiring about accessing funding as there are many equity deserving boards in the province”. All in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary-Ann Tuer</li> </ul>
Association Reports and Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Howell – Autism Ontario will be hosting Rad Dads on December 18th from 7:30-9:00, allowing dads, male caregivers, and transgender/non-binary folk to socialize, and share experiences; Ausome Moms, December 21 7:30-9:00 for moms, female caregivers, and transgender/non-binary folks to socialize, and share experiences; World Autism Day April 2, 24; Flags are available for purchase \$25; School giving challenge, winner gets a pizza party; Caring for the Caregiver Day Virtual Workshop for parents and families of autistic children, youth, and adults, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m.</li> <li>• Wendy Smith - Community Living Wallaceburg has joined with local restaurants in the Wallaceburg Area for Dine to Donate CK. Nov 27 – Dec 1. This helped raise funds for CL Wallaceburg – photos to come; Donations of 170 pairs of socks were collected at the Wallaceburg Santa Clause parade on Nov 18; Dec 6 was the annual Peppermint Christmas party at the UAW Hall with dinner from the Black Goose.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie Coll said the Pathways Sarnia Office will be closed from December 25, 23 – to Monday, January 8, 24; Heat is back up and running.</li> <li>• Lisa Veenendaal, Community Integration through Cooperative Education – Lambton College – Feb 20, 10-2 is CICE Day; school partners are encouraged to bring their classes to learn about the program, representation from teachers, pediatricians, psycho-ed assessors, etc; registration link to come.</li> <li>• Chris King shared the Employment Transitions report and the AGM Report with an overview of their successes; Chris highlighted the Observer article on John Hagens retirement; CL had two award recipients at the Accessibility Awards; Michelle Taeye - Outstanding Customer Service in a Social Service Sector and John Hagens – Trailblazer Award</li> </ul>	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. – Wallaceburg District Secondary School – Rm 269</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie Coll moved, and Lori Richardson seconded, “That the meeting be adjourned”; All in favour; the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.</li> </ul>	