**Notes from Skype Meeting – Ridge Meadows Community Children’s Table – March 25. 2020**

**Present:** Melanie Scarcella (SD 42), Christina Sharme (CN Co-ordinator), Jenny Earley (Family Ed, chair), Annette Greaves (MCFD-CYMH), Nikki Nevison (Family Ed), Natalie Binns (Community Navigator), Ginna Berg (FRIS), Shawn Matthewson (RMCDC), Jo-Anne White (Community Services), Kristy Rogge (Community Services), Wendy Blaine (RMACL), Susan Foster (MCFD – Early Years; co-chair and notes)

***Jenny acknowledged that we usually gather on the unceded territories of the Katzie and Kwantlen people and expressed gratitude for today’s meeting taking place there, and also on other Coast Salish lands depending on our physical locations today.***

**Agency Updates:**

**CN Network**: Christina is continuing to send out the weekly newsletter. Lately it has been a lot of announcements about cancellations. Network meetings will be held in April on a virtual platform. Details to come.

**Fraser River Indigenous Society**: they are very focused on helping folks who have challenges with housing, resources etc. Putting together food and care packages; using emergency funds; working with Salvation Army as well. May have need of volunteers. Working to connect with isolated elders.

**Family Education and Support Society:** skeleton staff in office; busy looking at alternate programming options; United Way has asked them to shift the focus of their Schools Out program to focus on basic needs at this time; staff are working remotely; lots of resilience; Niki is doing some conflict resolution workshops next week on Zoom, which will be a good test for online learning; she is looking at adapting various parenting workshops

**Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Services:** Jo-Anne talked about the Community Parenting Program – biggest challenge for many of the families is trying to access the EI platform online, as it keeps crashing; Family Place is currently closed and next steps will be announced on April 14th; Jo-Anne has been posting videos and ideas on facebook and is being selective and mindful, so as to not overwhelm parents; currently CCRR staff are all working remotely; no one is at the office; all workshops are on hold and they are looking at online options to reschedule them; Kristy said that CCRR is collecting a list of child care centres that are actually open – this list should be ready by March 26; Kristy is focusing on vulnerable populations, especially seniors – may also need some volunteers to help seniors

**School District 42**: they have not received any direction yet as to what will happen post-Spring Break; most likely remote learning will be set up; Melanie talked about the importance of social-emotional connections for students with their teachers; things will look quite different in the fall when school starts for next school year, depending on if schools now close for the rest of the school year

**Family Navigator:** Natalie is doing lots on Facebook; hosted a watch party for the Library storytime in Port Moody; also posting on Instagram

**Ridge Meadows Child Development Centre:** site is closed; no home or centre visits presently; Shawn says they are working on setting up a virtual health platform that meets all their required standards; working on policy development – hope to have it operational within 1 week. This will allow therapists to work with kids and so assessments and consults, as well as other activities like yoga etc. They are also looking at planning for the 129 children that will be transitioning into Kindergarten in September

**Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living:** have virtual options available for connecting with families; supporting centres that are closing (SCD); lots of outreach by staff; staff also doing some personal development; Story Blanket (ASCD) – looking at developing a video to keep this going; Wendy is wondering what will happen for children who will be needing expanded SCD support (e.g. the full school day), now that school is not open (waiting for some direction from MCFD)

**MCFD – CYMH –** the office is open with limited staffing; most meetings are happening via Skype; some face-to-face for those really needing that; have moved intake model to a phone assessment, instead of in-person- still doing these on Thursdays

**MCFD – Early Years –** team is working to support early years tables and service providers; collecting info to share within MCFD as well, as to what is happening in the community and also things like food security; will be hosting weekly skype meetings for each table and also a bi-weekly North Fraser meeting for whoever is interested and wants to share across communities

**Other Items:**

* Jenny gave an update on the Child Care centre that they are in the process of establishing at the old Whonnock Elementary school site – this is slated to open on July 1st for school aged children and September for the other levels of child care
* Concerns were expressed about resources for families whose children have Autism during this crisis
* Christina shared with the group that Brenna Ayliffe is working on organizing a Town Hall to discuss responses in Maple Ridge – details will be shared through the CN once they are available
* Susan mentioned that Brenna has put together a summary on Food Security that is excellent – Christina will send this out with the CN newsletter tomorrow
* Susan brought up the idea of having a dropbox for agencies to put documents in for activities for families – this would be available for agencies to download items to share with families and would ensure that we are not bombarding them with too many things at once; Christina volunteered to work on this with Susan
* Reminder to keep Pathways and 211 updated about agency closures/operations
* Reminder that North Fraser Meeting is happening next week on Tuesday morning at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Susan if you did not receive an invitation ([Susan.Foster@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Susan.Foster@gov.bc.ca)) – Susan has been working on getting a proper distribution list organized and may have missed people by accident

**Next Meeting: April 1st @ 1:00 p.m. via Skype**