

PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

January 15, 2024

Present: Ingrid Kusnierczyk, Co-Chair (VCH – Vancouver), Susan Stacey, Co-Chair / minutes (Island Region – Cowichan), Anna Matthews (FHA – Abbotsford), Kathy Burton, (FHA – Surrey), Jennifer Persello (IHA – Kamloops), Shelly Boardman (Island Health – Victoria), Regina Tworow (NHA – Northwest CCD in Bulkley Valley), Kerstin Swanson (NHA- Prince Rupert), Mimi Simon (VCH- Vancouver).

Regrets: Kate Evans, MCFD (Manager, Inclusion Policy), Pat Hamilton (NHA – Prince George), Mary Glasgow-Brown – CAOT-BC (also works in FHA), Samantha Jenkins (PHSA), Keith O'Connor (PHSA acute), Suzanne Lauzon (IHA – Kelowna).

Chair: Ingrid

Recorder: Susan

1. **Land Acknowledgement:** Jennifer Persello shared her appreciation and honoured the opportunity to work, live and play upon the unceded lands in the Kamloops area.
2. **Agenda:** adopted as circulated
3. **Minutes:** October minutes were adopted as circulated. Will be posted on the BCACDI website.
4. **Business Arising:**
 - a. **Paediatric Update Symposium:** Working Group was struck at the November 2023 joint PT/OT Council meeting. Volunteers were Stacey Miller, Mary Glasgow Brown, Andrea Soo and Val Poirier. No update to share. Shelly will connect with Val, who is at her Centre, and offer to assist if another OT Council member would be beneficial. **Action:** Shelly to connect with Val and Anna to connect with Mary for an update at the February POTC meeting.
 - b. **FCC Update:** **MCFD** provided an update via email indicating that all FCCs are now up and operational, with MCFD continuing to support as issues arise. **POTC members**, Regina and Kerstin, also shared updates, with both reporting their FCCs are up and running. An area of challenge still being addressed at both sites is the electronic medical records system. An unforeseen benefit is that at the Northwest CDC some youth are initiating contact/ seeking services for themselves, e.g. seeking an ASD assessment. Discussion included how **School-Aged Therapy** services were being delivered in communities with FCCs. [For context: SAT funding and employers varies widely across the Province; SAT is the foundational/ core PT/OT service provided to children age 5 to 19; a previous review indicated most communities have one therapist delivering the full range of SAT supports, the majority in school settings and without distinction as to whether the task was 'home/community' or 'school-based'].

In Rupert the school OT had been delivering all SAT services, with .3 FTE funded by MCFD and .7 by the SD. The FCC OT now delivers the .3 FTE SAT OT supports funded by MCFD and the SD increased their .7 FTE OT funding to full time so their OT would continue in their position. Roles between the FCC SAT and SD SAT support is still being sorted out, eg would coordination / support for the equipment provided in collaboration with Sunny Hill's Positioning and Mobility team be supported by the FCC or School therapist? Would it depend on percentage of time equipment is used in each environment? Typically the SAT therapist supports all equipment, even that used at home, and there is no differentiation between which tasks would fall under which funding source (eg MCFD, Education, Health). In Smithers, their CDC had previously subcontracted with the SD and they have now taken on the aspects of SAT that are not 'school-based'. Another change in Rupert was a change in union, e.g. the OT position had been within the Health Authority and under HSA C.A. but now within the FCC, under BCGEU – Community Services C.A.; although the wage/level was honoured, the benefits are not as good.

There was consensus that it is hoped there is clear and transparent communication and Inter-Ministerial coordination around supports and services for school-aged children. School-Aged Therapy was the only original 1989 Inter-Ministerial Protocol Agreement for Provision of Support Services in schools that was not updated / refreshed in 2013. Susan and Ingrid have raised that issue at the Workforce Collaboration meetings they have attended on behalf of the POTC group. At the October 2023 POTC meeting the MCFD representatives reported there is regular communication between MCFD, Health and Education and that MCFD can be the voice to amplify concerns to other Ministries.

Discussion included: original intent of FCC was to roll in autism funding. Families now have the choice of continuing with private services or those through FCC. The FCC staff field many questions from parents of children with ASD, eg if they can still have 20% of their autism funding for equipment but access the FCC for therapies? Also reported was that a CYSN social worker is no longer assigned unless the needs are determined to be in the 'significant range'. Instead a child with ASD might have a family support worker, who can help them navigate through both the pre-autism diagnosis process.

Discussion regarding the benefit of an integrated model. Ideally there would be wide net of public services that support all children, regardless of medical diagnosis.

5. Ministry Engagement opportunities

- a. CYSN – there are a number of engagement initiatives for input/ feedback. Deadline for submissions and/or surveys for the initiative below is December 1, 2024:
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/children-youth-support-needs/how-were-engaging-with-you/>
- b. Workforce Collaboration – were to meet in January but deferred to Spring.
- c. Allied Health review. Reportedly done by Ministry of Health. Most paediatric therapies/ services are provided through MCFD, including OT, PT, SLP, Behaviour Consultation. Timeline for review may have been aligned with change in College structure.
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/conducting-health-research/ahpswhat_we_heard_report.pdf
- d. Provincial Paediatric Education Framework, Child Health BC. Appears to have included very limited input from therapists.
<https://ext-qiga.bcchr.ca/redcap/plugins/surveys/?s=NRKTYANJNHYTPK8>

6. New Provincial Outreach Program. School Outreach is hosted by North Vancouver School District. <https://sow.technomagicalcreatives.com> This new program may have been triggered by the Representative for Children and Youth report and is initially to support rural and remote communities where there are unfilled vacancies, eg school psychology, SLP, OT, PT. This program is different than Inclusion Outreach, which is hosted by SD 61 and supports families and school teams in providing meaningful and inclusive programs for students with multiple and complex disabilities.
7. Rehab Assistants: discussion regarding the new COTBC Practice Standards for Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants, job descriptions for assistants, how to assign work, etc.
8. Other: Anna Matthews will be going on maternity leave in 6 weeks and Tessa Webb will be replacing her on the POTC. Kerstin will be transitioning to the Smithers FCC. Rupert will have a Centre for Ability OT supporting that FCC.
9. Next meeting. Monday February 26th (note change from 3rd to 4th Monday to accommodate Family Day). April 15th will be a joint PT/ OT Council meeting and then POTC on June 17th.