

Minutes FOR PPCBC TELECONFERENCE

DATE: Sept. 18, 2024

Chair: Val Poirier

Present: Val (chair), Sally (minutes), Robyn Holmgren, Kate Evans (MCFD), Estera Hazlewood, Stacey Miller, Fabiola Toyata, Julie Leswal (for Beth Ott), Patricia Lee

1. Land Acknowledgement – by Estera

2. Meeting Minutes Recorder - Sally

3. Previous meeting minutes (March 6, 2024) – As the minutes had just been sent out the previous day and many members were absent, decision to approve minutes by email.

4. MCFD Update (Kate Evans) -

a. Evaluation of FCCs

“SPARK” evaluating impacts and outcomes of FCC pilots – they have been doing surveys- The evaluation is of the full process from procurement to outcomes. There will be a preliminary evaluation coming out in January 2025 and a final report March 2025. Kate was not sure if preliminary report will be available to public but believes that the final report will be. **ACTION: Kate to find out if we will have access to report.**

- Kate is at “arm’s length” on this process so cannot fully explain how they are reviewing things. Executive leadership developed evaluation framework with private agency. Kate suggested she could put it forward that SPARK interview/speak with some members of this PPCBC, needs to be soon due to time frame, can’t wait until next Council meeting in 3-4 months. There was interest from council. **ACTION: Kate to contact Spark to set this up, members interested in participating to contact Kate.**
- Comments and questions about how evaluation of project is going to occur: Stacey noted that it is difficult/?impossible to evaluate and compare with what was happening before when there are no metrics about what was happening before. Interviews and surveys are just one method for evaluation. Kate said the evaluation is multi-pronged but also has limitations – it is not “all-encompassing” – everyone won’t be satisfied.
- Question about when decision about whether or not pilot project will expand to full province. For the month before election the government ministries go into “*interregnum*” which is a sort of “caretaking mode” and no decisions or actions that will appear to be political or siding with one party over another can occur. After the election, if there is a change in government or a minority government, it can take a while to get cabinet in place. So, that may slow some things down.
- Northern FCC’s and School Age Therapists- there has been energy put into clarifying the roles and responsibilities of FCC and SAT therapists. The document is still going past the executive at FCC’s and then will be completed. The purpose is to delineate roles. Kate said it is region specific – although it might be helpful for other regions to see. **ACTION: Can we have access to this document?**

- b. Kate shared that pediatric outreach with BCCFA is now getting up and running – they should be out and seeing clients by October/November.

Minutes FOR PPCBC TELECONFERENCE

DATE: Sept. 18, 2024

c. AHP

Kate shared that there will be some updates in wording to improve clarity of the AHP documentation related to accessing medical and respite benefits. This will not change practice or access and does not affect eligibility. **ACTION: Kate offered to send memo with the update of what the changes are.**

d. ASD funding/ AHP funding

RASP (Registered Autism Service Providers)/non-RASP provider list – there is an ongoing issue with some therapists who have been on the list now getting denied. Kate shared the list was recently updated. It goes along with EIT contracts – so for example – “Island Health” has the contract with MCFD, and therefore people working at “QA” may have been removed from list even though they should not have been, due to not knowing that “QA” is part of “Island Health”. One solution is to reply to denial/decline and provide the information about what contract with whom you are working under. Potentially could consider reaching out to MCFD to provide why you should be on the non-RASP provider list?

- There are more children with ASD who are now getting on the At Home Program and this means more strollers, more equipment and more need for School age therapists to be involved. Impact is that there is more work but there are not more therapy positions. Further to this increase in children with ASD who meet the At Home eligibility, Val pointed out that mobility continues to not be recognized as a criteria for AHP eligibility – such that some children with mobility issues who need wheelchair/botox/braces – but who can dress and feed themselves unfairly do not qualify for At Home Program.
- Robyn has had families request that the fact that child has ASD funding or At Home funding not be included in some referrals as the family feels that private service providers increase charges when they know that there is this extra funding.
- There is a big disconnect between AHP and ASD funding – Is the plan to have these align in the future? Estera questioned whether there had been considerations of making ASD funding and At Home funding more similar – e.g. travel is covered by one but not the other. Kate imagined a gathering when we could do some “problem solving” during our meetings – imagining how things could be better? No promise for change but it could help inform change?

5. Provincial Updates

e. Andrea Soo, PABC – none

f. Stacey Miller, BCCH – The clinics at BC Children’s started with a new EMR (Electronic medical records). Therapists outside of BC Children’s will not have been “carried over” to the new system and probably need to connect with transcription services to be added. Transcription services will ask for your name, birth date, business address, and your college ID. Of note, if you do not get added to system you will stop getting reports. **ACTION: Stacey will send out directions on what people need to do.**

Minutes FOR PPCBC TELECONFERENCE

DATE: Sept. 18, 2024

Patricia asked about CareConnect and “Excelerex”(sp?) – This is one way that Patricia has been able to access reports - this is only available for those who work in a health authority.

Estera was wondering about the idea of having two work email addresses when one has two different positions – to maintain confidentiality – no one was sure. Question for transcription services?

- g. Private practice pediatric physiotherapy list** – BC Children’s therapists like having it. How often will we update it? Plan to update every 2 years, with each rep checking in with private PTs in their region. Of note, to reduce the amount of work involved in updating the list, it was suggested to send clear email that “IF you do not reply by this date, you will be removed from the list” **ACTION: Val will add timeline of documents that need regular updating to agenda for each meeting (member list and distribution list – yearly?, private PT list – 2 years, TOR – 5 years)**
- h. Diane Wickenheiser, SHHC. N/A

6. Business Arising

- a. FCC: Questions for Kate: How (and by whom) is “success” of the FCC model and other outcomes defined and measured?

Val reported that after last meeting she received lots of input about FCCs – invited Regina and another from Smithers – they were keen to attend meeting and give feedback but could not attend today – next PT meeting is typically in March. – but, maybe even earlier if we do it for OT/PT meeting in November. Those present agreed that this would be good. **ACTION: Invite**

- b. **AHP medical benefits, CMEDS equipment** – therapists continue to want clarification/definition of what is “medically” necessary.
- Robyn shared: infant who needs supportive seating and they wanted Panda on high/low base, but there is no w/c or stroller and she is fine in commercial stroller. At Home won’t support it under seating, they will put it in positioning funding which has less funding available, should be covered under seating portion. Solution is get them a stroller resulting in spending more At Home money. Unfortunate “makes no sense” but it will work.
- Pacer walker – swing seat – in old one does not work. = but the new walker seating support is different and more supportive – and At Home says no it’s not different.

Minutes FOR PPCBC TELECONFERENCE

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- At Home is not keeping up with new equipment and their approval is not keeping up with what we are using with children.
- Inconsistent response time – right away about availability – sometimes it is a very long delay and need to follow up and “hound” them. Why is this??

c. Peds Symposium survey:

168 completed: 82 OTs, 65 PTs, 19 SLPs, or other 2 blanks

Do you want Symposium: 137 yes continue, 1 said No, 22 unsure

ACTION: Stacey offered to provide summary of survey – at next joint OT/PT meeting

7. New Business

- a. Estera seeing funding from MCFD for other services – such as Family support and Infant development – but not therapies – wondering about other regions?
 - Robyn also seeing family support increase. They did get a full time physio position in the last year or two
 - Fabiola’s area got therapy assistant funding – otherwise still at 1992 funding level
 - Sally’s program was offered therapy assistant – but, MCFD still not covering costs of therapies – Interior Health is buying it up... so did not add therapy assistant
 - Trish saw increase in SLP EI services
 - Val reports that OT and SLP increased last year and IDP increased this year with the increased finding from the ministry (90 positions province wide).
- b. Also discussion of new Canadians coming with children with complex medical needs with few supports, language challenges – difficulty to get referrals to other providers/ At Home program due to not having a family doctor. Some areas find the therapists end up supporting families and that adds to demands.
 - Val did share that Victoria has “intercultural workers” that assist families

Future meetings – typically Sept and March – for PT. Suggestion to change to October and March since September can be crazy for school therapists.

Next PT meeting – March 12 and Oct 8, 2025. Val will send invites.

Next OT/PT meeting – November 27, 2024. Following meetings to be determined at the next joint OT/PT meeting. OT/PT joint is typically in Nov/ April

Meeting adjourned 4:33 PT/. 5:33 MT/. 7:33 ET

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Vancouver Coastal

1. Beth Ott beth.ott@vch.ca
2. Trish Lee patricia.lee2@vch.ca

Northern

1. Fabiola Toyata fabiolat@cdcp.org
2. TBD

Fraser

1. Robyn Holmgren (Fraser North) rholmgren@fvdc.org
2. Rowan Kimball (South Fraser) Rowan@the-centre.org

Interior

1. Estera Hazlewood Ehazlewood@shuswapchildrens.ca
2. Sally Woodard (East Kootenays) Sally.Woodard@interiorhealth.ca
3. Kim Carter (West Kootenays) kimc@kootenaykids.ca

Vancouver Island

1. Valerie Poirier (South Island) Valerie.Poirier@islandhealth.ca
2. Tami Hirasawa (Central Island) tami@nanaimocdc.com

Provincial

1. Diane Wickenheiser (SHHC) dwickenheiser@cw.bc.ca
2. Stacey Miller (BCCH) smiller4@cw.bc.ca
3. Andrea Soo (PABC) Andrea.Soo@bc-cfa.org

MCFD

1. Kate Evans Kathaleen.Evans@gov.bc.ca