

PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MEETING

FINAL MINUTES

January 16, 2023

Present: Ingrid Kusnierczyk, Co-Chair (VCH – Vancouver), Susan Stacey, Co-Chair / minutes (VIHA – Cowichan), Anna Matthews (FHA – Abbotsford), Edith MacHattie, (FHA – Surrey), Jennifer Persello (IHA – Kamloops), Samantha Jenkins (PHSA), Keith O’Connor (PHSA – BCCH acute), Nicole Nybo (VCH – Vancouver), , Shelly Boardman (VIHA – Victoria), Pat Hamilton (NHA – Prince George), Kersten Swanson (NHA- Prince Rupert), Regina Tworow (NHA – Northwest CCD in Bulkley Valley), Kate Evans – MCFD, Colleen Hobson – MCFD, Mary Glasgow-Brown – CAOT-BC

Regrets: Suzanne Lauzon (IHA – Kelowna)

Chair: Ingrid

Recorder: Susan

Each member expressed their deep appreciation for the land upon which they work, live and play, acknowledging those lands are unceded territories of the First Nation(s) of their local communities.

1. **Agenda.** No additions.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes from November 2022 joint PT and OT Council meetings adopted as circulated.
3. **MCFD Update.**
 - a. **FCC Update:** Kate Evans shared a power point presentation on Future State. The FCC Pilot areas were awarded:
 - i. Kelowna – ARC Programs
 - ii. Terrace/ Kitimat: Terrance CDC
 - iii. Prince Rupert/ Haida Gwaii: North Coast Community Services
 - iv. Bulkley Valley/ Stikine: Northwest CDCFCCs will open in Spring 2023; some are further ahead than others so start dates may vary.
 - b. **At Home Benefits.**
 - i. Current At Home Medical Benefits include: Mobility/ adaptive equipment, biomedical, medical supplies, travel, audiology equipment/supplies, dental/orthodontic as well as School-Aged Extended Therapies, Respite and access to Pharmasave Plan F.
 - ii. The assessment and eligibility criteria will change; current assessment process involves Nursing Support Services conducting an assessment and client is dependent or close to dependent in 3 of 4 areas (dressing, feeding, toileting, bathing); new assessment process will be ‘equipment/ supply-based need’, which will be assessed through a different process.
 - iii. **Three new buckets.**
 1. Mobility and Adaptive Equipment: GMFCS will be used; must be completed by OT/ PT and usually at the FCC; eligibility for GMFCS 3, 4 or 5. **Questions:** is the GMFCS valid for clients who do not have CP? How will the eligibility of other clients be determined, eg those who have a prolonged disability and significant equipment and/or therapy needs but do not have CP (see response below).

2. Biomedical and Related Supplies: needs attestation from a health care provider.
3. Medical Benefits: travel; client has a prolonged disability. **Question:** definition of 'prolonged'.

Specialized Provincial Services (SPS):

- o confirmation of eligibility based on assessment and equipment justification letter; adjudicates requests for equipment and supplies
- o SPS adjudicates M&A equipment based on GMFCS
- o SPS confirms eligibility for biomedical equipment/ supplies and health benefits and adjudicates the benefit

Reassessment:

1. In pilot areas families can request a review of eligibility for the At Home Program. Question: will there be specific timelines for periodic reassessment to determine if client still eligible? For clients assessed during COVID, eligibility was reportedly relaxed. Will those children/ youth be reassessed to determine ongoing eligibility? If so, who will do the reassessments and will they be in person (versus remote)?

Additional Questions/ Information:

- o **There has been a pause on the Provincial roll-out of FCCs**
- o **The previous questions from the PT/OT councils regarding the FCCs and At Home Program will be reviewed and Kate and Colleen to send responses.**
- o Incontinence supplies: What 'bucket' does this fall under and will OTs continue to be able to request incontinence supplies. Kate to check.
- o Children and youth currently on the AHP automatically transfer to the FCC and will be reassessed in the first year. Will the adjudication process be streamlined?
- o MCFD have been working with CanChild/ McMaster re: GMFCS for the purpose of determining eligibility and a statement will be sent out by Kristen Chan.
- o PEDI-CAT will help inform functional level. Discussion re: clients with Trisomy 21 or diagnosis of CP but GMFCS level 2 or with a hemiplegia who may no longer meet criteria for AHP but may need mobility aids such as walkers or wheelchairs, orthotics, etc.
- o The Vineland may also be used to determine disability eligibility; can use results if one has already been completed, eg by school psychologist

School-Aged Extended Therapies:

- o Details still be finalized but goal is to give families as much choice as possible but within certain parameters.
- o Question – can families choose SAET if using the FCC services? Will children with a diagnosis of ASD who have previously been deemed eligible for the AHP SAET benefit continue to be able to access both the Autism and SAET benefits?

4. Business arising.

- a. Minutes: discussion regarding options to share/ post. Consensus was to post adopted minutes on the BCACDI sharepoint (versus Google Drive).
- b. Terms of Reference: adopted as circulated. Updated TOR to be posted on the BCACDI Sharepoint.
- c. Membership: Keith and Sam to share role for BCCH rep.

- d. There are postings for PT and OT at BCCH and SHHC so may have some changes
- e. Ivonne Montgomery can be contacted by a community therapist regarding clinic contacts and/or mentorship or practice questions.
- f. **HUBs**: No updates regarding SHHC or BCCH acting as resource/ mentors/ trainers for the FCC hubs. Also, discussion regarding public versus private / for-profit agencies; Starbright was not the successful bid for Kelowna and will no longer hold the MCFD contract for EIT

5. **CAOT-BC.** Mary Glasgow-Brown

- Most of the focus has been on the transition to the FCCs; CAOT-BC has been involved in some of the discussions with MCFD and advocacy groups and the voice of the clinician is being represented. Also discussion regarding public versus private practice, clinical versus business or union.

6. **AOB/ Courses/ Workshops/ Professional Development**

- a. **Transition to FCC**: to be a standing item on agenda
- b. **SOS** is coming to Vancouver in March 2023
- c. **Social Thinking** – check website
- d. **Kim Barthell** – many opportunities on her website for learning events
- e. **Paediatric Update Symposium** – deadline for proposals is Feb 10th. Will be June 2 and 3rd in Vancouver.
- f. **School-Aged Therapy SIG** – Ingrid to confirm next meeting date and topic as previous one had been cancelled.

7. **Next Meetings.** Next meeting is Feb 27th as Feb 20th is Family Day. Following meeting is combined PT/OT Council, with PT Council to host. Ingrid to clarify date/ day as PT council may be on Wednesdays. POTC meeting will be June