

# Minutes of the Community Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 \* 6:30 pm-8:30pm

Virtual MS TEAMS Meeting

**PRESENT:**     **Community Members:** Leroy Clarke, Raphael Francis, Renee Whittaker, Karen Chen, Sandra Forsythe, Veralyn Alleyne (co-Chair)  
                   **Board Members:**         Gabrielle Provencher, Robert Royer  
                   **Staff Members:**         Steve Woodman, Dawn Walcott-Parris, Jaihun Sahak (co-chair), Cheryl Green (recorder), Trecia Facey (guest), Margaret Parsons (guest)

Item	Item Discussion	Action / Decisions	Responsibility
1.	<b>Welcome: Land Acknowledgement &amp; CAC Statement</b> The meeting commenced at 6:34pm. Quorum was met. The Land Acknowledgement was read by Jaihun. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) Statement was read by Sandra.		
2.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> The agenda was reviewed and approved by attendees.	Decision to approve the agenda of June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021. MOTIONED by Dawn Walcott-Parris and SECONDED by Raphael Francis. CARRIED	
3.	<b>Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b> There were no declarations of conflict of interest.		
4.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 8<sup>th</sup> minutes, page #3, agenda item #7: Change sentence to state ‘SOS includes a Family Network Conference.</li> <li>• May 10<sup>th</sup> minutes, page #2, agenda item #6: Change sentence to state ‘The project was narrowed to focus on overrepresentation of black and indigenous children in child welfare’ from ‘The project was narrowed to focus on overrepresentation of black, indigenous and new immigrant children in child welfare’.</li> </ul>	Decision to approve the minutes of March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (with the change), April 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (as is) and May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (with the change). MOTIONED by Karen Chen and SECONDED by Renee Whittaker. CARRIED	

<p><b>5. Child Welfare Reform</b></p> <p>Child Welfare Pilot Project Steering Committee is in process of hiring Margaret Parsons as Lead Facilitator and Coordinator to lead the work for the project proposal. Margaret Parsons is a Human Rights lawyer and a diversity/equity and inclusion consultant. Margaret has met with the Steering Committee and Jaihun to outline a roadmap and identify key and priority pieces for the project as there is a tight turnaround for the deadline (August 31<sup>st</sup>). Priority pieces include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formulate agendas and facilitate Steering Committee meetings</li><li>• Research and analysis; requires data from the Durham Children’s Aid Society (DCAS) from the past 5 to 7 years</li><li>• Research will encompass analysis of gaps and/or emerging trends relating to African Canadian children</li><li>• Consultation meetings to include: the community that will be targeted; parents and foster parents; African Canadian youth that were/are clients of DCAS; and African Canadian DCAS staff. Timeline to complete these consultations is July 17<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>• The Intervention Pilot Program draft will be presented to the Steering Committee for discussion and approval, and then brought to CAC for discussion and approval. The first written draft will be completed by July 24<sup>th</sup>, with a second draft on August 10<sup>th</sup> and a final draft on August 16<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>• August 31<sup>st</sup> is not a strict deadline; there is opportunity to move into September if needed.</li></ul> <p>The Proposal will be a full comprehensive package (including a budget) to present to the Ministry. If the Proposal is approved, a new person will be hired and responsible for implementation and post-monitoring of the project (most likely there will be further discussion about this with the Ministry).</p> <p>Question: What is the timeline for moving forward with the consultations? Is DCAS able to start the process and support Margaret now? Are in-person consultations possible? Yes, the consultations are priority at this point with both Jaihun and Karen assisting on this piece. While intimate in-person consultations would be ideal, the consultations will be done virtually. If technology access is an issue, it will be worked out on a case-by-case basis. Consultations will provide strong facts to support the work that needs to be done. Note: confidentiality is important when working with DCAS families/children/youth. Participant names and dates will be determined this week. Suggested to mail letters to the youth informing them of the project; those interested would be voluntary.</p>		
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	<p>Question: With regards to the measurement and monitoring of the success of the program once the proposal is completed, is there an intention to build clearly defined program goals, that will be easily measurable, into the proposal? This will be developed within the proposal (clear timelines and measurable indicators to meet defined goals).</p> <p>Community members noted they require DCAS' commitment to make this a high priority, as there are concerns about the tight deadline/timelines. The first Steering Committee meeting on Friday produced solid deliverables. DCAS is committing to make this a high priority, moving forward with the deadline of August 31<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Data is critical to support and justify the proposal. DCAS does capture ethnicity, however, it must be captured the way the Ministry has structured Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). Trecia and Karen are manually determining black families/youth/children to contact as the identity based data does not always show who is black; it can be captured in different ways on CPIN (black, black/white, white/black, visible minority, etc.). There is advocacy to change descriptors in the provincial system. Identity standard is specific to children; the identity of parents/family is not part of this identity based data questionnaire. Question: What is DCAS's plan if data cannot be provided? This will be discussed further (contingency plan created) at the meeting on Friday.</p> <p>Question: If funding is received, how long do we have to spend it? Funding will be pro-rated for the first year. The Government will establish the term of the agreement; ideally, we will want to have a three-year funding agreement approved and executed while this government is still in office.</p> <p>Jaihun and Veralyn will meet further to discuss specific consensus from the CAC for some points regarding the pilot project. Community members requested that moving forward, DCAS provide honest and true communication regarding their expectations from community members' involvement in the project.</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>DCAS Community Partnerships</b>  Please see the summary sent by Steve to the council for more information. Current DCAS community partnership/projects include: CARES project (Human Trafficking focus); the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre; Carea taking over the medical clinic (Nurse Practitioner, paediatricians, community engagement through groups and teaching); Resources for</p>		

	<p>Exceptional Children; and the DCAS Hub (redeveloped 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for tenants including Frontenac Youth Services). DCAS is building a closer relationship with Resources for Exceptional Children (an organization that focuses on being a gateway to services for children with high and special needs/numerous diagnosis with difficulty functioning who require additional services). Families contact the organization who the provides or directs services to families (similar to a navigator). These services are available for all Durham Region community families not just CAS families. However, they have recently recruited an advocacy/navigator position to focus on CAS families.</p>		
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>African Canadian Services (ACS) Team Update</b>  Trecia provided a presentation on the African Canadian Services Team; please see attached power point for more information:</p>  <p>AFRICAN CANADIAN  WRAPAROUND SERV</p> <p>Trecia is soliciting feedback from the CAC; what else should we be considering and what stood out as great?</p> <p>Question: How are mandatory referrers (police, schools, etc.) made aware of and educated on Trite Reporting? A One Vision One Voice (OVOV) Practice states that we must engage and educate mandated referrers. When Trite Reporting has been determined, there will be follow up with the individual and the organization. Durham District School Board (DDSB) provides Anti Black Racism (ABR) training to their staff, as well as engaging with CAS; there are discussions with DCAS to determine what is missing within the training and how to improve their reporting etiquette. Nicole D., Intake Reception Team (IRT) Supervisor, and IRT staff are educating trite callers to assist them to understand what constitutes and does not constitute reasons for referral. Jaihun, Nicole D., Trecia and Karen to review the CAS/school board protocol to update and revise it; bring community into process to collaborate and address trite reporting.</p> <p>Question: What is the status of the Black Resource List? Karen is updating the resource list.</p> <p>Question: The Ministry announced \$650,000 to further OVOV; are there updates on this? Karen will provide more information at a further CAC meeting.</p>	<p>Add presentation to the CAC Portal</p>	<p>Cheryl</p>

	<p>Question: Will data be collected on how the ACS Team works in comparison to other DCAS service teams? Currently working with Quality Assurance (QA) to formulate questions to insure what the impact of the team has been versus family that has a more traditional involvement with DCAS.</p> <p>Question: Are you providing people referred to CAS improperly, contacts for advocacy on their behalf? (this is part of OVOV Practice 6). The community navigator on the ACS team would task this and connect people with resources. Trecia to follow up on this.</p> <p>Question: Under what circumstances would a black child <i>not</i> be referred to the ACS team? A family identified as black or bi-racial at IRT would then be transferred to the community navigator to code/consult on the call. The family would move to the ACS team from there if needed. If there is overflow, the navigator would still code the involvement for the family; the consultation process about the family would still occur even if it was not able to be contained within the ACS team.</p> <p>Question: How does DCAS intervene or tailor an approach for bi-racial families? DCAS has had discussions about this but there are no determined answers. The ACS team is still navigating this. A challenge is the identity of the parents do not always match the identity of the children.</p> <p>Staff for the ACS Team will already be within staff compliment.</p>		
8.	<b>Community Agency Updates</b> – Deferred due to time constraints.		
9.	<b>Meeting Evaluation</b> – Deferred due to time constraints.		
10.	<b>Adjournment</b> Meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.	MOTIONED by Raphael and SECONDED by Veralyn. CARRIED.	