

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting called by: Trish Smillie

Facilitator: Trish Smillie

Note taker: Shirley Loo

**Committee
Members:**

Andrea Mainer, Manager, Early Childhood & Healthy Families
Anne Marie DaSilva, Program Coordinator, Child Development Centre
Bob Walker, School Council Liaison
Carol Coote, Executive Director, Association of Yukon School Councils
Colette Acheson, Executive Director, Yukon Association for Community Living
Danae Moore, A/Manager, Children's Assessment & Treatment Services
Donna Jones, Prevention and Education Coordinator, FASSY
Karen Campbell, Manager, Inclusive Practices
Katherine Mackwood, President, YTA
Lina Radziunas, Vice Principal, Holy Family School
Lisa Rawlings Bird, Executive Director, Yukon Council on Disability
Lissa Best, Executive Director, Autism Yukon
Liza Manolis, School Community Consultant
Mark Muckler, Principal, Ecole Emilie Tremblay
Morgan Douglas-Alexander, Principal, Tantalus School
Penny Prysruk, Superintendent
Peter Giangrande, A/Vice Principal, Porter Creek Secondary
Ryan Sikkes, Principal, Vanier Catholic Secondary
Sandra Orban, Parent
Sharon Shadow, Cultural Consultant
Stacey Burnard, Social/Emotional Consultant
Stephanie Hammond, Executive Director, Learning Disabilities Association Yukon
Sue Ann Stokes-Nash, Parent
Trevor Mead-Robins, Special Education Assistive Technology
Trish Smillie, Director, Student Support Services

Regrets:

Anne Marie DaSilva, Colette Acheson, Lisa Rawlings Bird, Mark Muckler,
Penny Prysruk, Sue Ann Stokes-Nash

Topic

1.0 Review of Previous Minutes/Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no changes or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting.

2.0 Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members

Trish welcomed new and previous members of the committee. Introductions were made around the table.

3.0 Review of Terms of Reference

- Terms of Reference was reviewed. Questions regarding membership of the

committee were addressed. Membership will be reviewed this fall to engage new members. Emails will be sent to agency leads.

- There will be a call-out for school council members as there are two spots for School Councils.

Action: Trish Smillie will follow-up and gain membership for 2015.

4.0 Student Support Services Planning

4.1 Student Support Services Unit Plan and Projects Overview

Trish gave an overview of the Unit Plan and highlighted some of the projects of the unit.

- Questions arising regarding SNAP program. Information can be obtained from Renee Mills at Youth Achievement Centre.
- Add First Nations resources to grief/loss kits

4.2 Reports:

- Student Support Services Safety and Inclusive Practices (Karen Campbell)
- Positive Mental Health Promotion (Liza Manolis)
- Self-Regulation and Health Promotion (Stacey Burnard)
- Special Education Assistive Technology (Trevor Mead-Robins)

Consultants provided a brief description of their jobs and some of the projects they are involved with. Reports are attached.

5.0 Working Session

- ##### 5.1 Small group inquiry: Where to go from here? Sharing.
- See attached.

6.0 Representation to the ADM Advisory Committee

Stephanie Hammond will be the representative.

Membership for working groups was sought and will continue with new members.

7.0 Next Meeting: May 11, 2015

8.0 Wrap up

Student Support Services Overview 2014-2015

1. The School Procedures Handbook was introduced to staff in June 2013. Additional sections introduced in June 2014 include counsellor procedures. Procedures have been published to all staff in Yukon Education. Support is being provided to staff to work through these documents.
2. Student Support Services Staff –Although there has been a high level of consistency in staffing in SSS over the last year, new positions were developed and we have welcomed new staff. The new assignments include
 - 0.5 FTE Special Education Assistive Technology Consultant– Trevor Mead-Robins has continued in an increased capacity
 - School Community Liaison Consultant – Liza Manolis has replaced Andrea Zimmerman in this role
 - Itinerant Behaviour Support Teacher are transitioning into Student Support Services Consultants
 - Manager of Inclusive Practices – Karen Campbell is continuing on in this role permanently
 - Manager of Student Support is currently being advertised
 - A federal grant has allowed an additional 1.0 FTE Educational Psychologist to assist schools in file reviews
3. Student Support Services unit planning was aimed at creating consistency and equity between students and schools. The Student Support Services unit plan was developed with Student Support Services staff and articulates the work of the Public Schools Branch plan and Education Business Plan that is available to the public.
4. Staffing in the system has remained consistent from 2013-2014. Paraprofessional allocations have remained consistent at 177.75 positions.
5. An Autism Spectrum Feasibility study is underway led by Health Canada. Yukon's involvement extends across several departments. This project will allow Yukon Education to determine how student need can be further supported through staff training.
6. Currently Yukon Education has a school-aged FASD diagnostic team. This is a partnership between H&SS and Education. There is intent to include diagnosis to ASD and Complex Behaviours over the next year, forming a "Complex Needs Diagnostic Team". This work will lead to a high level of service for children in our territory.
7. To support the consistency of student learning, accurate student data, and equitable training and programming to students, Individual Education Plan criteria development is being implemented.
8. A Shared Resource Program Review is underway to determine best practices related to student with special needs services in an inclusive environment. This review will be completed in January 2015.
9. Learning Assistance Teacher modules have been developed to provide direction and orientation to staff. The implementation of this course will be through the Manager of Student Support. The modules will be introduced in January 2015.
10. Student Support Services will focus on health partnerships and related best practice in Yukon schools over the next years. This focus will incorporate several initiatives including Safe and Caring School Implementation and self-regulation.
11. Student Support Services will also focus on a philosophy of self-determination for students with disabilities. Projects to support this work with include development of a Transitioning to Adulthood model and a work experience model for students with disabilities.
12. Enhanced student safety planning has been developed to support schools in their work with students. Several training opportunities will be offered to staff this year, including Violence Threat Risk Assessment, Non-violent Crisis Intervention, and ASIST training.
13. Classroom Diversity Committee – This committee met for the first time in May 2013. The ADM of Public Schools Branch and the President of the Yukon Teachers Association are the chairs. This committee looks at class composition and related support from Student Support Services.

Student Support Services Advisory Committee

Manager of Inclusive Practices - Update

Committees:

- Transition to Adulthood for Students with Disabilities Committee
 - One meeting to date – occurred on May 9th
 - Second meeting this month on September 29/14
 - Monthly meeting to develop a roles and tasks timeline for those who are and/or potential could be involve with a student and their families as they transition into adulthood

Alternative Transportation Support

- Support provided for students needing alternative transportation
- Providing support to Transportation Assistants to provide services to students on the handi-busses

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training

- 265 Yukon Education Employees trained to date
- Training for interested participants as well as in response to Workplace Risk Assessment
- Training scheduled monthly, School-based team can request whole school training on Professional Development days

Behaviour Support Plans and Safety Plans

- Continued support offered to school to develop Behaviour Support Plans
- Response to every Workplace Risk Assessment that deems that a safety plan is needed to support staff and student safety

Educational Assistant Replacement List

- Development of a list of eligible candidates for temporary EA positions in schools as they come about

Shared Resource Programs

- Oversee application and enrollment
- Provide ongoing training and professional development for teachers in Shared Resource Programs

Liza Manolis 667-8297

School Community Consultant provides support to Positive Mental Health in Yukon Schools

The School Community Consultant provides consultation and direct service to support schools in developing capacity to respond to critical incidents, suicide prevention and developing positive mental health practices. The School Community Consultant also liaises with external service providers in the area of community mental health services.

Priorities

- Provide grief and loss resources and support
- Assist in critical incident management (support services, debriefing, counseling)
- Provide Applied Suicide Intervention Skills training (ASIST) to staff and adults who interact with children and youth.
- Compile resources for teachers, counsellors, and administrators on topics including mental health promotion, bullying, and violence prevention.
- Manages the school health database
- Monitor and update toolkits that have been created for staff responding to critical incidents in schools. Kits include materials on grief and loss for students, parents, and staff.
- Member of bullying behaviours committee, youth advisory group, rural advisory committee
- Support school counsellors (co-facilitate monthly meetings, provide resources)
- Work on Mental Health Literacy Curriculum resources
- Partner with external service providers in the area of community mental health services
- Partner with Alcohol and Drug Services in the area of addictions/mental health
- Partner with Justice and Canadian Center for Child Protection re: cybersafety/bullying
- Work with Valerie Binder (Justice) on how to facilitate Restorative Community Conferences; in turn, train educators to become facilitators.

Self-Regulation Update

This year we have 8 schools that are part of the Yukon Self-Regulation Initiative. Three of the schools have continued from the previous year. The focus has been at the elementary level, but one of the schools has asked for a focus to include the secondary level. In addition, two high schools, from outside of the "Wave" schools, have asked for a presentation tailored to the secondary level.

The interventions are focused at the biological level (nutrition, exercise and sensory awareness with a focus on slow starts, up and down regulation activities, as well as a sensory circuit), with the second half of the year primarily delivering information on the emotional domain. The cognitive domain will be the target for the secondary schools.

The biological curriculum aims include: Learning how to be calm (mindful awareness to breathing three times a day), mindfulness and brain knowledge. Awareness is being brought to increasing the space between stimulus and response.

Three areas of focus are being emphasized throughout the S-R Initiative: physiological, emotional and brain.

Each school of the Wave receives a two hour introduction, classroom supports, parent evening, pre-post measures and individual students supported by the Student Support Services team.

If you have any questions, please contact me at stacey.burnard@gov.yk.ca

Guiding Questions:

- How can we facilitate effective communication?
- How will parents be supported?
- How do you ensure kids are getting the best services available?
- How are First Nations perspectives involved from the get go?

Recommendations from the Student Support Services Advisory Committee:

- Focus on promoting consistency into policies from teachers/schools
- Share information with the public in clear ways
- Include studies on attendance on Student Support Services Advisory meeting
- Share information in accessible ways – greater digital accessibilities for materials
- Define acronyms at all meetings
- Promote advocacy to the public
- Complete an overview of all publications of Student Support Services for language consistency and program consistency
- List priority on the unit work plan
- Student Support Services procedures – make searchable. FAQ would be great – top 10 constant requests (school view and SSS view)
- Continue to make brochure info for parents – in plain language (no “ed speak”)
- Expand School Growth Plan strategy – enhance consistency/clarity
- Involve First Nation Language teachers in training related to student support services
- Review reading intervention materials