

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 September 19

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## **CHILD & YOUTH NETWORK: SYSTEM PARTICIPATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that the Board of Health endorse the Family Centred Service System (FCSS) as attached as [Appendix B](#) to Report No.097-13 re Child & Youth Network: System Participation Memorandum of Understanding.*

### **Key Points**

- The London Child & Youth Network is moving forward with establishing neighbourhood based Family Centres in London
- These Centres will provide a set of core functions which will provide multiple services to families with children from one neighbourhood location.
- MLHU has played a key role in developing the FCSS Memorandum of Understanding.
- In signing the attached Memorandum of Understanding, the Board of Health affirms its commitment to working together to achieve and sustain the collective vision.

### **Background**

The London Child & Youth Network (CYN) is a partnership between London service provider agencies whose focus is ensuring children and youth have the services needed to reach their optimum potential. In the fall of 2008, the CYN presented to the community its 3 year strategic directions. The plan identified 4 strategic directions which were subsequently endorsed by over 150 member agencies including Middlesex-London Health Unit. Since 2008 the Network member agencies has grown to over 185 and together they have been working together to implement action plans in the 4 key areas: poverty, literacy, healthy eating/physical activity and building a family centered system. Each year the Network reports back to the community its successes and challenges along with planned activities for the following year. Attached as [Appendix A](#) is the 2012 Progress Report.

### **Family Centres – Participation Memorandum**

Over the last year considerable efforts have been made to move forward the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic direction, building a Family Centred System. The vision includes neighbourhood based family centres where “neighbourhood residents will open a single door to multiple opportunities that support children and families in achieving their full potential. These opportunities will be identified by the neighbourhood and implemented according to evidence-informed best practices using an integrative, inclusive and holistic approach”. The centres will provide a consistent set of core functions and each will be established and operated on the pillars of collaboration, intentional connectivity and inter-professional practice. In order to be successful in this new approach partners in the system share common values and operating principles and understand their roles and responsibilities as well as those of other system partners.

## System Participation Memorandum of Understanding

Attached as [Appendix B](#) is the System Participation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is the mechanism by which organizations become partners in the Family Centred Service System. It summarizes our common system values and principles, general expectations, intended outcomes, and common roles and responsibilities. In signing this document, MLHU confirms its commitment to children and families in London and to working with our partners to ensure an efficient, effective system of services for children which will lead to a healthy community.

### Next Steps

As each Service Provider agency, including MLHU, engages with specific Family Centres a Service Agreement plan will be developed. These specific detailed agreements will identify specific contributions the provider agency will deliver. It will be agreed upon by the Lead Agency responsible for the Centre and the Service Provider Agency.

### Conclusion

Developing a system of Family Centers in London is a key step in helping families in the community. By working together as partners, families will receive a more streamlined, comprehensive and efficient series of supports and programs which will support healthy development.

This report was prepared by Ms. Diane Bewick, Director of Family Health Services.

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<p><b>This report addresses</b> the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Standards: Child Health Goal: To promote the health of children and youth.</p>
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