



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43 - Kemptville, Ontario - K0G 1J0  
Phone: 613-258-7757 Toll-Free: 1-800-443-4562 Fax: 613-258-7134  
www.cdsbeo.on.ca



**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
Microsoft Teams – 6:00 p.m. to 8:14 p.m.**

**SEAC Members:**

**Sue Wilson, (Chair)**

*Trustee*

**Amanda Banfield (Vice Chair)**

*Lanark County Support Services*

**Karen McAllister**

*Trustee*

**Tom Jordan**

*Family and Children Services of Lanark,  
Leeds, and Grenville*

**Rob More**

*Rural FASD Support Network*

**Nicole Taylor**

*Autism Ontario - East Region*

**Kimberly Gill**

*Children's Aid Society of the United Counties  
of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry*

**Guests:**

**Lori Murphy**

*CDSBEO, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher*

**Debbie Balog**

*CDSBEO, Hearing and Vision Resource Teacher*

**Ashley Walker**

*CSC Representative,  
St. Anne, Cornwall*

**Sharon Roche**

*CSC Representative,  
Holy Cross & St. Michael CHS, Kemptville*

**Rhonda Peterson**

*CUPE*

**Meghan Jarzyna**

*CSC Representative,  
St. Mary CHS, Brockville*

**Board Resource Staff:**

**Heather Gerber**

*Superintendent of School Effectiveness*

**Renee Rozon**

*Principal of Special Education*

**Kariane Schinzel**

*Administrative Assistant to  
Superintendent Gerber*

**Approved Regrets with notification:**

**Kim Peterson**

*Member at Large*

**Natasha Scott**

*Child and Mental Health Services - CCH*

**Amanda Petch**

*Autism Ontario - East Region (alternate)*



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## 1. **Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call**

Sue Wilson (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests.

### **Roll Call**

Absent:

Kim Peterson, Member at Large

Natasha Scott, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital

## 2. **Land Acknowledgment**

Principal Rozon acknowledged the Land.

## 3. **Opening Prayer**

Principal Rozon led the group in opening prayer.

## 4. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Tom Jordan CARRIED

## 5. **Receiving January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Minutes**

SEAC minutes were electronically approved on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

### **Motion:**

To receive minutes as presented.

Moved by: Tom Jordan CARRIED

## 6. **Presentation: Hearing and Vision**

Lori Murphy – CDSBEO Specialist Teacher of the Deaf

Debbie Balog – CDSBEO Hearing and Vision Resource Teacher

The Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing is responsible in part for developing language acquisition and communication skills to facilitate the personal, social, and intellectual development of the students within the mainstream program. To respond to the individual needs and abilities of students, the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing must work closely with the staff and administration of the CDSBEO schools.

[Fred Flintstone Video Hearing Loss Simulation - YouTube](#)



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## 7. Association Updates

### **Lanark County Support Services – Amanda Banfield**

#### **Report update:**

- TSS collaborated with ConnectWell to do an information session for 10 families in the process of transition planning. Both agencies advised families to pursue transition planning as an important component of their child's education.
- TSS remains available for referrals throughout high school and is happy to work with families to understand the system and plan for the transition after graduation.
- Many restrictions remain in place for our agencies providing in-person services, however we are increasing our numbers attending in-person.
- Our virtual services continue to be well attended and liked.

### **Rural FASD Support Network – Rob More**

#### **Report update:**

- The Rural FASD hosted its Annual General Meeting on Feb 19 using a hybrid model of both physically present members and members joining virtually through Zoom. Among the highlights was the annual reports identifying current financial status including a 308% increase in revenue, accomplishments through the year including a 27% increase in membership bringing our organization to 149 families, and four new directors being added to the current six directors. All decision makers in the organization now consist solely of people with lived experience of FASD.
- In response to the soon-to-be-released Environmental Scan report, Family Cohesion has been identified as one of the twelve key sectors needed to be supported in order for people with FASD to achieve positive life outcomes. With that in mind, the Rural FASD Support Network has amended its Bylaws to now state we support people impacted by FASD, their caregivers, and their siblings. We recognize siblings of people impacted by FASD serve in a caregiver role at varying levels and require training and support as much as the individual and their caregiver.
- The Rural FASD Support Network thanks Wal-Mart Smiths Falls for selecting us as one of their six community organizations they are supporting in 2022. With their generous donation, we will be able to serve refreshments at the anticipated 46 support meetings we will be hosting this year.



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- We are also pleased to announce that the first local level Environmental Scan and Gap Analysis report on FASD-Informed Services in Ontario has now reached over 160 pages and includes over 80 interviews of service providers and clients. We thank Carleton University and Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth for making the report possible. We are still on schedule for a May release.
- We also thank Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth for contracting us to deliver training on FASD Mental Health considerations to all children mental health clinicians in Lanark County. We also thank them for agreeing to be our Organizational Mentor moving forward as our organization continues to scale up to sustainability.

## **Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Tom Jordan** **Report update:**

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

- This event was circulated by OACAS. It is timely and relevant as we know people's mental health and wellbeing has been impacted during the pandemic and beyond.  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CaC0hh8ry2f/>

### Children Involved in the Protest in Ottawa

- As you know some of the attention last week turned to the children of the protestors. Attached is an interesting statement from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.  
<http://www.oacas.org/2022/02/oacas-statement-on-the-presence-of-children-and-youth-at-demonstrations/>

### Black History Month

Help you and your kids connect with Black history:

- Black History Month is a time to celebrate and remember all the ways that Black Canadians have contributed to Canada's history and culture.
- Black history is Canadian history. All our children's history starts at home.  
<https://opentext.fcsllg.ca/otcs/cs.exe/app/nodes/3467047>
- 28 moments of black Canadian history: SYNOPSIS  
When it comes to Black Canadian History, what do you know?  
Perhaps you only recently heard of Viola Desmond, the incredible Black woman who refused to move from the whites-only section in a theatre in Nova Scotia – but might this be the extent of your knowledge?  
Consider this, when it comes to Black History Month and the lessons you might have had in elementary school, what do you remember? Perhaps you'll remember lessons on Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks – mostly African American history and nothing on



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Global Black History. Although African American history is very important to know, the fact that it is the only thing we get to hear about highlights the great erasure of Black Canadians in our history lessons.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnZdE0goUSg>

## Skating and Sledding Night

- We hosted a skating and sledding activity at Laurier Hill for all children and youth in care. The event is open to all we serve including foster parents and worker and included hot chocolate.

## March Break Camp

- We are encouraging the families we serve to join Girls Inc. for their March Break at the Lansdowne Community Centre for a week of fun, interactive activities to challenge girls critical thinking and to build new positive relationships with peers.  
March Break Registration: <https://forms.gle/ePKJc9vTzoxWN2Xr5>

## East Region of Autism Ontario – Nicole Taylor

### **Report update:**

- Drama Program.
  - Autism Ontario is now offering Drama Classes Online with Brett! Bringing the Drama Classes directly to the child or children in the comfort and convenience of their own home! The online drama classes are perfect for all children, tweens, and teens, regardless of experience. Whether they are just beginning to explore acting, or if they have years of experience and want to gain additional skills and learn new techniques.

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=6770&reset=1>

- Provincial- OAP (Ontario Autism Program) Drop-In Question Period  
Families can Register for the OAP Drop-In Question Period to speak to an Autism Ontario Service Navigator for a few minutes during the time window indicated.  
This is an unstructured question and answer period with different break out rooms for each topic.
  - Eligible expenses
  - Expense form issues
  - OAP registration process
  - General OAP questions

<https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/event/info?id=6806&reset=1>

- Ausome Moms is a new virtual support group being offered in the East Region Ausome Moms runs on the 4th Thursday evening of each month. There will be a new topic of focus for each session and additional resources/ items will be sent to families following the session. This support group is for mothers or mother figures who are looking for support and connection with other mothers who have children on the spectrum. It's a great





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opportunity to come together and talk about life's challenges, victories, and share resources in an informal setting.

<https://www.autismontario.com/civcrm/event/info?id=6500&reset=1>

## **Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Hospital – Natasha Scott**

**Report update:** *(presented by Renée Rozon)*

- CYMHS continues to see an influx of referrals of children and youth with complex/urgent mental health needs.
- Parents' Lifelines of Eastern Ontario (PLEO) and Adult Mental Health Services in addition to other adult services are being recommended to parents who are experiencing stressors during the pandemic and where the youth is not agreeing to counselling services.
- School referrals have slowed down since the last reporting in November. We continue to see an increase in 1 Call 1 Click referrals to our agency.
- Day Treatment Program has welcomed a new staff member who is a master's prepared therapist who will be working with the more complex families in the program. He started the position at the beginning of January 2022. Day Treatment continues to use the SNAP (Stop Now and Plan) program to help children with emotion regulation and making better choices.
- Current wait times for services are between 4-5 months. Rapid response cases are being assigned typically within a month. Urgent cases are immediately assigned.

## **Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G – Kimberly Gill**

**Report update:**

### **Staffing:**

- We are finally seeing a stable workforce after a major hiring blitz during the pandemic with a focus on hiring culturally and racially diverse staff
- We have onboarded over 50 new staff since March 2020

### **Ongoing Work:**

- We continue to see families face-to-face, as we did throughout the pandemic. CAS was deemed an essential service and face-to-face visits in family homes have been essential to providing good service to children, youth and families in our community
- Continued workshops and discussions on Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity continue. The learning journey continues for all of our staff

### **Educational Liaison:**

- Our Educational Liaison, Valerie Allen, is retiring for real this time! Replacing Val will be Natalie Cameron.
- Val has done some exceptional work helping several youth who had not been in school for years integrate back into school quite successfully. Val has been an excellent advocate for these youth.



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- Val was pivotal in helping ease the anxiety of parents and caregivers when in-person school resumed in September 2020, hosting a variety of information sessions about the return to in-person learning.
- Val's expertise, caring approach and advocacy will be greatly missed. Thank you, Val, for dedicating your time to our children and youth's educational successes!

### **Duty to Report/Ongoing Duty to Report:**

- Now that the pandemic is (hopefully) behind us, we are looking to resume our Duty to Report presentations, which were on hiatus during most of the pandemic. Please contact Kimberly Gill at [kimberly.gill@cwcas.ca](mailto:kimberly.gill@cwcas.ca) to schedule a presentation.

### **Ontario Educational Championship Team (OECT):**

- Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry and Prescott/Russell have a committee made up of members from both Children's Aid Societies, all four school boards, St. Lawrence College, La Cité, Job Zone Cornwall and Skills Ontario
- Funding received from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities helps support programming, experiential learning activities, workshops, and other opportunities to help children and youth involved with the Children's Aid Society achieve success in secondary and post-secondary studies.

## **8. Department Update – Principal of Special Education, Renée Rozon**

- On behalf of ACT Learning Centre and partners, Inspire will be working with CDSBEO as part of the Ontario Autism Program Entry to School program.
  - Will include transitioning support for students with ASD who have not received any intervention and are registered in the Autism program
  - Intended to be a six month, half day program (five days per week) to prepare for school readiness (i.e. circle time, dressing), followed by 6 month availability to support child's school start up
  - Collaborating to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - Package prepared for school prior to child starting JK including strengths, tips, etc.
  - Ideally the half day program will run January - June
- At our last meeting, it was shared that April Hackett-Helmkay, one of our S-LPs, participated in a round table meeting with Ministers Lecce and Dunlop, organized by International Dyslexia Association-Ontario. A webinar will be taking place March 3rd to share information gathered during the workshop series with the aim of providing useful and practical information to the school board administrators who will be tasked with responding to the recommendations of the Right to Read Inquiry. Alicia Smith, president of the IDA Ontario, has asked April to speak again, as part of her highlighting some school boards who are already on the path to structured literacy, and to highlight leaders who have encouraged and supported the change.



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- Janet Carioni, CDSBEO Occupational Therapist, has been invited to participate in the advisory committee for “Let's Talk Science”, an undertaking with funding from the Ontario government to make science more inclusive for K-12 students with disabilities. Her recommendation as a candidate for this project was made by the ED at Brain Injury Canada.
- Lori Murphy, Specialist Teacher of the Deaf, will be joining a focus group to assist in designing an assessment to support programming for students who are Deaf Hard of Hearing. This focus group is a partnership between Western University PDSB and District School Boards.

## 9. **Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – Section Review:**

- Section 1 – Introduction/Consultation Process
- Section 3 – Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies
- Section 5 – Educational and Other Assessments
- Section 7 – Provincial and Demonstration Schools
- Section 13 – Coordination of Services with other Ministries or Agencies
- Section 14 – Specialized Health Support Services
- SEAC committee membership draft list

## 10. **Correspondence Received**

- Letter from Renfrew County Catholic District School Board - sharing concerns regarding online learning resources and the platforms used to access these resources.
- St. Lawrence College, Community Integration Through Co-operative Education (CICE) - information flyer for upcoming information session and available programs

## 11. **Motion to Excuse Regrets:**

Kim Peterson, Member at Large

Natasha Scott, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital

Moved by: Karen McAllister                      Carried

## 12. **Discussion Points:**

- Student transition community support access to be discussed and explored further
- MACSE collaboration forms will be included in the CDSBEO Special Education Annual Report appendices
- Tom Jordan, in consultation with Superintendent Gerber, will draft a recommendation to the Board on behalf of SEAC, sharing concerns regarding online learning resources







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## CDSBEO SEAC Quorum Tracking

	Chair, Trustee	Vice Chair, Lanark County Support Services	Trustee	Rural FASD Support Network	CYMHS - Cornwall Hospital	Family and Children Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville	Member at Large	East Region of Autism Ontario	CAS-SD&G	Total
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	P	P	P	P	P	x		-	-	5
September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	7
October 27, 2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	7
November 24, 2021	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	7
January 26, 2022	P	x	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	7
February 23, 2022	P	P	P	P	x	P	x	P	P	7
March 30, 2022										
April 20, 2022										
May 25, 2022										

*(5 members are required to be in attendance in order to reach Quorum)*