

ECE Training Roundtable

Thursday 27 April 2023, 10:30am – 12:00pm MT



Agenda

Welcome & Introductions
PRESENTATION by Child Care Consultant Sandra Menzer <i>The Move to Universal Child Care in BC: Where we have been and where we are heading</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What are the Provincial and Federal commitments?○ What decisions have been made and what actions have been taken?○ What do we know is coming? What don't we know yet?○ What are some of the challenges in the sector?○ Q's & A's and Is there other information that we want/need?
Reflection and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thinking about the changes underway and the child care challenges in our own communities/region are there any actions/opportunities that our Roundtable should/could focus on? Is there anything we should not be focusing on?○ Are there other stakeholders that we should be including?
Next Steps

Attendees

Robyn Peel (facilitator, convener, CFEK), Sandra Menzer (Childcare Consultant, presenter), Alex Denis (Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation), Ashley Nielsen (Village of Canal Flats Daycare), Crystal MacLeod (School District 6), Frankie Seitz (East Kootenay CCRR), Glenda Newsted (Interior Region CCRR), Heather Hepworth (COTR), Jamie Gibson (WorkBC Golden), Jennifer Moss (Kootenay Employment Services), Jill Sadler (COTR Golden Campus), Karen MacLeod (RDEK), Kathleen Holton (Mountain Child Early Learning and Care Centre), Kim Bauer (Elkford Women's Task Force), Laura Eadie (Wild Wapiti Playschool), Londa Morris (Kootenay Employment Services), Pamela Tetrault (Golden Child Daycare), Patrick Sorfleet (District of Sparwood), Richard Wayken (Village of Canal Flats), Sarah Jacklin (Summit Community Services Society), Scott Sommerville (City of Kimberley), Theresa Wood (Columbia Valley Economic Development), Tracy Robertson (Blossom and Budd Child Care Centre)

Presentation from Sandra Menzer: *The Move to Universal Child Care in BC - Where we have been and where we are heading*

You can view the full slide deck from Sandra [here](#).

Roundtable Discussion: What could we be focusing on?

- CCFRI rates are a barrier for new spaces in communities, especially for infant toddler spaces. There could be analysis and advocacy for this regionally.
- Document a clear path as to where the universal childcare program is going. For example, will new opportunities to develop facilities be given to only government organizations? What is the role of non-profit organizations going forward?
- Provide support for those developing new spaces, including all the various organizations who could apply including school districts, Indigenous organizations, non-profits, local governments
 - Could this include awareness and inventory of those applying for the new spaces fund in the East Kootenays and invite them to the roundtable?
 - Can we document a clear process to follow which supports those looking at developing these spaces now, rather than the 3–5-year timeframe that local governments and school districts are likely to move on?
- Create an inventory of all licensed spaces to know where the challenges are in our communities and how big they are.
 - Could this include school boards having an inventory of their assets that they aren't using that could be used for childcare?
 - Also include new spaces coming on to potentially meet needs.
- Advocacy to UBCM to have financial support to allow municipal staff to support these projects in their communities.
 - Patrick noted that looking at something like the Alberta FCSS model but focused on childcare would be a way to fund this municipally
- Linking the roundtable with housing authorities and organizations across the region. For those building new housing, childcare should be included, and vice versa.
- A regional recruitment and retention strategy for ECEs
 - Could this involve funding for recruitment?
 - Theresa noted to make sure to engage with the Chamber in your community as they are likely doing recruitment work for the whole community and can ensure childcare is part of that
 - Laura noted in Fernie they were successful bringing 3 new ECEs from outside of the community (2 out of province) by connecting them with housing.
- Important to prioritize quality of care and wellbeing of children with whatever projects are worked on.
- Roll-out of a policy like used in a Golden childcare centre where in order to access current spots you have to be working in Golden and need the spots to provide for their family, stay in the community and thus support the economic development of the community.

Sandra noted it is important to keep in mind what is in our mandate and our capacity to influence:

- The operating funding model will be government responsibility. But when it rolls out, could the roundtable look at what it means, test it with operators, do advocacy if needed and share with the province if the model is or isn't working and why.
- School districts do not have mandate for childcare but they're getting some funding to look at spaces and determining where opportunities to invest exist. Local governments also have a role to play but funding is needed to support.
- Asset inventory would be helpful.
- Recruitment and retention strategies specific to region would also be good. With the role of Columbia Basin Trust, the East Kootenays are well positioned compared to some other communities to focus on this piece.

Resources

- [UBCM's Stepping Stone guide](#), the Child Care Planning Guide for Local Governments in BC
- UBCM Child Care Planning Guide: [Local Government Role in Facilitating, Securing and Financing Child Care](#)
- [Write-ups of previous East Kootenay ECE Roundtables](#)

- If you would like to be on the East Kootenay ECE Roundtable email list, please email robyn@cfek.ca to join it.