

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING NOTE**

DATE: November 18, 2022
CLIFF#: 274331

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): June 2, 2022
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): 270397
PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: November 17, 2021,
open letter to MMD, December 3, 2021, open letter to MMD

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: November 21, 2022, 9:00-9:30 am

ISSUE(S): Presentation of AutismBC parent and caregiver survey results and recommendations

BACKGROUND:

Autism BC is a BC-based, non-profit organization founded in 1975 to support people on the autism spectrum and their families. As a community-based organization, Autism BC works to empower, support, and connect the autism community in BC through learning, connection, and support.

Julia Boyle is the Executive Director of Autism BC and has had several interactions with the Ministry regarding the CYSN Service Framework:

- Attended quarterly meetings of the Provincial Partner's Advisory Committee established in March 2019 to provide feedback on the draft Service Framework.
- Wrote an open letter to MMD in November 2021 regarding concerns about the CYSN Service Framework related to workforce, role of diagnosis, functional assessments, waitlists, and budget. MMD responded December 8, 2021.
- Met with MMD in November 2021 to discuss the CYSN Service Framework and changes to service delivery.
- Represented Autism BC as a signatory on a December 3, 2021, letter to MMD from 34 disability organizations concerning consultation and transparency, family choice, functional assessments, and workforce issues.
- Met with Ministry staff on February 11, 2022, to discuss the CYSN Service Framework and the proposed National Autism Strategy; April 13, 2022, to receive updates on the family connection centre model, and, June 20, 2022, to ask questions on the CYSN framework.
- Autism BC Requested information from the Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) about individualized Autism Funding being used for tuition at independent schools and if tuition would be covered in the new model. MCFD worked with ECC to prepare a response.

DISCUSSION:

In April 2022, Autism BC launched a survey to its membership to better understand parent and caregiver reactions to the proposed changes to the CYSN Framework. The survey is a mixed methods questionnaire that addresses the question: “As a parent or primary caregiver, how do you think the new Family Connections Centres (or hubs) will impact accessibility and availability of services for the children on the autism spectrum in your care?”

The survey responses included a total of 1,563 parents and caregivers. Highlights of the results are reported on the Autism BC website:

- participants expressed positive feelings about addressing the inequity of the current system
- 4% chose the fccs as the service delivery model that best meets their needs
- 65% did not feel that they had an opportunity to have meaningful consultation about the fccs.

The full report will be publicly available on November 21, 2022. An advanced copy was requested by the Ministry but had not been received at the time of writing.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

In 2019, families and caregivers of children with a variety of support needs, were part of the Ministry’s engagement.

MCFD is committed to ongoing engagement with CYSN stakeholders, and we continue to engage and meet regularly with families, service providers, advocates, Indigenous peoples and communities.

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