

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT MEETING NOTE

DATE: March 24, 2023

CLIFF#: 277778

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

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: March 30, 2023 at 11am

ISSUE: QMUNITY has requested a meeting with Honourable Mitzi Dean who has agreed to meet with them. Minister Mitzi Dean has requested some information about QMUNITY in preparation for the meeting.

BACKGROUND:

Located in Vancouver, QMUNITY is BC's queer, trans, and Two-Spirit Resource Centre that delivers programs and services in support of 2SLGBTQ+ youth and adults across the province.

MCFD Vancouver Youth Services contracts with QMUNITY to provide programs and services for queer and transgender youth in care of the ministry, who are under the age of 25. The current contract term is January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024 for \$81,944.04. QMUNITY integrates with other youth services and support groups to address the communities needs and changing demographics.

QMUNITY is a well received, responsive resource, and strives to decrease youth feelings of isolation and expand their support networks of peers, supportive parents, family members and other adults.

DISCUSSION:

Services provided by QMUNITY include:

- a youth transition program (including training and education);
- group intervention services;
- organization/supervision of group recreational activities for QT youth;
- individual intervention services.

Scheduled and staff led drop in sessions are available for youth to educate and provide knowledge about sexual orientation and gender identity, support youth in attaining access to positive images of LGBTTTQ culture, seek to improve youth's ability to cope with social, psychological, health and interpersonal problems, increase awareness and access to resources including health facilities, educational institutions, employment and training programs, increase school and public safety for LGBTTTQ identified youth, and improve skills for countering gender and sexual discrimination.

QMUNITY supports family and friends of QT youth by increasing their understanding and knowledge about sexual orientation and gender identity, increase their access to positive images of LGBTTQ culture, and support their acceptance of LGBTTQ youth.

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

DATE: March 8, 2023
CLIFF#: 277285

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE:
PREVIOUS CLIFF: #275816 BCACDI Recommendations
PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Feb 16, 2023

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Premier David Eby and Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: Thursday, March 16th, 2023, 8:45 AM.

ISSUE(S): Meeting with members of the Board for the BC Association for Child Development, and Interventions (BCACDI) and Jason Gordon, Provincial Advocate for BCACDI

BACKGROUND:

BCACDI was established in 1996 to unite the Child Development and Rehabilitation Network (CDRN) and BC Association of Child Development Centres (BCACDC) under a single organization. The association's mission is to advocate for quality child development and therapy services which are inclusive and accessible to all children and families and to provide member agencies with a forum for communication, information sharing and problem solving. There are 30 member organizations that are affiliated with BCACDI – 29 organizations from BC and 1 organization from the Yukon.

Many CDCs, the vast majority of which are non-profit societies, may belong to the following two advocacy organizations:

- BC Association of Child Development and Intervention (BCACDI)
- Federation of Community Social Services of BC (the Federation)

In BC, a child development centre (CDC) generally refers to a community-based agency that delivers a cluster of specialized services for children with support needs, which may include diagnostic, developmental and intervention services. CDCs provide one or more of the following MCFD-funded services for children with special needs: Early Intervention Therapies (EIT), School Aged Therapies (SAT), Autism Intervention, FASD Key Worker Services, Infant Development (IDP) and Supported Child Development (SCD).

- Some agencies also provide behavioural and/or family support services for children with support needs.
- CDC services for children with support needs are accessible directly by parents, without need for a referral from MCFD.
- In addition to the range of specialized services for young children with support needs and their families, many CDCs also hold contracts to deliver a broader range of MCFD services, such as Family Preservation, outreach to at-risk youth, domestic violence initiatives, etc.

CDCs are primarily funded through contracts with MCFD. To a lesser extent, other sources of funding include foundations, individual and business donors, School Districts and Health Authorities, individualized funding and in the case of some Indigenous agencies funding may include federal sources. s.13

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MCFD staff have a long-standing relationship with BCACDI and meet with its membership on a quarterly basis to provide updates, seek input on policy and understand emerging issues in the sector.

Jason Gordon, Provincial Advocate participates on many cross sectoral committees such as MCFD Social Sector Advisory Committee, the Social Sector Roundtable (SSRT), the SSRT Subcommittee on Procurement, and served two terms on the Minister's Advisory Council on Children and Youth with Support Needs.

BCACDI is an active partner as part of the Community-Led Collaborative Engagement Project in partnership with BC Association of Friendship Centres, Inclusion BC and Federation of Community Social Services. This project is engaging local communities in culturally safe, inclusive, and accessible conversations about how to create a better network of services and supports for children and youth with support needs and their families. Community findings will be regularly reported back to MCFD to help inform the future of services for children and youth with support needs in British Columbia.

DISCUSSION:

Jason Gordon, in his capacity as Provincial advocate for BCACDI has played an active role in supporting and advocating during the Ministry's efforts to transform services for children and youth with support needs. For example, Jason was a member of the Minister's Advisory Council for CYNS until 2022 where he provided valuable input and guidance such. This included providing insights to emerging issues, offering strategies to support the work of the Ministry and the Council, and meeting with staff to provide input on policies and approaches, as the pilot service approach was evolving.

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