



EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 12-007

1:30 p.m.
Monday, September 10, 2012
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: Councillor J. Partridge, Chair
Councillors S. Duvall, J. Farr, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla and
B. Morelli

**Absent with
regrets:** Councillor T. Whitehead, Vice-Chair, City Business

THE EMERGENCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 12-007 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

- 1. Sir Allan MacNab Land Lease Agreement (CS12030) (Ward 8) (Item 5.2)**
 - (a) That the draft Sir Allan MacNab Land Lease Agreement (attached as Appendix A to Report CS12030) between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, located at 145 Magnolia Drive, Hamilton, be approved;
 - (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the Sir Allan MacNab Land Lease Agreement, between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, located at 145 Magnolia Drive, Hamilton (attached as Appendix A to Report CS12030), in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

- 2. Standardization of Ambulance Fleet Purchases (HES12015) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)**
 - (a) That the purchase and conversion of ambulance vehicles be standardized and single sourced to Demers Ambulance Manufacturer Inc.;

- (b) That Staff be authorized to negotiate a “house account” for the supply of replacement parts with the original equipment manufacturers of the approved standardized product.

**3. Paramedic Service Response Time Reporting 2013 (HES12014) (City Wide)
(Item 5.4)**

- (a) That the City of Hamilton adopt emergency medical response time targets for the calendar year 2013 in accordance with the Ambulance Act, Ontario Regulation 267/08, amending O. Reg. 257/00 with the heading Section 22: Part VIII, Response Time Performance Plans and the related Sections 23 and 24 (attached as Appendix A to Report HES12014);
- (b) That the emergency medical response times targets noted in the Response Time Performance Plan, hereto attached as Appendix “A”, be approved, as amended.

**4. Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) (CS12031) (City Wide)
(Item 7.1)**

- (a) That for the 2013 tax supported operating budget process, staff report back with a program enhancement reflecting the restatement of the 2012 net levy portion of Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) presently in Ontario Works estimated at \$860,000 to the Housing Service Division's Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to provide financial supports to low income households;
- (b) That for the 2013 tax supported operating budget process, staff report back with a program enhancement reflecting the restatement of following net levy program costs to the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative:
 - (i) \$892,270 from the Emergency Shelter Program
 - (ii) \$1,363,800 from the Domiciliary Hostel Program
 - (iii) \$138,250 from the Domiciliary Hostel Reinvestment
 - (iv) \$96,760 from the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program;
- (c) That the General Manager of the Community Services Department be authorized and directed to fund the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative for 2013 in the annualized amount of \$3,351,080 from 2013 Community Services departmental surplus, the 2013 corporate surplus

and/or the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046) pending the 2013 budget deliberations;

- (d) That staff report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on December 10, 2012 with an implementation plan for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative;
- (e) That the Mayor correspond with the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Community and Social Services requesting that the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit for the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs be reinstated.

5. Update on Early Learning and Care: Child Care Modernization (CS12032) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

That the joint City of Hamilton – Best Start Network Response to the Ministry of Education Discussion Paper “Modernizing Child Care in Ontario; Sharing Conversation, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together” hereto attached as Appendix “B” be endorsed and submitted by staff to the Province.

6. Transformation of Employment Ontario (CS12022(b)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

That Report CS12022(b) respecting Transformation of Employment Ontario be received.

7. Normanhurst Community Centre (CS12034) (Ward 4) (Item 8.2)

- (a) That the Real Estate Section of the Planning and Economic Development Department be directed to declare surplus the subject property known as Normanhurst Community Centre, located at 1621 Barton Street East, Hamilton, as shown on Appendix “A” to Report CS12034, in accordance with the “Procedural By-law for the Sale of Land”, being By-law No. 04-299;
- (b) That proceeds from the sale of 1621 Barton Street East be transferred to the 2013 Capital Budget Submission, Project 7101354105 - Mahoney Park Washroom/Pavilion.

8. EMS Monthly Response Time Performance Report – January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012 (HES12016) (City Wide) (Item 7.3)

That Report HES12016 respecting EMS Monthly Response Time Performance Report – January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012 be received.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

- (i) Added delegation request 4.1 from Vinnie Ryan of McGrory's Boxing Club respecting Normanhurst Community Centre which is Item 8.2 on today's agenda;
- (ii) Amendment to Item 5.4 Report HES12014 respecting Paramedic Service Response Time. Appendix B is being replaced with a revised Appendix B – copies of which have been distributed;

The agenda was approved as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were none declared.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

The Minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS

The following delegation request was approved and the rules of order waived in order for the delegation to address Committee at today's meeting:

- (i) Vinnie Ryan, McGrory's Boxing Club, respecting the proposal to declare Normanhurst Community Centre as surplus property (Added Item 4.1)

(e) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS

On a motion, the order of the agenda was amended to allow Mr. Ryan to speak prior to Committee considering Item 8.2.

- (i) Vinnie Ryan, McGrory's Boxing Club, respecting the proposal to declare Normanhurst Community Centre as surplus property (Added Item 4.1)

Mr. Ryan addressed Committee reading from a prepared statement a copy of which was submitted to the Clerk for the public record. His comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- The McGory Boxing Club has been at the Normanhurst Community Centre since 1977;
- He started coaching there in 1982;
- Has trained hundreds of children turning out not only boxing champions but also good citizens;
- He recognizes that the building needs repairs and they have volunteers willing to complete the work;
- The cost of repairs (\$13,000 to \$15,000) is a small amount to pay for a program that benefits the children of this community.

Mr. Ryan responded to questions from Committee.

On a motion, Committee received the delegation.

(f) VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Item 5.1):

The following Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes were received:

- (i) Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee Minutes of May 15, 2012
- (ii) Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes of April 13, 2012
- (iii) Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes of May 4, 2012
- (iv) Tenant Advisory Committee Minutes of April 20, 2012

(g) STAFF PRESENTATIONS

(i) Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) (CS12031) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Gillian Hendry provided an overview of the report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and hand-outs were distributed. She commented on the following:

- A Consolidated Approach to Service Delivery and Funding;
- Community Start up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB);
- CHPI Funding;
 - Resulting total shortfall is \$7,214,797
- Net Levy portion of program Costs;
- Moving Forward / Next steps.

Staff responded to questions from Committee.

On a motion, Committee received the presentation.

After some discussion, and input received from Mike Zegarac who attended to assist Committee, Committee amended the recommendations by deleting subsections (a) and (b) in their entirety and replacing them with the following therein, and by adding a new subsection (c) and re-lettering the balance of the sub-sections accordingly to read as follows:

- (a) That for the 2013 tax supported operating budget process, staff report back with a program enhancement reflecting the restatement of the 2012 net levy portion of Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) presently in Ontario Works estimated at \$860,000 to the Housing Service Division's Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to provide financial supports to low income households;
- (b) That for the 2013 tax supported operating budget process, staff report back with a program enhancement reflecting the restatement of following net levy program costs to the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative:
 - (i) \$892,270 from the Emergency Shelter Program
 - (ii) \$1,363,800 from the Domiciliary Hostel Program
 - (iii) \$138,250 from the Domiciliary Hostel Reinvestment
 - (iv) \$96,760 from the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program;
- (c) That the General Manager of the Community Services Department be authorized and directed to fund the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative for 2013 in the annualized amount of \$3,351,080 from 2013 Community Services departmental surplus, the 2013 corporate surplus and/or the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046) pending the 2013 budget deliberations;
- (d) That staff report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on December 10, 2012 with an implementation plan for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative;
- (e) That the Mayor correspond with the Honourable John Molloy, Minister of Community and Social Services requesting that the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit for the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs be reinstated.

Committee approved the staff report as amended.

(ii) Update on Early Learning and Care: Child Care Modernization (CS12032) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

Jane Soldera provided an overview of the report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and hand-outs were distributed. She commented on the following:

- The state of the “System”;
- Special advisor’s recommendations;
- Key Milestones in reforming the system;
- Managing change locally;
- Modernizing child care in Ontario;
- Highlight of joint response;
- Our next steps

Staff responded to questions.

On a motion, Committee received the presentation and approved the staff report.

(h) GENERAL INFORMATION (Item 11)

(i) Outstanding Business List

The following New Due Dates were approved:

- (aa) Item “A” - Recreation Access Policy (Needs Assessment)
Due date: September 10, 2012
Proposed New Due Date: October 4, 2012
- (bb) Item “D” – Needs Assessment – Ice Rinks in the Stoney Creek area
Due date: September 10, 2012
Proposed New Due Date: November 12, 2012
- (cc) Item “J” – Letter from OHA re: Ice Costs Based on Player Residency
Due date: September 10, 2012
Proposed New Due Date: October 14, 2012

(i) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting, adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Partridge, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Recommended Response Time Targets

Column 1 Type of Call	Column 2 Response Time Targets (from EMS notified of the call to arrival at site)	Column 3 Recommend 2013 City of Hamilton Benchmark %	2010 No. of calls	2010 % of Cases the Proposed Target Time was Achieved	2011	2012 YTD to June
Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) i.e. not breathing no pulse	Defibrillator Response Six (6) minutes or less Set by the MOHLTC	75% or better	225	64.8 % within 6m	75.1%	85.8%
CTAS* 1 (other than SCA) i.e. major shock	Paramedic Response 8 mins or less Set by the MOHLTC	75% or better	539	85.3% within 8m	84.0%	86.3
CTAS 2 (emergent care) i.e. chest pain	Paramedic Response 10 mins or less Set by the CoH	75% or better	10,898	86.4% within 10m	84.7	84.8
CTAS 3 (urgent care) i.e. mild asthma	Paramedic Response 15 mins or less Set by the CoH	75% or better	15,594	92.5% within 15m	90.9	91.2
CTAS 4 (less urgent care) i.e. ear ache	Paramedic Response 20 mins or less Set by the CoH	75% or better	6,697	97.2% within 20m	96.3	95.9
CTAS 5 (non urgent care) i.e. sore throat	Paramedic Response 25 mins or less Set by the CoH	75% or better	1,147	98.4% within 25m	98.8	98.7

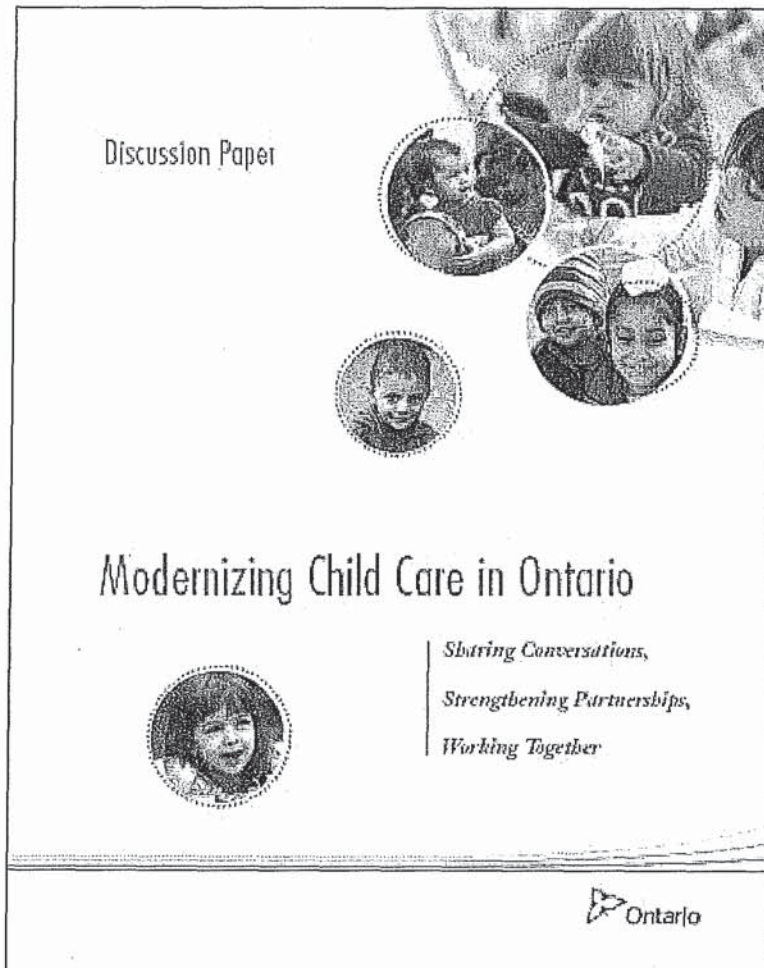
Hamilton
Best Start[★]

Hamilton
Meilleur départ[★]



Hamilton

Hamilton's Early Years Community Response to Modernizing Child Care in Ontario



Background

The Government of Ontario, in their commitment to working with partners and families in modernizing Ontario's child care system, released a discussion paper recently from the Ministry of Education, Early Learning Division: *Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together.*

The discussion paper provides an overview of the government's long-term vision for child care and action plans over the next 3 years to support the vision. The Government of Ontario's long-term vision for child care is, "to build a high-quality, accessible and coordinated early learning and child care system for children before they start school and for school-aged children." They note that this system will focus on "learning in safe and caring play-based environments, on healthy physical, social, emotional and cognitive development, and on early identification and intervention for children in need of supports".

To support this vision, the government proposes taking action in the following five key areas over the next 3 years:

- 1) Operating Funding Formula: By developing a new approach to funding that is transparent and informed by evidence and experience to support consistency in approach, accessibility for families and quality for children and child care operators.
- 2) Capital Funding Priorities: By pursuing capital funding that emphasizes child care spaces in schools (a "schools-first" approach).
- 3) Quality Programs: By developing:
 - a) mandatory provincial program guidelines,
 - b) an updated framework to support children with special needs, and
 - c) new resources and information for parents and providers.
- 4) Modernizing Legislative & Regulatory Framework: By reviewing and updating the legislation and regulations that govern the continuum of child care services based on evidence and experience to ensure the health, safety, and quality of child care for children, parents, and providers.
- 5) Support for Accountability & Capacity-Building: By improving data collection, enhance licensing procedures, and develop supports for parents and operators to help better evaluate outcomes, support sector capacity, reduce duplication and improve accountability.

The government requested input on the five key areas and provided questions to guide parents and stakeholders in providing input to the Ministry of Education by September 24, 2012. The following document provides a collective response to the government's appeal for input from the City of Hamilton, Hamilton's Best Start Network, and community partners.

The City of Hamilton, as the local Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), like other municipalities across the province, plays a key leadership role in planning for and managing the local early years system. Further, the City has a strong history in developing community driven approaches to planning for human services in a collaborative and integrated manner.

In our community, the Best Start Network has been the City's 'go to table' to work on integrated human service planning for young children and their families. The Best Start Network is a collaboration of over 50 organizations that come together from various sectors (e.g. child care services, law enforcement, mental health, public health, health providers, child development, etc.) with the common purpose for *making Hamilton the best place to raise a child*.

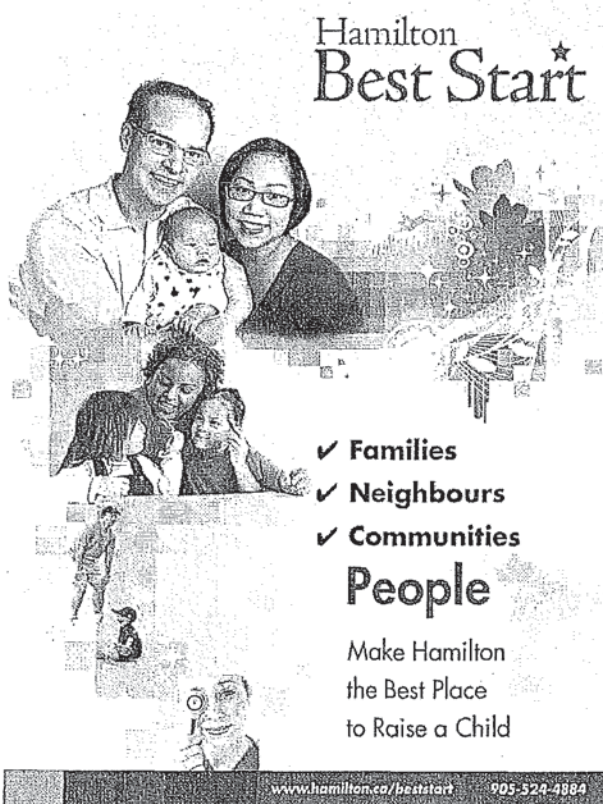
The Ontario Municipal Services Association (OMSSA) *Moving Forward Hand in Hand* document released in May 2012 provides a reference point for the collective response in this report. The City of Hamilton is a member of OMSSA and had previously provided input into the *Moving Forward* document.

Moving Forward Hand in Hand seeks to support the government in creating the best environment for children and families to have accessible, quality, accountable and sustainable early learning and child care services families deserve.

The following definitions from that report form the foundations for aligning Hamilton's collective response with the government's policy priorities pertaining to children as follows:

- **Accessibility:** Children and families in Ontario can access an integrated and inclusive continuum of early learning and child care services they need when they need them.
- **Quality:** A range of early learning and child care services are provided which demonstrate exemplary standards through evidence informed, age appropriate practices, and services delivered by knowledgeable, skilled, and committed educators working in supportive and rewarding environments as outlined by the Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources in *Investing in Quality 2007 Report*.

- **Accountability:** A partnership formed between orders of government where leadership and responsibility are shared, while working toward common goals for children and families.
- **Sustainability:** An adequately resourced, publicly funded, organized early learning and child care system that delivers on accessibility, quality and accountability.



We commend the Province of Ontario for initiating the transformation and modernization of child care and believe municipalities are well situated to partner with the Ministry of Education to implement solutions to improve early learning for children and their families.

This collective response from the City of Hamilton, and Hamilton's Best Start Network puts families and children at the forefront of human service planning and builds on the government's child-oriented policy priorities as evidenced through the implementation of full-day learning and the movement towards planning an integrated Best Start Child and Family System as recommended by Dr. Charles Pascal's *With Our Best Future in Mind*.

Method

The City of Hamilton in their role as Service Manager for Child Care and lead for Best Start initiative gathered together the members of the Best Start Network and the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) Child Care Working Group¹ on August 1, 2012 to focus on submitting a collective response to the questions from the Ministry of Education through participatory discussions.

¹ CMSM Child Care Working Group is comprised of partners that serves as an advisory to the CMSM on Child Care Services in Hamilton.

1) Operating Funding Formula Response

Based on the discussions, the following highlights key advice for the Ministry to consider in developing a new approach to funding. Under the following themes, the government needs to:

Funding Principles

- “Develop the new funding model within an accountability framework that has agreed upon outcomes for children, families and service providers.”
- “Ensure the new funding model is consistent, stable, indexed and multi-year in order to support municipalities to complete long term collaborative planning that best meets the needs of children, families and service providers at the local level.”
- “Consider new models for funding in Ontario based on successful models from other jurisdictions such as Quebec or Manitoba.”
- “Consider replicating the Education model of funding for early learning and care to ensure universal access to early learning and care for all children in Ontario.”
- “Take into account the full spectrum of early learning and care programs when designing funding models.”
- “Streamline funding by eliminating the multitude of funding streams that currently exist to provide municipalities the flexibility necessary to respond to emerging local needs in a timely manner.”

Equity

- “Develop a new funding formula that would take into account ‘equity of access’ to child care by ensuring funding allocations and flexibility of funding that allows communities to address barriers to access that can occur due to demographic and geographic differences (e.g. low-income families, English or French as a second language, population growth, percentage of child population under 6 years, etc.). It will be imperative that the government determines whether additional new funding will be required when applying the formula to ensure that gains made thus far by local communities across the province will not be at risk.”

Base Funding

- “Create a new funding formula that provides a stable, transparent platform of investment that clearly identifies the role of the governance and partners (such as

Operating Funding Formula Response cont'd...

the municipality, school boards, and child care operators) involved in the funding model. This investment should ensure the flexibility needed to address varying operational costs. This investment should also allow adequate funds to be available for fair remuneration of Early Learning and Care Professionals and support their on-going professional development.”

Quality Indicators

- “Ensure that any funding model that is developed fully supports the quality outcomes as outlined by the Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources Panel, *Investing in Quality 2007 Report* (e.g. Health & Safety, Accessibility, Equitable and Fair Accommodations, Early Learning and Care Professional Standards & Training, etc.).”

Maximization of Existing Resources

- “Support efforts by local municipalities, school boards and/or service providers to maximize the sharing of resources (e.g. funding/space) or the amalgamation of services to ensure a sustainable level of service delivery.”

2) Capital Funding Priorities Response

The following highlights advice for the Ministry to consider in pursuing capital funding that emphasizes child care spaces in schools (a “schools-first” approach). Under the following theme, the government needs to:

Integrated Human Services Approach

- “Ensure that capital planning processes consider the entire early years system rather than just child care and focus on a neighbourhood and community first approach that takes into account community needs.”
- “Set specific expectations, requirements and accountabilities to support integrated capital planning between municipalities and local school boards.”
- “Take into consideration how third party operating policies at the local School Boards either support or serve as a barrier to emerging government direction related to encouraging community service providers to re-locate to school facilities.”

3) Quality Programs Response

The following highlights advice for the Ministry to consider in developing mandatory provincial program guidelines, updating frameworks for children with special needs, and new resources and information for parents and providers. Under the following themes, the government needs to:

Quality Assurances

- “Ensure there is a process for addressing quality as current licensing process does not take into account all the quality outcomes (e.g. child/caregiver interactions) as outlined by the Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources Panel, Investing in Quality 2007 Report.”
- “Commit to Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT) as a common framework for early learning and ensure the principles of ELECT are embedded in the provincial policy framework.”
- “Make provincial policy include local accountability initiatives, such as Hamilton’s Raising the Bar Quality Assurance Program, that are linked to quality indicators and tied to funding so a process for addressing sub-standard care/programs is at the local level (e.g. closures at the local level).”
- “Develop pay scales for ECEs that should be linked to professional development and educational attainment. Consistent scales should be established at the local level.”
- “Determine who is best suited to take on the role of monitoring program quality and the resources that are associated with the process and procedures needed.”
- “Consider how blending smaller programs together or amalgamating them with larger organizations could better support program quality as smaller programs are unable to address quality due to their lack of resources and infrastructure.”

Professional Standards & Development

- “Work with the College of Early Childhood Educators to adopt standards of quality and recognize the contributions of the Early Learning and Care Professional in quality early learning and care programs as outlined in 2011 Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.”

Quality Programs Response cont'd...

Parent Engagement

- “Develop a framework for engaging parents to inform them about their choices in child care based on quality and what that means for their children’s development and life-long learning.”

Children with Special Needs

- “Develop consistent and appropriate resourcing that ensures the accessibility of all children.”
- “Support families and their children as they transition across a seamless system of early learning and care and ensure quality of care are standardized, equitable, fair and appropriate to families and children with special needs.”
- “Offer families who have children with special need options and choices based on quality; cost should not be a barrier.”

4) Modernizing Legislative & Regulatory Framework Response

The following highlights advice for the Ministry to take into consideration in reviewing and updating the legislation and regulations that govern the continuum of child care services. The government needs to:

- “Ensure that provincial licensing process aligns with and supports the local service manager planning processes which reflect integrated human services planning principles, is based on local need, and ensures effective use of public funds.”
- “Develop a harmonized system that would provide one ‘best’ standard for both school boards and child care programs in areas such as:
 - Fire inspections for school and child care spaces;
 - CSA standards;
 - Playground equipment inspection;
 - Zoning;
 - Lead testing;
 - Water testing;
 - Public and shared spaces;
 - Administrative costs associated with standards; and,
 - Shared supports between childcare/schools (e.g. transitioning children with special needs into school).”

Modernizing Legislative & Regulatory Framework Response cont'd...

- “Develop a recreation based care model for 6 to 12 years olds that:
 - Includes quality, evidenced-based programming that would be addressed not only in schools and child care but any programs for children 6 to 12 years old that would be regulated and funded under this legislation;
 - Builds on before and after school recreation, arts, and homework programs;
 - Adopts high standards for public accessibility during flexible hours throughout the day (e.g. lunch hour programs, after school, weekends, etc.); and,
 - Adopts flexible staffing approaches to accommodate accessibility for extended hours in the day and week for families who need child care (e.g. parents who work night shift and require child care).”

5) Support for Accountability & Capacity-Building Response

The following highlights advice for the Ministry to take into consideration in developing supports for accountability and capacity-building. Under the following themes, the government needs to:

Accountability measures

- “Partner with municipalities as local service managers to develop an accountability framework that has clearly defined expectations and outcomes for children, families and service providers.”
- “Provide a definition of ‘*risk assessment*’ that would expand on what is outlined in the discussion paper to identify how this type of assessment is different from what is currently happening in organizations that already do risk assessments (e.g. quality assurance measures in the developmental services sector) for public funds and explain how this type of assessment would support quality and accountability.”
- “Develop evaluation approaches that are interactive and take into consideration the quality assurances already used in early years systems, such as Hamilton’s Raising the Bar Quality Assurance Program.”
- “Include flexibility for organizations’ accountability so as to allow organizations to service the additional needs of some neighbourhoods and communities (e.g. placing an extra staff person in a program that has a child with greater support needs related to a child’s special needs).”

Support for Accountability & Capacity-Building Response cont'd...

Tools

- “Develop a system for monitoring children beginning at birth that provides the critical, reliable data for making evidence-based, informed decisions about the extent to which programs and services are optimizing children’s well-being and developmental outcomes so as to ensure “transformative effects” (e.g. economic prosperity) for individuals, society, communities and the province as outlined in the Early Years Study 3: Making Decisions Taking Action .”
- “Create a common database that would facilitate the efficient collection of, standardization of, sharing of, linking of and storing of data that takes into account (e.g. informed consent) families’ and providers’ right to voluntarily provide information for the purposes of monitoring.”
- “Develop methods and tools for collecting data that are culturally sensitive, accessible and linked across systems as children transition in and out of various services, programs, schools, etc.”
- “Revise legislation and regulations pertaining to the collection, linking and sharing of data based on the Information Privacy Acts that govern the different authorities to collect and be the custodian of families’ and children’s data.”

Public Reporting

- “Develop reporting mechanisms that are quantitative and aggregated so as to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of families and young children while providing public accountability.”
- “Educate professionals, parents and the general public about the benefits of evaluation that would foster a culture of accountability and capacity-building.”

Concluding Advice

Through a collective response to the government's request for input, Hamilton's Best Start Network, community partners and the City of Hamilton have highlighted our best advice for the Ministry of Education as it relates to child care and the early years system.



Overall, the collective responses suggest that the Ministry's efforts in modernizing child care are warranted and that current examination of the existing child care system needs to inform the future of child care in Ontario.

General consensus among the responses resonated around the need for sufficient funding. There was concern with the potential for reduced funding as a result of applying an equity formula without the infusion of additional funding that would be counter intuitive to modernizing child care in Ontario.

Recognition of the key topic areas for modernizing child care and how they are related to one another needs to be examined as they will impact the nature of how each area is re-engineered to meet the needs of families, children and communities. For example, quality will impact funding; funding will impact the extent to which organizations can be accountable while building capacity; etc.

It becomes problematic when the guiding principles laid out in the Ministry's document outlines expansion through the adoption of a new age category for care built on a "recreation model" when efficiency is a funding expectation.

Further information and ongoing consultation between partners and the government will be needed to continue to determine if the government's plans for modernization are realistic in truly supporting children and families in Ontario.

Finally, it is imperative that the government ensures that measures taken to modernize child care not happen outside the context of planning for the broader early years system including future development of the Best Start Child and Family Centres.