



## **Success By 6 Peel – General Meeting Day**

**Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

### **Speaking Notes - Marilyn Dumaresq**

#### **Morning session**

Good morning everyone. I want to welcome everyone to our Annual General Meeting Day.

It has been a true pleasure for me to have this opportunity to work with Success By 6 Peel, and with the Peel community. In the short time that I have been here, I have been impressed by the volunteers and leaders of this community, all whom are making substantial and positive changes to benefit children in Peel. The power of the collective effort is awe inspiring

We have had a busy year filled with change, but we have also reached significant milestones and successes.

## **Transition of LIONs to Region of Peel**

Success By 6 Peel has been an integral and committed partner in developing the LION initiative and has, until recently, been the contract lead with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The role of Success By 6 Peel has been primarily to support program and partner development. Over the past two years we have built a strong foundation in both these areas. As with other community initiatives, it was always the intention that Success By 6 Peel would initiate and develop the project and then, once established, would look to the partners to take on the lead. The transition to The Region of Peel, Has now been completed.

Success By 6 Peel will continue as an integral partner providing advice on the steering committee and evaluation and communications services.

We are pleased to welcome colleagues for Edmonton who visited the LION Project yesterday with Shirley Ann Teal/e truly excited to see the program in action. As many of you know, the idea for the program came, originally, from Edmonton. Our colleagues indicatd that we have improved it significantly. They plan to return home and implement the new model, hopefully improving upon it yet again.

## **LION Featured in the Toronto Star**

In June, the Learning in Our Neighbourhood (LION) program was featured in an exclusive article in the Toronto Star. This positive news story, written by Vanessa Lu, not only highlighted the importance of early year learning, but it provided us with the platform to press the issue of Peel's rapid growth and service gaps.

## **Early Years Conference in BC on rights of the child**

We were honoured to have been selected for a panel presentation on the development of our children's charter of rights at the National Early Years Conference in June. Elena Di Batista, Donna McIlroy and Beth Williams spoke about how, with the help of more than 4,000 children, and hundreds of individuals from regional government, school boards, community agencies and residents, we created this instrument for advocacy and change.

The presentation began with the origins of the charter, and how the unique demographics of the Peel community informed the process of engaging children and adults in creating a charter that

would truly reflect the diverse population and needs of children in Peel. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

### **SDA Online Tutorial Launch & SDA Workshop Offered**

In October, we launched a new, interactive Online Tutorial for the **Service Delivery Area database**. The SDA database assists Peel Service Providers with service planning and delivery to Peel residents by providing access to relevant data about the communities that they serve.

The tutorial is part of a region-wide training initiative facilitated by Success By 6 Peel that will assist Peel Service Providers in becoming familiar with the database's tools and resources. The comprehensive tutorial provides an overview of the database, and case-study modules that guides learners through information and data searches.

It was a pleasure to have been a part of this development, and I want to thank **Philippa Bodolai** for her dedicated work on the SDA Online Tutorial.

We invite Peel Service Providers to take the Online Tutorial, or if you would like to request a facilitated group training session in January 2011, please contact Philippa Bodolai.

## **Staffing Changes at Success By 6 Peel**

It has been a year of transition for Success By 6 Peel, which began Elena's departure in the spring followed by my arrival in May. We said farewell to Beth Williams, as she moved on to a new opportunity in Halton.

I was pleased to announce the arrival of Suset Silva, our new Communications Manager in October. Suset has more than 10 years of senior communications experience in the child welfare field and holds a BA in Professional Communication. Welcome, Suset!

And as many of you know, we will be saying a temporary farewell to Dorcas Awoniyi, who is expecting her first child in January. We are currently working on hiring a replacement for Dorcas to fill in for her maternity leave. Congratulations, Dorcas on this new journey of motherhood! You will be missed.

Seema Taneja, will return from maternity leave in January to her role as full-time. We thank Philippa Bodolai who filled in for Seema, for her extraordinary work and wish her well on her new

assignment as the Post-partum Mood Specialist for the Region of Peel.

And lastly, I am excited about the arrival of Graham Clyne, new executive director for PCYI., and look forward to working with him in the next phase of this exciting community collaboration.

You will be hearing from Graham later on this morning.

### **Committee Update Introductions**

I would now like to introduce the committee representatives from the various Success By 6 Peel initiatives who will be reporting on the year's accomplishments.

We've made a slight change to the agenda. We moved Lisa Pecarski's Best Start Network presentation to this portion of the program. Lisa will conclude the series of presentations.

Now, please welcome...

- **Cheryl Neave from the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Committee**

Cheryl Neave is the Coordinator of the Peel Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Project. Cheryl provides leadership to various FASD committees and

working groups in Peel Region; presents workshops to community professionals and parent support groups; and liaises with FASD clinics in Ontario and across Canada.

- **Charmayne Brown and Kamalesh Visavadia – from LION Learning In Our Neighbourhood**

Kamalesh is the Manager of Human Services in the Strategic Planning, Policy and Partnership Division at the Region of Peel.

Charmayne is the Supervisor of the Community Partnerships Unit with the Region of Peel.

Charmayne oversees the day-to-day operations and supervisors front community development workers in work in priority neighbourhoods in Peel.

- **Monica Irwin from the Peel Post Partum Mood Disorder Committee**

For more than 3 years, we were fortunate to have Monica Irwin lead the development of the Peel Postpartum Mood Disorder Program. A lot was

accomplished in that short period of time.

Today we are proud to have Monica talk about a program that has become part of the fabric of Peel and provides crucial information and support to women and families not just in Peel but around the country.

- **Dan Reidy and Marcelle DaCamara from the St. John Fisher Neighbourhood Learning Place Committee**

Dan Reidy is a Program Coordinator with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and Co-chair of the St. John Fisher Neighbourhood Learning Place Committee.

Marcelle DaCamara is the Program Coordinator at St. John Fisher. She coordinates the day-to-day program, and also assists with fund development.

- **Lisa Pecarski, Early Years Advisor for the Region of Peel, from the Best Start Network Research Project**

**While this is not specifically a Success By  
It embodies the spirit and vision of our  
commitment to continuous quality improvement,  
buiding services based on best practice research.**

Since 2005, Peel's early learning and school board partners have collaborated in a multi-year research project. The Peel Best Start Research and Evaluation Project, led by Dr. Jan Peltier, is studying an integrated approach to early childhood service delivery. There have been some fascinating findings coming from the Best Start Research and Evaluation Project. These findings are being published later this year in a book entitled *New Directions in Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada*.

*Lisa is here to tell us more about that.*

I would like to ask each presenter to re-introduce themselves before they begin.

Please welcome our first presenter, Cheryle Neave.

## **Volunteer Acknowledgement**

### **[FOLLOWING JOHN'S GIFT PRESENTATION TO SENATOR PEARSON & NAOMI ISHMAEL]**

Volunteerism is at the heart of the mission and values of Success By 6 Peel. Without volunteers, many of our initiatives would not come to life. Many of them have jobs, busy careers and family lives and still contribute their skill and energy to our programs. In my short time here, seeing their contribution has humbled and inspired me.

Our volunteers elevate everything we do with their enthusiasm and expertise. Whether it's, packaging and delivering the gifts to new babies on National Child Day, or being an ambassador for the Children's Charter, a peer educator, a volunteer telephone support worker or a member of the myriad of committees and working groups,, they are on the frontlines tackling pressing the social issues in our community.

We are fortunate to have so many enterprising volunteers and on behalf of all of Success By 6 Peel, I thank you. Thank you for helping us get so many exciting initiatives off the

ground and thank you for leading us to new ideas,  
partnerships and solutions.

***[Marilyn leads audience in applause]***

**Special thanks to John Heuther [unscripted- Shelley ]**

### **Closing Remarks**

Thank you to today's presenters and participants for a  
wonderfully educating and entertaining morning.

Thank you to the GM event team: Dorcas Awoniyi, Ellen  
Gardiner, Suset Silva and Amanyi Tadros for this exceptional  
day

Lunch is served out in the hall. We will convene after lunch for  
our Advocacy Workshop.

**---end of morning session---**

## **Afternoon Session – Introduction to Carol Kotacka**

In my short time at Success By 6 Peel, I've realized that all the planning, everything you think about and all the activity has an element of advocacy. It comes through in small ways, when someone provides support to a woman experiencing postpartum mood disorder, or in large ways, with presentations to Council, conferences and schools on the Peel Children's Charter of Rights.

The principle that guides us and is the motivator for all our advocacy activity is the same one that has been guiding us since Anne Fenwick, Elena DiBattista and Brenda Finlayson got together 14 years ago to talk about addressing the growing gaps in our services and supports for children 0 to 6.

We are all one when it comes to advocating for this cause – striving to give children and their families the best opportunities in their early years.

We know we can always do it better and to teach us a few new tricks, we've invited Carol Kotacka to guide us through an Advocacy workshop. During the span of Carol's career, she has led project teams across a variety of sectors including government, not-for-profit, financial, manufacturing and the service sector.

In recent years, she has dedicated her experience and energy exclusively to social justice issues. Through both paid and volunteer work, Carol has represented and advocated on such issues as violence against women, inequity in human capital investment – with respect to social and community health services, as well as civic engagement.

Together with her business partner, Julie Pehar, Carol runs Arro Vision Consulting. They have worked with many organizations in Peel, including the United Way of Peel Region, the Peel Committee on Sexual Assault and the Peel Children and Youth Initiative. Carol also supports the Fair Share Initiative.

I think we're going to have a very interesting afternoon...there might be a bit of work involved but I have a feeling we'll walk away ready to take our message even further.

Welcome Carol!