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| Report To: | Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board |
| From: | Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services and Lori Clark , Children's Program Supervisor |
| Date: | November 27, 2014 |
| Re: | Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) Services – Issue Report |

Recommendation:

That the Board support staff in their request to have DAC services remain status quo until the Ministry of Education provides further direction regarding Ontario Early Years Services, which includes Best Start Child and Family Centres, DAC and Early Literacy services.

Background:

DAC's are attached to Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC's) in each riding in Ontario, one DAC per riding. Initially there was one DAC in Sudbury and 2 DAC's shared the work of the Algoma, Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts.

The DAC's have a core set of similar duties as well as a vast set of other duties as assigned by the community, via the Best Start Network. They also help facilitate community access to information related to the early years.

During the time when two DAC's were sharing the work of the Algoma, Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts, there was some confusion with respect to supporting the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network and the level of service was not acceptable. The Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network and the Manitoulin Sudbury DSB advocated for DAC services for the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts. Child and Community Resources (CCR), the OEYC for Sudbury and the agency responsible for providing DAC services to Sudbury Manitoulin and Sudbury began providing service to the Manitoulin and Sudbury District via a purchase of service partnership with the Sudbury Social Planning Council. The DAC services received have supported the Best Start Network's planning.

The [Ontario Early Years Policy Framework](#) identified the importance of creating an effective approach to implementing Best Start Child and Family Centres and establishing a common governance structure for family resource/support programs, child care and full day kindergarten. Responsibility for Best Start Child and Family Centres will reside with the Early Years Division at the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education assumed responsibility for the funding, contract management and financial reporting responsibility for OEYC's, DAC's and Best Start Network Planning in 2014. The Ministry of Education has indicated their focus throughout the transition period is to ensure continuity of services. The transition supports the government's vision of building a stronger more coordinated and accessible system of early years and family supports.

Updates:

In 2014 CCR announced that they would be providing DAC services directly. CCR ended their contract with the Sudbury Social Planning Council for service in Sudbury. An arrangement was made for the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB for CCR to purchase DAC services from Sudbury Social Planning Council for the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB. CCR has now indicated they would like to deliver DAC services directly for the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts effective April 1, 2015.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network and the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB are satisfied with the services they are currently receiving and are currently working on a Results Based Accountability Planning process facilitated by the DAC.

Conclusion:

The Ministry of Education is taking the time to plan services effectively and is encouraging status quo. Our district and the Best Start Network were without DAC services for a considerable amount of time and are pleased with the DAC services being received now. It is strongly encouraged that no changes be made regarding DAC services until the Ministry of Education determines the best approach for service delivery for all early years programs which is expected later in 2015.