

Request for Decision

Authorization of Better Beginnings Better Futures as an Authorized Recreational and Skill Building Program

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Nov 14, 2016
Report Date	Wednesday, Oct 19, 2016
Type:	Managers' Reports

Resolution

WHEREAS the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) came into effect on August 31, 2015 replacing the outdated Day Nurseries Act (DNA) and establishing new rules governing child care in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS under the Act, new requirements are being phased in for Authorized Recreational and Skill Building Programs, which are authorized to deliver after school programming without a license from the Ministry of Education;

AND WHEREAS, due to these changes, the after school programs being offered by Better Beginnings Better Futures Sudbury do not currently meet the transitional requirements to be considered an Authorized Recreational and Skill Building Program, without an Authorization from the City of Greater Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS, Better Beginnings Better Futures' Recreational and Skill Building programs are 100% Provincially funded,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury authorize Better Beginnings Better Futures Sudbury to continue to deliver Recreational and Skill Building After School Programs for children aged 6 to 12, during the transitional period until September 2017;

AND FURTHER THAT the Children Services staff be directed to continue to support Better Beginnings Better Futures Sudbury to make changes that will meet Ministry requirements while continuing to meet the needs of children in the Flour Mill/ Donovan neighbourhoods through the transition period and beyond.

Finance Implications

This recommendation has no financial implications for CGS. Better Beginnings Better Futures operates the programs in question with funding received directly from the Province. The Authorization from the City

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Health Impact Review

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Division Review

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Recommended by the Department

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Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
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simply gives them the authority to deliver these programs in the transitional period without a Child Care License.

Health Impact Assessment

The services currently offered by Better Beginnings Better Futures contribute to reducing the barriers to health faced by many families in the Flour Mill/ Donovan neighbourhoods. The proposed resolution will help to ensure that children in the Flour Mill/ Donovan Neighbourhoods will continue to benefit from the programming offered by Better Beginnings Better Futures during the transition period and allow time for the agency, with support from CGS to develop a plan to continue to meet children's and families' needs.

Background

Over the last three years, the Ministry of Education has been introducing changes to child care in Ontario to modernize the system and ensure that it reflects current realities. Their stated goal is to build a child care and early years system that better supports parents and gives children the best possible start in life. Extensive consultation with parents and early years partners was key to developing this modernization plan.

To support this goal, the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA) came into effect on August 31, 2015. This legislation replaced the outdated *Day Nurseries Act* (DNA) and established new rules governing child care in Ontario.

Many of the new provisions were designed to strengthen compliance and health and safety in child care settings, and help parents make informed choices about their options. Many of the provisions that existed under the regulations under the *Day Nurseries Act* are unchanged and will be carried forward under the CCEYA.

Transition for Authorized Recreational and Skill Building Programs

In the past, service providers both private and non-profit have been permitted to offer after-school and summer programs without a license for children aged four and up.

Under the Act, there have been changes to the types of programs that can deliver after school programming without a license from the Ministry of Education.

Under the new Act, an authorized recreational and skill building program can serve children aged 6 to 12 (or turning six by the end of the year if the program is offered after the start of the school year) if it meets the criteria set out in regulation.

Based on feedback and advice from the recreation sector, MEDU is taking a two staged approach to allow for a transition period for authorized recreational and skill building programs:

1. Beginning August 26, 2016, programs may operate for up to 3 hours if the program is:

- Operated by a school board, First Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario, or a municipality;

- Operated by the YMCA or Boys and Girls Club of Canada

- An Ontario After School Program funded by Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS);

- A member of a provincial multi-sports organization;

- Operated by an MTCS agency or attraction;

- Authorized by the local service system manager or First Nation provided that the program supports the health, safety, and well-being of children.

2. Beginning September 1, 2017, these programs (listed above) must also meet the provisions set out in section 6(4) of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

This provides for a transition period until September 1, 2017 to support implementation of the authorized recreational and skill building provision including the development of provincial guidelines for local service system managers (CGS) for the purposes of authorizing programs.

Greater Sudbury Children Services is working with local service providers to ensure they meet the new regulations during this transition period (from January 1 2016 to August 31st 2017) and beyond. Most programs that are currently delivering this service in our community meet the requirements in the transitional period. However, Better Beginnings Better Futures, who have been delivering programs to children in the Flour Mill/ Donovan/Downtown area for over 40 years, currently do not.

By recognizing Better Beginnings Better Futures Sudbury (BBBF) as an authorized recreation and skill building program for their programs serving children 6 to 12, the City will ensure that the organization continues to meet the Ministry requirements through the transition period. (BBBF is also working on a plan to maintain services for children under 6 through the licensed child care system).

As the permanent guidelines are released and the provisions of the CCEYA are put in place, the Children Services section will work with BBBF to ensure that their programming continues to meet the Ministry requirements, while serving the unique needs of the children and families of the Flour Mill/Donovan neighbourhood.

These programs are 100% Provincially funded.