

RICHMOND CHILDREN FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2006 - MARCH 2007

1. LOCATION: Richmond
2. ANNUAL FUNDING: \$ 100,000
3. INITIATIVE START DATE: 2003
4. INITIATIVE MANAGER

Helen Davidson
c/o Richmond Family Place
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5. HOST ORGANIZATION

Kim Winchell
Richmond Family Place
6560 Gilbert Road
Richmond V7C 3V4
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6. MCFD COMMUNITY SERVICE MANAGER

Dave Phillips
150 - 5840 Cedarbridge Way,
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7. INITIATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Contracts:

- MCFD and Richmond Family Place
- MCFD and Helen Davidson

(MCFD has a separate contract with Helen Davidson so as to avoid any conflict of interest as Helen Davidson is the former Executive Director of Richmond Family Place)

Staff:

Community Coordinator: Helen Davidson
Administrative support from host agency (10 hours/month)
Three (3) Parent Connectors (40 hours/month)

Initiative Structure:

Richmond Children First operates with an inter-sectoral Steering Committee and four Action Teams. We are continuing to explore changes to our structure as we would like to develop an Early/Middle Childhood initiative in partnership with existing committees/initiatives.

8. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR 2006-07

- Family Events Social Marketing Plan
- Richmond Children First Web Site
- Richmond Mobile Childminding Program
- Richmond Children First Parent Connectors

9. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

FAMILY EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Family Calendar 2006

Distributed 12,000 copies of the 2007 Family Calendar to families throughout Richmond. Extended distribution to doctors and schools through Ready Set Learn and Welcome to Kindergarten.

National Family Week

During National Family Week, October 2006, Richmond Children First provided community grants for three events that spoke to the theme, Nourishing the Family Tree. Postcards from Home began a community involvement process of sharing Richmond as a home for new and long term immigrant families. A Multicultural Family Fair offered families opportunities to experience 6 different cultures through crafts, activities and food. And, Family Art Fun Day focused on cultural art activities passed down from with families.

Rick Scott Concert

Rick Scott entertained 250+ parents and children, bringing a message of learning through music and play.

Parent Conference: Learn to Play – Play to Learn

After extensive planning by the Family Action Team, this conference was cancelled because of lack of registrations. A debrief found that parents were too busy to attend a registered event and the theme of play was not compelling.

MARKETING AND AWARENESS

Richmond Children First Website

The website is still under development and should be complete by September 2007. The website will be extended to cover ages 0-12.

Messaging and Logo

The Info Action Team will be holding 2 focus groups to develop some key messages and a logo contest will be held amongst school aged children to develop an appropriate logo for the initiative. A series of posters will be developed for distribution to the community.

Richmond Parent Connectors

Along with Success by 6, Richmond Children First is funding a project that is training parents to reach out and connect with other Richmond parents. So far, the 4 parents have received extensive training and they have distributed 750+ calendars door-to-door in neighbourhoods with high percentages of vulnerable children (over 90% of these families had never seen the calendar.) They are currently organizing a series of 15 parent-led focus groups to determine where parents get information about services as well as finding out information about access and barriers.

Richmond Mobile Childminding Program

The mobile childminding program, which started in September 2007, has provided 68 (September – January) childminding sessions allowing 499 children at 11 agencies to access programs.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Beyond Richmond

- Part of the provincial ECD pilot evaluation project.
- Partnering with Vancouver Coastal Health (Richmond) and Dr. Jill Hoube and Dr. Hillel Goelman in applying for a CIHR grant to measure child health delivery within Richmond
- Partnering in a newly established ECD Regional Committee for Vancouver Coastal Region

Within Richmond

- Connecting with early years initiatives: Ready Set Learn, Welcome to Kindergarten, StrongStart and School Community Connections
- Developing an Early Child Development Memorandum of Understanding with the Richmond Asset Group, a leadership group of Richmond public partners. Also beginning discussions about a Children's Charter.
- Partnering with the City of Richmond and School District to bring Derek Peterson to Richmond to give a series of presentations on Asset Development and the Power of Five
- Dialoguing with the neighbourhood of Hamilton about community building for children and families

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

- Planning day to re-affirm community priorities and develop work plans for committees
- Began review of terms of reference and policies based on provincial evaluation of Children First

Challenges

- Significant turnover of membership on all committees
- Difficulties in recruiting new members to committees and scheduling meetings because of busy work schedules
- Difficult to find meeting space in community

Strengths

- Involvement of parents in the initiative
- Increasing invitations to give presentations on research and importance of the early years
- Now holding quarterly joint meetings of Steering Committee with Action Teams

9. DIRECTIONS: 2007 – 2008

Community Awareness and Engagement

- Family Calendar
- Parent Resource Guide
- Website
- ECD Forums
- Family Week Events
- Community Presentations and Dialogues
- Professional Development

Remove Access Barriers

- Education: Access Barriers
- Richmond Parent Connectors
- Mobile Childminding Program

Support Children to be 'School-Ready'

- Neighbourhood Analysis (2 Pilot Neighbourhoods)
- EDI Interpretation
- Community Dialogues

Increased Awareness of Community Programs and Services for Families and Children

- Family Calendar
- Parent Resource Guide

Integrated Community-Based Service Delivery Model

- ECD Memorandum of Understanding
- Children's Charter
- Hub Strategy
- Linkages to ECD Committees

10. REPRESENTATION

The committee will be comprised of sectoral representatives from the early childhood community including but not limited to MCFD, health, education, literacy, childcare, municipal government, recreation, special needs sector and social services. The Committee will review membership every 6 months to ensure active, broad community-based participation. The Committee will consist of a minimum of 8 members and a maximum of 12.

MEMBERSHIP	
Vancouver Coastal Health	Diane Bissenden, Program Manager, Community and Family Health
City of Richmond	Anne Stevens*, Manager, Community Recreation Services
Social Services	Michael McCoy, Richmond Community Services Advisory Council
Child Care	Vacant
Special Needs	Carrie McLellan, Richmond Early Intervention Network
Literacy	Virginia McCreedy*, Youth Librarian, Richmond Public Library
Education	Kathy Champion, Director of Instruction, Learning Services, SD38
Mental Health	Yasmin Jetha*, Program Manager, Mental Health
MCFD	Dave Phillips, Community Services Manager, Richmond Sharon White, A/Manager, Supported Child Care/ECD Planning
Host Agency	Kim Winchell, Executive Director, Richmond Family Place

* New appointments in 2006-07

ACTION TEAMS: MANDATES AND MEMBERSHIP

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION TEAM	
MANDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate Family Calendar ▪ Identify child development information for Parent Resource Guide ▪ Develop a screening strategy 	
MEMBERSHIP	
Antonia Rozario	Community Health Nurse, Richmond Health Services
Anne McCormick	Coordinator, Infant Development Program
Allison Mitchell	Psychologist, Richmond School District
Debra Akhurst	Supported Child Development
Stacey Blondheim	Parent Connections Coordinator, Richmond Family Place

3 resignations from Action Team In 2006-07

RICHMOND CHILDREN FIRST

COMMUNITY MAPPING ACTION TEAM	
MANDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Translate the EDI and other research and present to the community – i.e. parents, planners, service clubs, etc. ▪ Prepare a summary of key findings and make available through website, print materials, etc. ▪ Prepare a joint report on the EDI with health, school district and city 	
MEMBERSHIP	
Dave Phillips (Chair)	Community Services Manager, MCFD
Sean Davies	Diversity Coordinator, City of Richmond
Dr. James Lu	Medical Health Officer, VCHA
Gina Ho*	Child Care Coordinator, West Richmond Community Association
Rob Inrig	Curriculum Coordinator, Richmond School District
Allan Hill	Cultural Diversity Coordinator, City of Richmond
Belinda Boyd	Leader, Community Engagement, VCHA
Alexandra Owens*	Family Support Worker, Richmond Family Place
Lisa Enns*	Dental Hygienist, Vancouver coastal Health

One resignation from Action Team on 2006-07

* 3 new members

INFORMATION ACTION TEAM	
MANDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website development ▪ Develop design for Parent Resource Guide ▪ Develop awareness/marketing plan and materials 	
MEMBERSHIP	
Dave Phillips (Chair)	Community Services Manager, MCFD
Peta Williams*	Richmond Family Place
Allan Hill*	Cultural Diversity Coordinator, City of Richmond
Sue Groff	Coordinator, City Centre Community Centre

2 resignations from Action Team in 2006-07

*2 new members

FAMILY ACTION TEAM	
MANDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize family celebrations ▪ Identify community resource information for Parent Resource Guide ▪ Organize Education Series for staff and volunteers working with families ▪ Act as the advisory committee for the Parent Connectors project 	
MEMBERSHIP	
Lisa deLusignan	CAP-C Coordinator, Touchstone Family Association
Janice Lambert	Outreach Family Support Worker, Richmond
Laura Hall*	Family Service of Greater Vancouver
Kay Wong	Nutritionist, Richmond Health Services
Kathy Hydamaka	Program Leader, Healthy Babies & Families, Richmond Health Services
Karen Samson*	Community Health Nurse, Richmond Health Services
Louise Walker	Coordinator, Counselling Services, Richmond School District
Arzeena Hamir*	Richmond Parent Connectors
Razia Waziri*	Richmond Parent Connectors
Cecilia Manriquez*	Richmond Parent Connectors

2 resignations from Action Team in 2006-07

5 new members