

RICHMOND CHILDREN FIRST ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2007 - MARCH 2008

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

Helen Davidson
c/o Richmond Family Place
6560 Gilbert Road
Richmond V7C 3V4
(604) 241-4035
helendavidson@shaw.ca

5. HOST ORGANIZATION

Kim Winchell, Executive Director
Richmond Family Place
6560 Gilbert Road
Richmond V7C 3V4
(604) 278-4336
kimwinchell@richmondfamilyplace.ca

6. MCFD COMMUNITY SERVICE MANAGER

Dave Phillips
150 - 5840 Cedarbridge Way,
Richmond V6X 2A7
(604) 660-1044
david.phillips@gov.bc.ca

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
Early Years Neighbourhood Coordinator: Arzeena Hamir
Administrative support from host agency, Richmond Family Place

Initiative Structure:

Richmond Children First operates with an inter-sectoral Steering Committee and three Action Teams. The wrap-up of the Strategic Planning process in spring 2008 may result in structural changes to the initiative.

8. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR 2007-08

- Strengthening Early Child Development and Early Learning Partnerships
- Strategic Planning
- Marketing Campaign
- Richmond Children First Parent Connectors – Early Years Neighbourhood Project

9. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

FAMILY EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Family Calendar 2008

Distributed 11,000 copies of the 2007/8 Family Calendar to families throughout Richmond. Calendars available in English, Chinese, Punjabi and Farsi.

National Family Week

During National Family Week, October 2006, Richmond Children First provided a grant for a multi-agency Family Day which included free family portraits provided by professional photographers, entertainment and community displays.

Growing Together: Development Guide

The Family Action Team and Growth and Development Action Team merged to begin to create a Richmond-specific development guide that will be available in English and Chinese in October 2008.

Parent Focus Groups

The Parent Connectors, trained to facilitate focus groups continued to hold focus groups to determine where parents get information about services and access barriers. This project will wrap-up in Fall 2008.

Early Years Neighbourhood Project

The Parent Connectors Project, entering into its 3rd of funding by Success by 6, shifted focus based on evolving community priorities to become the Early Years Neighbourhood Project. Arzeena Hamir, one of the original Parent Connectors, has been hired to work in two Richmond neighbourhoods, City Centre and Blundell, to support parents in developing projects that will strengthen relationships among families and build community capacity. Neighbourhood grants will be available.

MARKETING AND AWARENESS

Marketing Campaign

A marketing consultant was hired through a Success by 6 grant to develop awareness materials about the importance of the early years. The Richmond website will finally be completed and posters, a display tents, brochures, video and other promotional materials will be developed. Project components will be completed by October 2008.

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

- Involved in the development of a Vancouver Coastal Early Years Framework
- Part of the provincial ECD pilot evaluation project
- Member of the Success by 6 ECD Advisory Committee
- Consulted on the Irish EDI Strategy

Within Richmond

- Presentations to community groups and staff teams
- Involved in other community initiatives – Community Literacy Initiative, Richmond Community Wellness Strategy, Early Learning Initiative
- Established a joint Training Fund with the Early Learning Initiative
- Developed a proposal for the Grauer Early Learning Centre, an integrated hub at Grauer Elementary School (Implemented as a pilot January 2008, approved for 2008-09)
- Invited by Settlement and Multiculturalism (Ministry of Attorney General) to develop a project for refugee children
- Continue to connect community organizations and sectors within neighbourhoods and ‘communities of interest’
- Hosted Early Development Instrument (EDI) workshops to share information and examine how sectors have used EDI data

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

- Strategic planning (January – June 2008)
- Continued to host the Richmond Middle Childhood Matters Initiative
- Expanded the Steering Committee from sector representation to organizational representation; revised the Terms of Reference

9. DIRECTIONS: 2008-09

Begin implementation and the Richmond Children First Strategic Plan:

- Develop an inclusive community vision for children
- Maximize the existing capacity of public and community sectors to support young children and families
- Facilitate and support innovative initiatives that demonstrate how we can all best support children and families

10. INITIATIVE STRUCTURE

Richmond Children First is comprised of a Steering Committee and Action Teams. In 2007, the Family Action Team and the Growth and Development Action Teams merged to focus on creating a Child Development Guide.

Richmond Children First Steering Committee

The Richmond Children First Steering Committee is comprised of key stakeholders in the early childhood community who are committed to enhancing and developing an integrated system of effective services and supports for young children and their families. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the following organizations:

DIANE BISSENDEN	Richmond Community and Family Health Vancouver Coastal Health
JOYCE BRANSCOMBE	Richmond Child Care Licensing
KATHY CHAMPION	Learning Services Richmond School District
SUE GRAF	Richmond Society for Community Living
YASMIN JETHA	Richmond Mental Health and Addiction Services Vancouver Coastal Health
MARCIA MACKENZIE	Community Outreach Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Centre
VIRGINIA MCCREEDY	Youth Services Richmond Public Library
DAVE PHILLIPS (Co-Chair)	Ministry for Children and Family Development
GURRINDER ROY	Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society
LESLEY SHERLOCK	City of Richmond Urban Development (Social Planning)
MARTY TANAKA	Parks Recreation & Culture City of Richmond
MEGAN TARDIF	Community Planning and Development Richmond/Delta, Community Living BC
SYLVIA TREMBLAY	Family Services of Greater Vancouver
JUDY VALSONIS	Touchstone Family Association
SHARON WHITE	CYSD Coordinator Ministry for Children and Family Development
KIM WINCHELL (Co-Chair)	Richmond Family Place

ACTION TEAMS: MANDATES AND MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION TEAM	
MANDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate Family Calendar ▪ Develop a Child Development Guide 	
MEMBERSHIP	
Kathy Hydamaka	Program Leader, Healthy Babies & Families, Richmond Health Services
Anne McCormick	Coordinator, Infant Development Program
Janice Lambert	Family Support Coordinator, Richmond Family Place
Kay Wong	Nutritionist, Richmond Health Services
Karen Samson	Community Health Nurse, Richmond Health Services
Marie Thom	Early Learning Coordinator, Richmond School District
Ann Murdoch	Community Health Nurse, Richmond Health Services
MaraLea Schroeder	Supported Child Development Consultant, Society for Community Living
Terra McKenzie	Child Care Coordinator, Hamilton Community Centre

The Family Action Team and Growth and Development Action Teams merged to work on the Child Development Guide.

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
Rob Inrig	Curriculum Coordinator, Richmond School District
Allan Hill	Cultural Diversity Coordinator, City of Richmond
Belinda Boyd	Leader, Community Engagement, VCHA