

BACI Zoom Family Gathering – April 16 2020

36 participants

Richard Faucher, BACI ED, gave a brief introduction and summary of what we've been doing to support people and families through the COVID-19 pandemic.

- At an early stage we brought a group of families together to advocate for different issues – including discrimination around triage of people with disabilities in the health care system. That has now been addressed by the Health Authority.
- We have been lucky to not have any staff infected by the virus at BACI.
- Our staff have been taking this very seriously.
- We miss your children – the faces that keep us going every day.
- Tanya gave an update on IDP (Infant Development Program) – continuing to do home visits with families via phone or online. Trying to create a few virtual groups that families can connect to.
- If there are other supports you need – regarding food security, or different ways to connect – please let us know.
- Our children's centres are open and running. We were directed by Dr. Bonnie Henry to keep our centres open for children of essential service workers and for our current families who need it.
- We're working with the Burnaby School District to provide out of school care for more essential service families.
- We are canvassing families shortly – tomorrow or Monday – to ask whether their children are returning to our centres in May, or whether they'd like us to hold their spots (without families having to pay).
- Continue to get great advice from the Health Authority and Licensing around social distancing at the centres.

- Questions?
- How is BACI doing financially?
 - We are watching our finances closely.
 - Our board understands that we need to invest in the health and safety of the people and families we serve, and our employees, during this time -- ie. purchasing personal protective equipment, continuing to pay staff while they are self-isolating, etc.

- Would any of the Federal funding options be applicable to BACI?
 - We're looking into that.

- Have any employees or children tested positive at BACI daycares?
 - No. And we have strict protocols for if children do present any symptoms. (They are immediately isolated and sent home, and must self-isolate for 10 days.)
 - Every day, children's temperatures are taken when they first arrive at the centre, and questions are asked of families regarding the health of all family members.

Family members are not allowed to enter the building, to limit the risk of exposure for the children and staff.

- Comment that we are doing a great job keeping families well-informed and safe during these challenging and uncertain times.
- Question if there's anything families can do to help us. We're always looking for more supplies. Let us know if you find more hand sanitizer or cleaning supplies.
- If you know of any connections, please let us know.
- We're stronger because of the families that surround us.

- Comment: Thankful to the ECE teachers and school age staff for working on the floor during this time.
- Comment: Daughter typically attends a DDA day program. Want to make sure that funding stays in place after this is over. There will be a day when services will start again and her daughter's spot should still be there. If it's not, then call us.
- Starting on Monday, BACI staff were provided with surgical masks – to protect themselves and protect others. Hand washing is still more important, but we have been getting requests for masks.
- Question: Is the number of children in the daycares still the same or is it reduced to try and "distance"? Our enrolment is down about 90% -- Many families have been following Dr. Henry's recommendation to keep children at home when they can.
- The children's centres are operating in the most safe way – we have set a cap on numbers for all of our programs to ensure as much social distancing as possible.
- Comment about people enjoying the online musical programs and other online activities at www.comakedo.ca
- A great way to connect. There are baking classes, coffee houses, a range of activities.
- Co Make Do is open access. Anyone can join.
- Question about cleaning at the children's centres. The staff clean the centres frequently every day. We have the centres deep cleaned every weekend.