

BACI's Zoom Family Gathering – May 7 2020

31 participants

- Welcome everyone
- May is Childcare month, so Tanya will start with an update on Children's Services.

Tanya:

- Yesterday in the Restart Plan it mentioned opening child care centres. Ours have remained open throughout the pandemic, with low enrolment. But we are pleased to support families who needed childcare, following strict hygiene and cleaning protocols. We have masks and gloves for staff if a child suddenly becomes sick.
- As things open up more across the province, we expect more families to come back.
- Many wonder how we can practice social distancing with children. We have made some changes to support social distancing, but we also know that children need to be supported and surrounded.
- We're taking things one month at a time, looking at our next steps and how each stage of the Restart Plan will go.
- We will be supporting children throughout the summer — it will be fun, but also safe.
- Staff are doing a great job supporting our current and new families.
- IDP — for children ages birth to 3 — typically provides in-home supports, but are now seeing families online and working with therapists and other supports virtually.
- Children's Respite continues — finding creative supports for families in different ways.

Richard:

- After 7 weeks of a State of Emergency and following tight protocols, we're still free of the virus in our residential homes and all of the Day Programs that continue to run in people's homes.
- We had a couple of staff who tested positive early on, but they went through self-isolation and are fine now.

- We had a couple of people fall ill this week, unrelated to COVID.
- We are starting to plan and be prepared for after May 15.
- We are working closely with CLBC and WorksafeBC to see how we might provide more support — in ways that will be quite different from before.
- We think the residential homes will stay quite tight over the next several months. We know that it's important for families of people in the homes to see their loved ones, so we will be developing ways for them to visit while still maintaining safe protocols and physical distancing.
- Staff have been provided with masks and we think that will continue for a while.
- At BACI we have a good supply of equipment. We know we can supply our staff with equipment if needed.
- Last week we were offered some relief from CLBC — a fund for some of our Home Share Providers, and also a fund for agencies who needed to purchase extraordinary supplies of equipment.
- We'll know next week how we'll compensate our Life Share Providers as well as be compensated for our equipment.
- Our staff have done a remarkable job. A large number of them have showed up day by day and have taken their role very seriously during this difficult time.
- For those of you who are in Community Inclusion (CI), we're planning to have a couple of meetings next week to talk about what CI will look like over the next several months. It will of course look different. With 6 people being the maximum number allowed to gather, we will not be able to use Still Creek any time in the near future.
- We will start to have separate meetings with families in Residential and in CI. Life Sharing families would likely participate with the CI families.
- Thank you for being patient with us during this difficult time.
- Question: How was the experience of the person who had to go to the hospital?
 - There's a group of families from across the province who have been advocating to accompany their children in the hospital. We are trying to get a policy in place.

- There was a woman at VGH who struggled to access her child. Angela Clancy (FSI) and Ross Chilton (CLBC) talked with Dr. Behn-Smith and they were able to support them to get access, but it has been a problem.
- We also have had a woman in Ridge Meadows Hospital for the past 2 weeks who we've been able to communicate with, but not see.
- Another fellow in Burnaby General has had staff visiting him at all times.
- St. Paul's also seems more open to allowing access to families and staff.
- Some hospitals are much more accommodating than others. If your child does need to go to hospital, we will let you know right away.
- If you need any help with access, let us know right away and we can help you. That's the work we're doing behind the scenes.
- Question: Are the child care centres going to be at full capacity in June?
 - We don't know yet. We'll canvas families in mid-May to see how many want to send their children back for June. We'll need to follow direction from the Health Authority and Licensing, and our own comfort around the numbers we think are safe at each centre. We need to make sure we're welcoming children back in the safest way possible.
 - Please reach out to Tanya directly if you have any further questions.
- Question: When can family members meet with their children in the residential homes?
 - We know this weekend is Mother's Day and people will want to visit. They can't visit in the home — it would have to be out in the community. For some people, the risk may be too high and they may need to wait longer before they see their loved ones in person. We will be talking with the families to figure out what's best for everyone.
 - There are many ways to celebrate Mother's Day without putting anyone in risk.
- CI families can expect to be getting information about a meeting next week to talk about services over the next few weeks.
- Next Thursday night's meeting will likely be only for Residential families.