



**Northeastern
Catholic District**
SCHOOL BOARD

A place where we all belong.

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

PRESENT: Tara Ruel, Timmins Learning Centre
Kristine Arthur, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services
Sabrina Belanger, Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre
Paula Crotteau, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment
Centre Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's
Services Stan Skalecki, NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Amber Smith-Come, School Principal St. Anne School
Julia Spadetto-Forward, School Principal St Jerome School Catherine
Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Worker
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Shannon Costello, The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association
Mackenzie Carrier, YMCA
Ashley Rains, Community Living Timmins
Melanie Hannah, Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
Julia Spadetto-Forward, School Principal St Jerome School

Summary:

Colleen welcomed everyone to the meeting, and it commenced with a territory acknowledgment and prayer.

Approval of the agenda: Moved by Stan Skalecki and **SECONDED** by Kristine Arthur
That the agenda be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

Approval of the minutes of the September 18, 2024, meeting
Moved by Kristine Arhtur and **SECONDED** by Stan Skalecki
That the minutes be approved and presented. **CARRIED**

The committee members introduced themselves to Jessica Rocheleau, Education Liaison Officer from Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services who will be joining the committee as an alternate representation from the agency.

Presentation from Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre

Sabrina Belanger from CTRC. Sabrina provided an overview of the changes to speech and language services at CTRC, particularly for individuals with autism. Speech services for children with a diagnosis of autism are to be obtained through the Ontario Autism Program. CTRC can no longer serve these individuals. Referrals for individuals above the age of 18 need to be completed through Developmental Services Ontario

(DSO). The discussion highlighted the challenges families face in accessing services through the Ontario Autism Program, particularly regarding the effective use of allocated funds and the potential for parents to overlook essential services for their children. This presentation aimed to clarify any confusion regarding the accessibility of these services. The presentation materials are attached to the meeting minutes.

Psychological Assessments

Katie Mundle addressed the budget for psychological assessments, which remains at approximately \$120,000 for the year. Following the retirement of Dr. Tom Boniferro, the board is now relying on Corrie Brownlee and Natalie Bisson for psychoeducational testing, with the assessment process beginning in September. It was noted that the overall number of assessments conducted would be less this year, as Catherine's work with Tom has ended. The team is actively seeking additional psychologists to fill the gap. Daphne emphasized the availability of free psychological assessments through family health networks, which need better promotion to ensure families are informed of their options. Assessments are planned based on input from resource teachers, and the results are used in the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students.

Multilingual Learners

The meeting also focused on supporting multilingual learners (MLL) in schools, stressing the importance of understanding their diverse backgrounds and language acquisition processes. Resource teachers play a vital role in assisting students who may arrive with limited English proficiency. The teachers have utilized Google translate, pictures and gestures to help with communication.

The conversation highlighted the increasing number of multilingual learners (MLL) in schools and the importance of understanding their varied backgrounds, including any special education needs that they might have. Classroom teachers are encouraged to focus on vocabulary development and to be sensitive to the unique challenges these students face while adjusting to a new learning environment. The role of resource teachers is vital in providing the necessary support for these students. Kim emphasized the importance of mental health support for any newcomers and suggested a collaboration between schools and the Mental Health and Well Being department to support students and families if needed.

Intervention Support in Schools

We are wrapping up our diagnostic assessments across all schools and the data is currently being verified. We have created templates to assist our leads and resource teachers in sharing their results with classroom teachers for intervention planning. Each school will hold student information meetings based on the data collected. Each teacher will have the chance to meet with the principal and school team to discuss at-risk students and plan targeted interventions. This will include strategies at the classroom level (tier one) and potential support from a resource teacher or lead (tier two). More details will be provided in November, as efforts are already in progress to optimize resource usage effectively.

Discussion on Navigating Autism Services and Support for Families

The discussion highlighted the challenges families face in accessing services through the Ontario Autism Program, particularly regarding the use of allocated funds. Paula Crotteau noted that AccessOAP offers support through a regional service network manager, who can assist families in understanding their options. There was also a suggestion to improve communication and resources for both families and resource teachers to better navigate available services.

Agency Reports

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

Plans for a youth skills-building program is set to begin in November in collaboration with The Timmins Native Friendship Center. It will include a homework club and a focus on social skills. Transportation logistics for students were discussed, with an emphasis on making it easier for younger participants to attend.

North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services

We have reached full capacity in all our mental health programs across the jurisdiction and Kapuskasing. While we had no waitlist in Timmins as of August 30th, we have since received nearly 50 new referrals, leading to a current waitlist of 50.

Timmins Learning Centre

The centre has moved to the Timmins Public Library location in the integrated services portion of the building. The location is excellent and they are successfully running the homework club, with space in the program still available. This service operates on a fee-for-service model, and we feel confident about the tutors that have been hired. Adjustments to the hiring process have been made to ensure the best candidates are selected and meet the service needs. Overall, we are feeling positive about the progress and effectiveness of the program. The registration system has been enhanced to include online registration and payment, making it more convenient for users. The latest information can be found on Facebook under Timmins Learning Centre. The agency offers English as a second language specifically for adults in the area as well.

NCDSB Mental Health and Well Being Update

One key pillar of the mental health strategy focuses on parent engagement and enhancing parents' mental health literacy. To support this, a partnership has been formed with an organization, Pine River Institute Center for Family Initiatives and other school boards. This collaboration aims to reach the parent community, providing educational resources and learning opportunities to empower parents in understanding and supporting mental health for themselves and their children. During the 2024-2025 school year, we are offering five themed sessions for parents, starting with the first session on emotional development on October 24th. These sessions will cover various topics related to mental health and development. Registration is free, and detailed information will be shared with parents soon. A full list of the session topics and the dates are attached to the minutes.

Date of the Next Meeting – November 20, 2024, at 11:45 a.m.

Other Business – N/A

Adjournment - Moved By: S. Skalecki That the meeting be adjourned at 12:58 p.m. CARRIED



Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)

Speech and language services

At CTRC, we offer speech and language services to children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as support their families, school and other agencies

◆ Target population

- Children under the age of 18 with one of the following diagnoses:
 - Global Developmental Delay
 - Intellectual delay/disability
 - Developmental Delay
- Children with one of the above diagnoses as well as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are not eligible for CTRC services and they are to seek services with the Ontario Autism Program.
- Adult 18 years and over with a diagnosis of an intellectual delay/disability with or without ASD.

◆ Regions covered

- Timmins & area
- Northern Region
 - Iroquois Fall
 - Cochrane
 - Kapuskasing
 - Hearst
- Southern region
 - Matheson
 - Kirkland Lake
 - Englehart
 - Earlton
 - Temiskaming Shores
 - Cobalt
- Moosonee, Attawapiskat & Peawanuck

◆ Services provided

- Articulation (speech sounds)
- Language (expressive & receptive)
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)
- Early Literacy skills
- Stuttering & voice
- Feeding & swallowing concerns

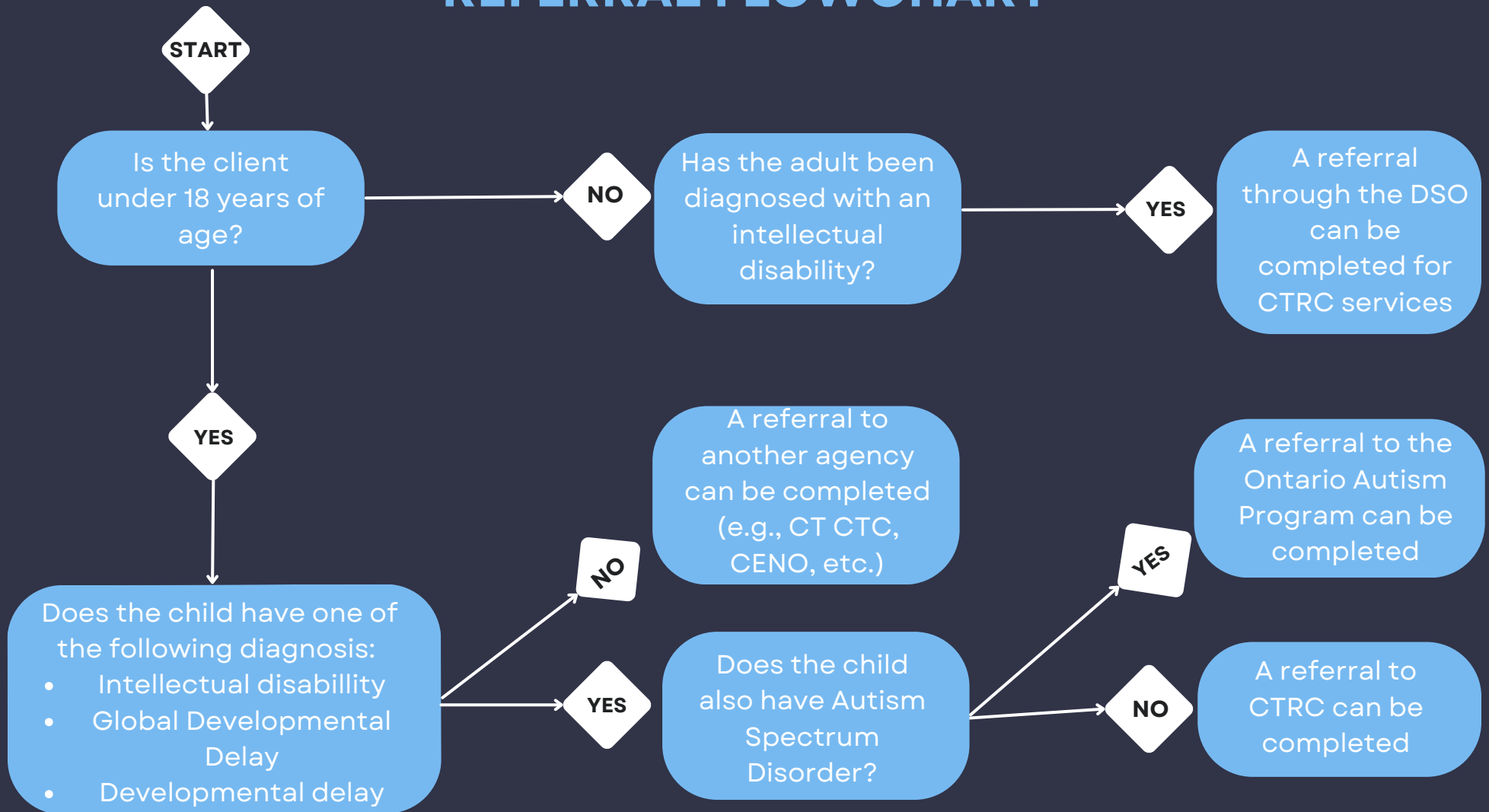


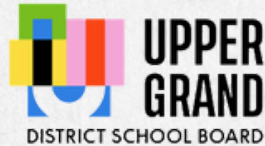
*To make a referral for adults (18 years or older) for CTRC services, contact Developmental Services Ontario (DSO).
Phone: 1-855-376-6376
Email: dso@handstfhn.ca
www.DSOntario.ca*

Referrals for children can be made by contacting the Manager of Community Support Services at (705) 267-8181 or emailing general@ctrc.on.ca.

COCHRANE TEMISKAMING RESOURCE CENTRE (CTRC)

SPEECH & LANGUAGE SERVICES REFERRAL FLOWCHART





Pine River Institute's Centre for Family Initiatives Positive Parenting Webinar Series

Upper Grand District School Board, Wellington Catholic District School Board and Northeastern Catholic District School Board in partnership with Pine River Institute will be hosting the follow webinar:

Emotional Development

Gain a new perspective on children's maturation and its importance for mental health. Learn how Pine River sees social and emotional development as key to well-being.



Thursday, October 24 , 2024

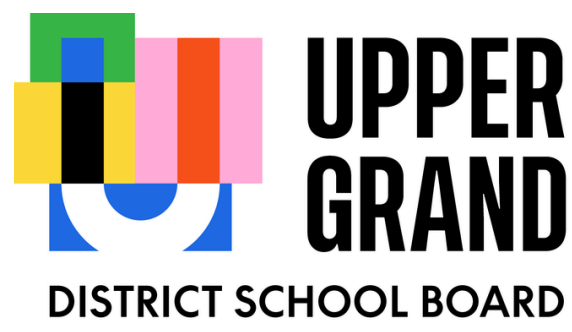


7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



[Click Here to Register](#)





Northeastern
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Pine River Institute's Centre for Family Initiatives Positive Parenting Webinar Series

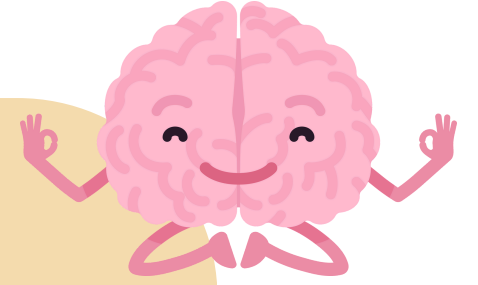
Upper Grand District School Board, Wellington Catholic District School Board and Northeastern Catholic District School Board in partnership with Pine River Institute, will be hosting five webinars:

1

Emotional Development

Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Gain a new perspective on children's maturation and its importance for mental health. Learn how Pine River sees social and emotional development as key to well-being.



2

Cellphones and Vaping

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

What do these new regulations mean for you and your child? Understanding how the new PPM 128 and what caregivers can do to support youth success.



3

School Avoidance

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

More and more youth are struggling to stay engaged in school. What motivates kids to attend and how can parents help?



4

Worry or Anxiety?

Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Discover what's normal and when it's time to seek additional support. Learn how to talk to your child about their emotions, while confidently navigating challenging situations.



5

Building our "Stretch" Zone.

Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Explore comfort, stretch, and panic zones to help you and your child build resilience, improve communication, and know when to push or provide safety.



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