

Director of Children's Services as Co-Chair of the Children's Planning Table

Introduction

The Children's Planning Table is currently working towards evolving our Charter and Governance Model. Through the work with the Governance Working Group, the role of the Director of Children's Services, also the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager of Children's Services in Waterloo Region, as a Co-Chair of CPT has emerged for discussion.

The discussion was first brought to the CPT Voting Member organizations at the June 6th CPT meeting. Following the June 6th meeting, Voting Members were engaged in an official vote on whether or not the Director of Children's Services should remain as Co-Chair.

Voting Process

As of June 6, 2017 there were 65 Voting Member organizations represented at CPT. The official vote was sent to all 65 Voting Member representatives and included three options:

- I support status quo (i.e. Director of Children's Services remains Co-Chair of the CPT)
- I support status quo with a review in 2018 (i.e. Director of Children's Services remains Co-Chair of the CPT and we review in 2018)
- I do not support status quo (i.e. Director of Children's Services is no longer Co-Chair of the CPT)

Vote Outcome

Of the 65 CPT Voting Member organizations, 41 submitted a vote. 20 Voting Member organizations voted to support status quo and 18 voted to support status quo with a review in 2018. Another 3 Voting Member organizations indicated they did not support status quo. 24 CPT Voting Member organizations did not submit a vote.

Vote	Number of Votes	% of Voters	% of Voting Membership
Support Status Quo	20	49%	31%
Support Status Quo with review in 2018	18	44%	28%
Do not support Status Quo	3	7%	5%

While there is no consensus on one single option, it is clear the majority of those who voted are in favour of the CMSM remaining in the Chair position for the time being. As such, CPT will continue to be co-chaired by the Director of Children's Services. As CPT continues to evolve, the Steering Committee will be mindful of opportunities to revisit this decision over the coming year(s).

In all cases where the Voting Member organization indicated they did not support status quo, the suggestion was made to move to a two community co-chair model. It was suggested that the Director of Children's Services would remain highly engaged in CPT as a Voting Member and continue to be on the CPT Steering Committee. One Voting Member organization shared that while it wasn't time for a change, "In the long term, the concept of having two community chairs selected by CPT membership makes sense".

Other Comments

Given the changes currently present in the sector, including changes to significant leadership positions, I wonder if stability in this area would be welcomed. I do understand the reasoning for the suggested change, but do believe that it could be revisited in the future with a view to working to strengthen capacity for the transition.

We appreciate both sides of the discussion for this vote. We wonder in a review if we could not look at a creative solution to have the Region as a rotating chair in and out with full support of that decision by all parties.

Since work is still in process in terms of governance, and there is currently significant focus on CMSM work to expand OEYCFC services within local community context, it makes sense to continue with a CMSM co-chair model for the short term.

I would recommend that work be done to map out what would need to be in place to best support a two community co-chair model for CPT, and work on making progress toward this desired future state before revisiting the co-chair decision in 2018.

I feel that the Region of Waterloo is essential to the strong collaborative value we hold here in WR. They are able to help us in ways that non-governmental organizations cannot. Our not-for-profit sector is vibrant and connected, owing in great part to the excellent leadership and facilitation of Regional staff. I believe that we continue to need their leadership, backbone support and voices at the CPT (and those many other tables, committees and boards they are a part of). We have a very unique, warm and mutually respectful partnership between government and non-for-profit in our region and I do not want to see that diminished. Both government and community need to be present in the leadership roles.