



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living Chatham-Kent	Kayla Murphy / Steve Stokley
Community Living Sarnia-Lambton	Brenda Roby
Community Living Wallaceburg	Ryan Allaer / Patricia Peters
Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton	Michelle Parks
Pathways Health Centre for Children	Melanie Coll
Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	Gabriela Todino
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Garth Lepine
Trustees	Jennifer McCann Brenda Rumble
Principal/Vice Principal Representatives	Tiffany Clarke (VP) Mike Giroux
Board Advisors	Lisa Demers Jennifer Morrow Terri Rawlings Chris Preece Lisa Thompson-Power Hollie Sparling
Guests	Bonnie Grace Kathryn Thiel Katie Papanayotou
Regrets	Terri Rawlings Chris Preece Patricia Peters

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

2. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - May 13, 2024 (Motion)

Changes to the agenda:

- Remove Mental Health Update
- Add Ministry Advisory Council for Special Education (MASCE) Survey

Motion By Michelle Parks and seconded by Brenda Rumble to adopt the SEAC Agenda of Monday, May 13, 2024. **Carried.**

3. Review of SEAC Minutes - April 15, 2024 (Motion)

Motion By Melanie Coll and seconded by Brenda Rumble to adopt the SEAC Minutes of Monday, April 15, 2024.

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. Amethyst Provincial Demonstration School

Bonnie Grace, Kathryn Thiel

- PPM 89 - One-year high intensive academic intervention program for students with severe learning disabilities
- Three provincial demonstration schools with this mandate throughout Ontario; Amethyst, located in London, serves southwestern Ontario populations
- Candidates must have a learning disability diagnosed by a registered psychologist and generally are a minimum of 2-3 years behind in reading
- Students are in Grades 6-10, stay onsite from Monday-Friday in a dorm setting with support from a team including teachers, a consulting psychologist, a speech and language pathologist and nurse
- Classes typically include 6-8 students with a maximum of 50 students in the school
- Key strategies include research-driven pedagogy, evidence-based direct explicit instruction programming, and research-informed technology
- Emphasis on literacy with 200 minutes of direct teacher instruction, along with supplemental computer reading programs
- Direct instruction math programming is also provided
- Year-long application process for boards to apply: A) Consultation process; B) Phase 1: Information Gathering due Nov 1, C) Phase 2: Binder Application Due Feb 1, D) Interviews March-April

- Important assessment criteria for Phase 2 next year: Recent Psychoeducational and Speech and Language Pathologist assessment (both within 3 years of Feb 1, 2025), vision and audiological testing (within one year - family responsibility)

2. Life Skills Program Review

Jennifer Morrow

- Program reviews are completed on a cyclical basis; this review focused on secondary school life skills programs
- Research-based literature review demonstrated clear benefits of inclusion for both neurodiverse and neurotypical students
- Data was collected through surveys to stakeholders (students, teachers, parents, EAs, administrators)
- Evidence of individualized programming and the provision of a safe environment for all students
- Six key recommendation areas: improved communication (*among teams, ongoing home/school meetings*); curriculum development (*continuum of learning, provision of high-quality learning materials*); training opportunities (*for EAs, life skills and mainstream classroom teachers*); capacity building to support equity, diversity and inclusion; transition planning (*with families and community partners*); improved documentation and reporting procedures (*i.e., IEPs, IPRCs and meeting minutes*)

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Community Living Chatham-Kent

Kayla Murphy

- April 11, 2024 - Lunch and Show at Dover Rod and Gun Club
- April 11, 2024 - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Links of Kent for 75 attendees
- Currently hiring [direct support professionals](#) and [respite caregivers](#)
- June 7, 2024 - [Golf Tournament at Links of Kent](#)
- June 22, 2024 - [Minute to Win It Tournament Fundraiser](#)
- 2024 Volume 1 [Community Connections Newsletter](#) is available

2. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Brenda Roby

- Earlier in 2024, the LCBO announced the expansion of a partnership they launched with the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) called "We Belong Here," a hiring program for people with a disability to fill summer fixed-term positions within certain LCBO locations across Ontario
- Sarnia was selected as a location for the program and a Community Living client successfully applied for a Customer Service Representative position



- Starting on April 29, 2024, Tim Horton's week-long Smile Cookie campaign kicked off with Community Living Sarnia-Lambton as the recipient
- Plans for the Summer Employment Transitions program have been finalized with the hiring of two summer staff and commitments gathered from over 20 employers to hire students through the SET program
- In April 2024, the latest jobPath workshop started with a full group of 8 participants taking part
- Brenda Roby is leaving the Board of Directors of Community Living Sarnia-Lambton so June 2024 will be her last SEAC meeting

3. Community Living Wallaceburg

Ryan Allaer / Patricia Peters

- N/A

4. Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton

Michelle Parks

- With the loss of United Way funding, many other donors have generously stepped up to ensure that the committee can continue to support Sarnia-Lambton
- Donors include Sarnia Firefighters, Bluewater Power, George Vandenburg, and the City of Sarnia

5. Pathways Health Centre for Children

Melanie Coll

- May 24, 2024 - [Race to Erase Challenge](#) taking place
- Spaces available in Tuesday Lifelong Learning transition group for 18-35 year old adults - brochure was shared with committee via email following meeting

6. Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent

Gabriela Todino

- Hiring two summer staff - applications available on Indeed platform
- Still accepting student applications for summer programs

7. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County

Garth Lepine

- June 1, 2024 - Special Friends Prom (including dinner, dance, and photo opportunities)
- June 14 & 15, 2024 - Expressive Arts: I Feel Like Dancing Event

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- N/A



E. NEW BUSINESS (Motion)

- N/A

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Ministry Advisory Council for Special Education Jennifer Morrow
(MASCE) survey

- Surveys are sent out once or twice a year
- Most recent survey relates specifically to Artificial Intelligence
- SEAC input is requested - survey questions to be shared with committee via email

2. JobPath/ School Opportunity

Hollie Sparling

- jobPath has launched a new six-week transition to employment program for secondary school students during the school year
- The program will be offered four times a year (Mon- Fri from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm) at their employment centre in Sarnia
- LKDSB partnered with jobPath this year, and SCCDSB has been invited to an information session on May 21, 2024
- Representatives from St. Patrick's Guidance, Coop and Special Education departments will be attending the meeting to plan for next year
- Participants must be able to independently manage their self-care and transportation to the site

3. Options Program update

Hollie Sparling

- Interviews took place throughout the county on April 23, 2024
- Two UCC students have accepted offers to join the program in September 2024
- A conditional offer of acceptance was offered to a third UCC student, contingent on the successful completion of their coop placement this semester
- Graduation ceremony takes place at the Cultural Centre on June 18, 2024
- Next year, there will be 12 students in the program

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- St. Anne (Blenheim) shared a presentation at the last meeting with a focus on outdoor spaces and their positive impact on student learning

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



I. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

J. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Monday, June 17, 2024

K. CLOSING PRAYER

L. ADJOURNMENT (Motion)

Motion By Brenda Roby and seconded by Melanie Coll to adjourn the SEAC meeting of Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:40 p.m. **Carried.**