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December 8, 2011

Ms. Linda Stewart, Executive Director  
Association of Local Health Agencies (alPha)  
Suite 1306 - 2 Carlton St  
Toronto ON M5B 1J3

Legislative and Planning Services  
Office of the Regional Clerk  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville ON L6M 3L1  
Fax: 905-825-8838

Dear Ms. Stewart:

RE: **SS-39-11/MO-56-11 - A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card**

This will confirm that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton, at its meeting held Wednesday, November 16, 2011, adopted the following resolution:

1. THAT the "Our Kids Network 2011 A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card" provided under separate cover to Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11 be received for information.
3. THAT Regional Council authorize the Commissioner of Social and Community Services and the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health to sign updated Network Agreements for the Our Kids Network as set out in Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11 and any ancillary documents in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11, including the Our Kids Network 2011 A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card, to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Area MPPs, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPha), and Public Health Ontario

Enclosed please find a copy of Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11 for your information. The Report Card 2011 and Executive Summary 2011 can be found at [www.ourkidsnetwork.ca](http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Sheldon Wolfson, Commissioner of Social and Community Services or Dr. Bob Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Kielt".

Kathy Kielt  
Acting Deputy Clerk and Supervisor of  
Council & Committee Services

encl.

- c. Mr. Sheldon Wolfson, Commissioner of Social and Community Services  
Dr. Bob Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health

**The Regional Municipality of Halton**





The Regional Municipality of Halton

Report To:	Chair and Members of the Health and Social Services Committee
From:	Sheldon Wolfson, Commissioner of Social and Community Services Bob Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
Date:	November 8, 2011
Report No. - Re:	SS-39-11/MO-56-11 - A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the "Our Kids Network 2011 A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card" provided under separate cover to Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11 be received for information.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11, including the Our Kids Network 2011 A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card, to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Area MPPs, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), and Public Health Ontario.
3. THAT Regional Council authorize the Commissioner of Social and Community Services and the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health to sign updated Network Agreements for the Our Kids Network as set out in Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11 and any ancillary documents in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services.

REPORT

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council

- of the key accomplishments achieved by the Our Kids Network (OKN) since 2008
- that the 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card* and *Executive Summary* are available to Councillors under separate cover.

In addition, information will be provided about the updated OKN Protocol Agreement, including the change of membership in the Network and obtaining authority to sign Network Agreements.

There will be a presentation at the Health and Social Services Committee on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to accompany this report.

## **Background**

As detailed in the following Reports: SS-37-04/MO-39-04, MO-56-04/SS-62-04, SS-19-05/MO-18-05, MO-38-06/SS-40-06, MO-09-07/SS-07-07, MO-63-07/SS-54-07, SS-49-08/MO-52-08, SS-05-09/MO-04-09 and SS-14-11/MO-09-11, the OKN is a multidisciplinary coalition of service providers working together to ensure that in Halton - all children thrive. The OKN model of integrated service delivery is an initiative rooted in comprehensive local data on child and community assets and needs, as well as evidence-based practice regarding child and youth development.

In 2004, the OKN released the first *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card* (Report No. SS-37-04/MO-39-04). This Report Card was significant as it represented the first time a broad range of regional health, social, and economic data was made available in one report. The major goal of the Report Card was to make the best available data accessible and comprehensible to all members of the Halton community. The information could be used by communities to better understand and address local concerns. In 2008, the second *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card* was released (Report No. SS-05-09/MO-04-09). The 2008 Report Card continued to support the goals of the OKN by: expanding the data presented (data relating to children birth to 18 years of age, instead of just birth to 6 years of age was included), increasing the amount of data available (28 indicators were increased to 41), and providing a tool for community mobilization.

The 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card* is not only an update to the 2008 report, but also includes

- a greater focus on Developmental Assets (Search Institute)
- more comprehensive indicators related to Developmental Assets
- Turn the Curve stories highlighting the accomplishments of communities within Halton to support the positive development of children and youth
- an update of OKN's key accomplishments since 2008.

The Report Card once again includes data at the neighbourhood level which allows smaller, localized communities to look more specifically at their needs and capacities. The neighbourhood data are available throughout the report as well as in the "Neighbourhood Profile" Section.

## **Recent Key Accomplishments for the Our Kids Network**

### *Awards and Grants*

In 2010, the OKN was presented with the Community Champion Award by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association. The Community Champion Award recognizes the great work done by individuals or teams from amongst Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards across the province.

The Ontario Education Research Panel, in partnership with the Education Research and Evaluation Strategy Branch, selected the OKN as a provincial leader in demonstrating strong research partnerships within the community. The OKN was recognized for its work and commitment to data sharing across boundaries and providing a system of service integration that meets the needs of children, youth, and families. As part of the process, a video of the OKN was produced and showcased at the February 2010 Ontario Education Research Symposium.

The OKN has been awarded the following grants in support of the Network's goals:

- Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research funding to hire a consultant to develop a Knowledge Mobilization Strategy for the OKN
- Healthy Communities funding to hire a contract staff to develop a Developmental Assets Strategy for Halton
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services Innovation funding to hire a consultant to develop a System Navigator Model to further the work on the Best Start Child and Family System in Halton.

#### *Key initiatives*

Growing partnerships: To further support the development of children and youth in Halton, the OKN has expanded to include the following committees: Children's Mental Health and Developmental Services Committee, Partners for Children with Special Needs, Integrated Planning Committee for Children and Youth, and the Communications Advisory Committee. OKN Early Years and School Years Committees, the Research and Evaluation Committee and the local Hub Planning Committees also continue to be a part of the structure.

Coordinating Services: Service coordination enables families to find and access the supports they need to maintain a quality of life consistent with their values, priorities and preferences. The OKN Service Coordination Steering and Training Committee recently completed an extensive review of training delivery and access in Halton. The results inspired the development of two tools: a service coordination guideline and a training video.

Supporting Parents: In 2009-2010, the OKN provided funds for four Parent Education Networks (Milton, Oakville, Halton Hills and Burlington) to offer nine community-based presentations and workshops on a broad variety of topics for parents and others who care for children and youth. Twice a year, the OKN also supports the production and distribution of the Halton Parent Directory.

Evaluating Our Progress: In 2010, OKN produced a report titled *How Well Did We Do? Evaluating Our Progress*. The evaluation report included the results of the six-year pilot initiative. Three performance results were evaluated: building towards service integration, supporting children, youth, and families through neighbourhood Hubs, and turning research into action. OKN demonstrated great achievements on all results (Report No. SS-14-11/MO-09-11).

## **Key Activities Related to the Report Card for 2011-2013**

**Knowledge Mobilization:** To ensure the most effective utilization of the information presented in the Report Card by communities in Halton, a Knowledge Mobilization Strategy for the 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card* will be developed. Community forums will be held throughout Halton Region early in 2012 to present a more in-depth exploration of the data in the Report Card, and to provide the opportunity and tools for community members to move forward together on responding to the results in the Report Card.

**Data Collection:** A new OKN data collection cycle begins in 2012. During the month of March, the Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS) will be completed along with the Early Development Instrument (EDI). During October and November, the Halton Youth Survey will be administered to students in Grades 7 and 10. For this data collection cycle, the Halton Youth Survey will be modified and administered to students in Grade 4 for the first time. Also, newly developed for this data collection cycle, is the Halton Parent Survey which will be given to parents of students in Grades 4, 7, and 10. The Halton Parent Survey measures a broad range of outcomes and will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the experiences of children and youth in Halton from a parent perspective.

## **Our Kids Network Protocol Agreement**

In Report No. SS-37-04/MO-39-04, Regional Council authorized “staff to establish memoranda of understanding/service agreement with members of the collaborative.” An OKN Protocol was signed by the original members of the collaborative in 2004 and a network agreement was entered into in 2005. Since that time, the agreement has been reviewed and revised, most recently to accommodate new membership, specifically, the Halton Multicultural Council and ErinOakKids – Centre for Treatment and Development. These two organizations joined the existing OKN members: The Children’s Aid Society of the Regional Municipality of Halton (Secretariat), Halton Catholic District School Board, Halton District School Board, Halton Regional Police Service, The Regional Municipality of Halton (Health and Social and Community Services Departments) and Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK).

The agreement provides the vision, mission and objectives of the Network and a commitment to the funding and operating principles of the Network. The agreement also details the organizational/committee structure of the Network as well as specifics about decision-making, information and privacy, and indemnification.

The revised agreement has been sent to the boards of all members that comprise the OKN for the renewal. Staff are seeking the authorization of Council to allow the Commissioner of Social and Community Services and the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health to sign the OKN updated Protocol Agreement as set out in Report No. SS-39-11/MO-56-11 and any ancillary documents in a form that is acceptable to the Director of Legal Services.

## **Conclusion**

The OKN is pleased to provide you with the 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card*. The *Vision* document and the renewed commitment to the Protocol Agreement represent the

Network's commitment to measuring the progress of Halton's children and youth, as well as working collaboratively to ensure the Network's vision, "All Children Thrive", is fulfilled.

## **FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS**

There is no 2011 financial impact to the budget based on the 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card*. Support for the OKN is funded from the 2011 approved budget.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO HALTON REGION'S 2011-2014 ACTION PLAN**

### **Key Action**

The information in this report supports the key action:

- Completion of the 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card*

### **Key Initiative**


The production and dissemination of the 2011 *A Vision for Children in Halton Report Card* supports Halton Region's 2011-2014 Action Plan to ensure that Halton provides a healthy quality environment for children and youth to grow and develop. The information included in this report supports the key initiative of increasing awareness and access to children's services to provide coverage for more families.

**Priority Area**  
Children and Youth Development

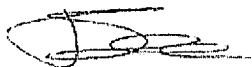
Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Jonz  
Director, Children's Services



Sheldon Wolfson  
Commissioner, Social and Community Services

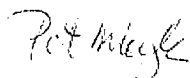


Joyce See  
Director, Community Health Services



Robert M. Nosal MD FRCPC  
Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health

Approved by



Pat Moyle  
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report, please contact: Stephanie Gee

Tel. # x2565