

December 5, 2005



Research and Outcome Measurement Branch
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
800 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5S 3A9

Attention: Patricia Longlade

Dear Ms. Longlade:

The Children's Aid Society of Brant is very encouraged by this opportunity to improve and develop practice and applaud the Ministry in supporting this innovation. We are very pleased and eager to participate in the development of this study about collaborative processes that integrates safety concerns and examines their outcome in a 'differential response' practice environment.

We believe this study will greatly increase the field's understanding and knowledge of how service is being delivered and the impact on children, youth and families. Considerable work has been carried out by the field in developing a best practice understanding of collaboration. Practitioners and supervisors/managers across the province have endorsed collaboration as a crucial variable in conducting effective service. The Children's Aid Society of Brant has been a major partner and contributor to that work over the past year. What is needed now is an empirical test that will clarify important characteristics and assess its impact on children and families in a differential response practice environment.

We hope that you will look favourably on this proposal. We are committed to fully developing the study's potential to positively influence the field.

Sincerely,

Andrew Koster, M.S.W., R.S.W.
Executive Director

- REPLY ATTENTION OF -

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School of Social Work

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<http://www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/~socwork>

November 30, 2005

Research Advisory Committee
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to express my support for Dr. Gary Dumbrill's participation in the Grant-in-Aid Application being submitted to you by a team of investigators: Andrew Koster (Executive Director, Brant CAS); Bruce Leslie (Quality Assurance Manager, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto); Gary Dumbrill (Assistant Professor, McMaster School of Social Work); and additional partners whose collaboration is being finalized as I write.

Dr. Dumbrill has a sound research record in the area of child welfare and will be able to contribute significantly to the proposed project, both substantively and methodologically. I am delighted to support his involvement in this important and promising initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Aronson".

Jane Aronson, Ph.D.
Professor and Director

December 2, 2005

Research and Outcome Measurement Branch
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
800 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5S 3A9

Attention: Patricia Longlade

Dear Ms. Longlade:

We are encouraged by this opportunity to improve and develop practice and applaud the Ministry in supporting this innovation. The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto has been a major partner and contributor to significant child welfare research studies in recent years. We are very pleased and eager to participate in the development of this study about collaborative processes that integrates safety concerns and examines their outcome in a 'differential response' practice environment.

This study will greatly increase the field's understanding and knowledge of how service is being delivered and the impact on children, youth and families. Considerable work has been carried out by the field in developing a best practice understanding of collaboration. Practitioners and Managers across the province have endorsed collaboration as a crucial variable in conducting effective service. What is needed now is an empirical test that will clarify important characteristics and assess its impact on children and families in a differential response practice environment.

We hope that you will look favourably on this proposal and we are committed to fully develop the study's potential to positively influence the field.

Sincerely,

Mary A. McConville, M.S.W., R.S.W.
Executive Director

December 5, 2005

Research and Outcome Branch
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
800 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario

Attention Patricia Longlade

Dear Ms. Longlade

The Children's Aid Society of Algoma is committed to participating in the joint research initiative related to measuring worker behavior and attitude related to safety planning with families. The findings from this research will certainly assist our Society and the entire child welfare field in establishing best practice strategies related to the Child Welfare Transformation priorities. Too often research initiatives do not include Northern Ontario as part of the data collection, which only limits their findings related to implementation issues that are often unique to the north. Algoma's participation in this initiative will certainly address this issue and only enrich the data collected and findings of this research.

This research proposal will have broad representation from across Ontario and the findings will certainly assist in validating existing child protection practices in Ontario. It will also provide our Society and child welfare agencies across Ontario with valuable planning information for the development of effective Differential Response models.

I am pleased to see the emphasis that our Ministry has placed on developing best practice models that will provide for better outcomes for children and hope that you look favorable on this proposal as a means of moving Children's Aid Societies forward with Differential Response.

Sincerely

Jim Baraniuk
Executive Director

family and children's services of the waterloo region

Incorporated as the Children's Aid Society of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Serving the Community since 1894

December 5, 2005

Child Welfare Research Advisory Committee
Research & Outcome Measurement Branch
Ministry of Children & Youth Services
800 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5S 3A9

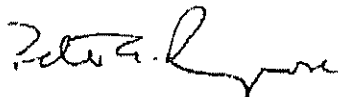
Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to confirm the support and participation of Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region in the proposed research focused on child safety planning and collaborative work with parents. We are excited about the opportunity to work with other Children's Aid Societies to study outcomes related to child safety in the context of differential response. Increasingly, we see collaborative work with families as an important dimension of child welfare practice and its potential for creating the conditions that promote the safety of children and youth.

As the Executive Director of Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region, we look forward to participating in research geared to demonstrating the effectiveness of this practice model and are very committed to supporting this research within the agency.

We hope that the Research Advisory Committee will give favorable consideration to this grant-in-aid proposal.

Yours sincerely,



Peter G. Ringrose,
Executive Director

Peter G. Ringrose Executive Director
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The Children's Aid Society
OF HAMILTON

March 29, 2006

Ms. Patricia Longlade
Ministry of Children & Youth Services
Research & Outcome Measurement Branch
and the Child Welfare Secretariat

Re. Letter of Intent: Identifying
Worker- Parent Engagement Best
Practices

Dear Ms. Longlade,

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is pleased to support and committed to participate in the research initiative Identifying Worker-Parent Engagement Best Practices (producing desired outcomes). Our Society is committed to an initiative focusing on collaboration and engagement processes that integrates safety concerns and examines outcomes in a 'differential response' practice environment.

There is no question in our minds that this study will greatly increase our collective understanding and knowledge related how our services are delivered and its impact on children, youth and families. Considerable work has been carried out in developing a best practice understanding of collaboration. Practitioners and Managers across the province have endorsed collaboration as a crucial variable in conducting effective service. What is needed now is an empirical test that will clarify important characteristics and assess its impact on children and families in a differential response practice environment.

At the case level, collaboration is most often equated with engagement strategies and they are seen as key service practices relevant to producing an effective differential response and ensuring the safety of children. Child welfare services have as a fundamental skill set the engagement of children and families in casework. Not developing a productive relationship can unduly complicate the casework and possibly negatively impact child safety, permanence and well being.

This study has clinical, service and system level implications. Some developments within the child welfare field have moved the focus for service from a strengths based approach to a risk and child protection approach. This study will greatly assist the clarification of best engagement practices based on evidence of effectiveness and help re-establish the importance of this vital casework approach across the province. It will also explore aspects of the differential response model providing insights into the variations of casework practices and client outcomes.

Drs. Jim Gladstone and Gary Dumbrill at McMaster University, who are the research leads for the project, have had considerable involvement in child welfare and the development of the provincial collaborative model. Additionally, they are well supported by a host of experienced child welfare professionals from the many agencies involved in the study. This research team is well suited to produce a sound study that will benefit the field of child welfare practice in Ontario.

We hope that you will look favourably on this proposal and we are committed to fully develop the study's potential to positively influence the field.

Sincerely,

Dominic Verticchio
Executive Director



March 31st, 2006

Ms. Patricia Longlade
Research and Outcome Measurement Branch
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
80 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5S 3A9

Re. Letter of Intent

Dear Ms. Longlade.

The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand & Norfolk is pleased and excited to provide this letter of intent in support of the proposed study into collaboration and the engagement process. I also would like to express our gratitude for the Ministry's interest and support in research in the delivery of Child Welfare services in the province. The research component will be a crucial element as we turn the practice in the field of Child Welfare.

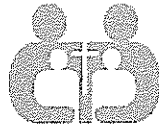
This Society is very familiar with the work of the project research leads, Drs. Jim Gladstone and Gary Dumbrill at McMaster University. Over the years, they have demonstrated substantial interest in and support to the field at a time when this was not a particularly popular area of enquiry. As a result they have developed considerable expertise not only in child welfare but also in the development of collaborative intervention models. They will, of course, also be supported by staff from the many agencies involved in the study. I feel confident that we will produce a sound piece of research which will contribute to child welfare practice in Ontario.

I hope that you consider our proposal and I wish to formally advise that we are fully committed to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Hillier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Brian Hillier,
Executive Director.



Catholic Children's Aid Society
OF HAMILTON

Patricia Longlade
Research and Outcome Measurement Branch
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
80 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5S 3A9

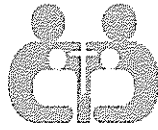
Re. Letter of Intent

Dear Ms. Longlade,

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is pleased and eager to participate in this study examining what constitutes 'best practices' in 'worker's engagement with parents' and explores their effectiveness in Ontario's Differential Response Model in relation to safety, well being and permanency outcomes. We are encouraged by the opportunity to enhance & develop this best practice approach to serving child welfare families. The Ministry's support of research in child welfare is to be commended. CCAS Hamilton has effectively collaborated with McMaster University to create & carry out a number of research studies over the past several years & can attest to the valuable learning gleaned through this research. We are excited by the opportunity to be a partner in this study.

Identifying Worker-Parent Engagement Best Practices study will undoubtedly increase the child welfare field's understanding and knowledge of how service is being delivered and its impact on children, youth and families. Considerable work has been carried out in developing a best practice understanding of collaboration. Practitioners and Managers across the province have endorsed collaboration as a crucial variable in conducting effective service. What is needed now is an empirical test that will clarify important characteristics and assess its impact on children and families in a differential response practice environment. This study will significantly increase our understanding of how to best engage clients based on evidence of effectiveness and will reinforce this vital, strength based, casework approach in child welfare in Ontario. It will also aid development of the differential response model by examining effective casework approaches and client outcomes.

CCAS Hamilton has worked often with Drs. Jim Gladstone and Gary Dumbrill at McMaster University, research leads for this project. They have been involved in research supporting child welfare for a number of years and more recently involved in the development of the provincial collaborative model. Additionally, they are well supported by a host of experienced child welfare professionals from the many agencies involved in the study. This research team has the skills, experience & commitment needed to produce a sound study that will benefit the field of child welfare practice in Ontario.



Catholic Children's Aid Society
OF HAMILTON

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is excited by the opportunity to research Worker-Parent Engagement Best Practices & we are fully committed to maximizing the potential of this research. Please give this study your full consideration and support as we believe it will have significant benefit for child welfare practice and for the families and children we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beatrice Kemp'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Beatrice Kemp
Executive Director



March 28, 2006

Mary A. McConville, M.S.W., R.S.W.
Executive Director

- Administrative Office**
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Fax: (Legal): 416-395-1676
Fax: (H.R.): 416-395-1551
Fax: (Cent. Intake): 416-395-0695
Fax: (Cent. Servs.): 416-395-1862
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Public Relations
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Hope for Children Foundation
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- Child and Youth Services**
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416-395-1500
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- Foster Care Services**
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Research and Outcome Measurement Branch
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
800 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5S 3A9

Attention: Patricia Longlade

Dear Ms. Longlade:

Re: Letter of Intent

We are encouraged by this new support to improving and developing practice and applaud the Ministry in creating this innovation. The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto has been a major partner and contributor to significant child welfare research studies in recent years. We are very pleased and eager to participate in the development of this study about collaboration and engagement processes that integrates safety concerns and examines outcomes in a 'differential response' practice environment.

This study will greatly increase the child welfare field's understanding and knowledge of how service is being delivered and its impact on children, youth and families. Considerable work has been carried out in developing a best practice understanding of collaboration. Practitioners and managers across the province have endorsed collaboration as a crucial variable in conducting effective service. What is needed now is an empirical test that will clarify important characteristics and assess its impact on children and families in a differential response practice environment.

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We hope that you will look favourably on this proposal and we are committed to fully develop the study's potential to positively influence the field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary A. McConville', with a stylized flourish at the end.

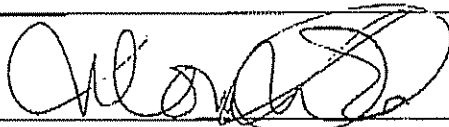
Mary A. McConville, M.S.W., R.S.W.
Executive Director

**Ministry of Children & Youth Services
Research & Outcome Measurement Branch and the Child Welfare Secretariat**

PART C: SIGNATURE SHEET

Please fax this signature page, along with supporting documentation, to (416) 326-0478 to Patricia Longlade, Research and Outcome Measurement Branch.

Project Title:	An Analysis of Worker-Parent Engagement and Child and Family Outcomes in Child Welfare Settings.
Transformation Priority:	Differential Response Collecting data related to the Child Welfare Outcome Indicator Matrix Collecting data on indicators of Child Wellbeing

Authorized Signature for Partnering Institutions/Agencies		
	Institution/Agency 1	Institution/Agency 2
Institution/Agency:	Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	
Print Name:	Mary McConville	
Title:	Executive Director	
Signature:		
Date:	March 31, 2006	

Authorized Signature for Principal Applicant (e.g. Executive Director)	
Institution/ Agency/ Department:	
Address and Postal Code:	
Print Name:	
Title:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Principal Investigator signature	
Institution/ Department/ Faculty:	
Print Name and Title:	
Signature:	
Date:	