



# Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery e-Newsletter

## Places and Spaces for Children and Youth

Calgary and Area RCSD recognizes that children and youth live, grow, and play in a variety of different settings. Homes provide children with a sense of safety and belonging. Schools support children as they become lifelong learners. Communities are where children and youth begin to participate in and actively shape their world.

This month's eNewsletter features a number of listings that speak to the range of environments where children and youth can thrive. These listings highlight how we need to work together to address issues such as youth homelessness and how we can build welcoming spaces for children and youth. Nurturing surroundings are central to children's development into secure, resilient, healthy, and successful individuals.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### **National Child Day 2017: Creating Safe and Caring Environments for Children and Youth**

#### **Community Education Event**

**November 15, 2017 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Join us to learn more about the current state of services for young people in Alberta and Canada and plans to create a Canadian Children's Charter and enact a federal Commissioner for Children and Youth and how you can develop and apply knowledge based approaches to promoting positive health and wellbeing outcomes for all children, youth and families.

Click [here](#) to register\* and click [here](#) for more information.

\*This link includes several listings for sessions on OCD, ADHD, stress, and more. Check out all of the listings available through Community Education from Alberta Health Services.

### **Introducing the Working Together to Support Mental Health in Alberta Schools Resource**

#### **Webinar**

**November 22, 2017 4:30 – 5:30 pm**

Following the success of the first webinar, this one-hour webinar will highlight core concepts from the resource, and introduce the Key Conditions planning and implementation tool. An overview of how to use the Key Conditions planning and implementation tool will be provided. See the full document in our resource section below. \*\*\*This webinar is a repeat for those who were unable to attend the first webinar on October 30<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### **Childhood Anxiety: Understanding and Helping Children Heal**

#### **Workshop**

**November 25, 2017 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

At this workshop, participants will learn about the psychological and physiological roots of anxiety, why it is on the rise in our children and what to do to help children better manage it. This presentation is appropriate for parents, caregivers, teachers, and mental health professionals.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### **Building for Mental Health: Healthy Built Environments for Children and Youth**

#### **Webinar**

**December 11, 2018 11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

This webinar will describe how the built environment intersects with the social environment to influence the mental health of children and youth, offering evidence and defining roles for public health. This webinar will focus on factors in the urban built and social environments that promote child and youth mental health, and how public health can work to support these factors through upstream approaches.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## **Innovations in Practice: Conference on Developmental Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Conference – Save the Date**

**March 1 – 2, 2018 Edmonton, AB**

Click [here](#) for more information.

## **Networks as Balancing Acts: Managing Inherent Tensions**

**Conference – Save the Date**

**March 18 – 20, 2018 Vancouver, BC**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Network Leadership Symposium will have participants explore a broad range of network tensions such as collaboration versus competition, shared goals in the face of diverse interests, and loyalty to the network or the home organization, as well as how, or if, these tensions can be managed.

Stay tuned for more information.

## **Social Thinking Across the Home and School Day: the ILAUGH Model**

**Workshop**

**April 16, 2018 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

This day is designed to teach professionals and parents frameworks, concepts, and strategies so that they may better understand the social learning experience and guide others toward improved social processing and social skills. Attendees will gain new insights into the power of their own social emotional intelligence as they explore their social motivations and how they process and respond to social information.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

## **Resources and Information**

### **Working Together to Support Mental Health in Alberta Schools: Alberta Government**

This resource is an invitation for schools and their partners to reflect on current practices, leverage current initiatives and consider how the promotion of mental health can be more effectively embedded in school and system policies, practices and services.

Click [here](#) for the full report.

### **This is Housing First for Youth: A Program Model Guide**

The ongoing development of our understanding of emerging examples of HF4Y, combined with a need to clarify how it actually needs to be implemented on the ground, led to a consideration of the need to build on the framework and develop a more comprehensive HF4Y program model guide.

Click [here](#) for the full resource.

### **Locked Out: Housing Solutions for Vulnerable Young People Transitions to Independence**

Emergency accommodation is not a sustainable solution to the problems that young homeless people are facing, and it can even make matters worse. Short-term accommodation and non-specialized emergency centres should therefore be used only as a last resort. Investing in social housing is vital for housing accessibility.

Click [here](#) for the full resource.

### **Charting a Path from Paediatric Healthcare to Adult Healthcare**

Three recent initiatives have put the topic of youth transitions at the forefront, both locally and provincially. Alberta Children's Hospital created the Youth Transition Patient and Family Advisory Council to provide the patient and family voice to these initiatives and other transition-related projects.

Transitioning from pediatric to adult healthcare can be a huge shift for families and it's helpful to have real experiences brought to the table during the planning and implementation stages.

Click [here](#) for the full update.

### **First Nations Health Consortium October 2017 Communique**

The First Nations Health Consortium is a new organization that developed in February 2017 to improve access to health, social and educational support to all First Nations children in Alberta. The Consortium links families to services to ensure First Nations children on or off reserve are not denied services. This communique outlines the beginning of service from the consortium and introduces the service coordinators and access workers.

Click [here](#) for the full communique.

### **Reports and Research**

#### **Canadian Children's Charter/La Charte Canadienne des Enfants**

Children First Canada has launched an exciting project to create a Canadian Children's Charter: a vision and plan of action to make Canada the best place in the world for kids to grow up! Children's charters have been created around the world as tools to establish a national vision for the life that every child deserves, and to engage key stakeholders such as charities, government, and children themselves to create a plan to achieve that vision.

Click [here](#) to get involved in this research.

#### **Homeless Youth Transitions to Market Rent Housing: A Critical Examination**

While there are many studies on what drives young people to the streets and keeps them there, there have been few studies designed to follow young people in their journey off the streets.

Click [here](#) to see the blog post.

#### **Fredericton Constituency Youth Council Taskforce: A Policy Proposal for the Alleviation of Youth Homelessness in Canada**

In order to eliminate youth homelessness across the country, the Government of Canada must ensure they address the multi-faceted nature of youth homelessness in a collaborative manner. This report offers a set of seven recommendations that the federal government could take to address the issue of youth homelessness.

Click [here](#) for the full report.

Please take a moment to forward this eNewsletter to your colleagues and encourage them to sign up at: <http://www.CalgaryandAreaRCSD.ca/news-and-events/newsletter-signup/>. We send out an eNewsletter once a month between September and June with reviewed information relevant to everyone who works together for children and youth.



## Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD)

### Position Description: Early Childhood System Connector

#### **Background Information**

Calgary and Area RCSD is a cross-sector partnership of School Authorities, Children's Services, Community and Social Services and Alberta Health Services focused on providing a continuum of supports and services to children, youth and families within Calgary and the surrounding area.

It is recognized that factors intrinsic to the individual (e.g., disability, adaptive functioning), environmental (e.g., disruption in major life domains, trauma) or a combination of these may impact individual functioning to such an extent that a child/youth may need a continuum of supports and services to be successful at school, at home or in the community. Calgary and Area RCSD utilizes a collaborative, team-based approach to integrate and/or coordinate supports and services irrespective of setting or location. Calgary and Area RCSD works within and across systems to develop and provide the right services, at the right time and place and with the right intensity to improve child/youth success in learning and their overall well-being.

#### **Position Overview**

Reporting to the Regional Manager for day to day operations, the RCSD Early Childhood System Connector is part of the Secretariat that supports the work of the collaborative. The Early Childhood System Connector works collaboratively with, and under the guidance of, the 0-5 Working Group and acts as a key resource for Calgary and Area RCSD in the 0-5 population area. The position undertakes activities that supports the development of inclusive communities, and has a primary focus on supporting connections between providers in RCSD partner systems and early childhood services and resources.

The position requires a high degree of collaboration with a multitude of partners and stakeholders, extensive written work, and the ability to work independently within broad parameters. As this is a new position with roles and responsibilities that will change over time, the ideal candidate must be comfortable with ambiguity and developmental processes.

This is a term position ending on or before August 31, 2020, but with the possibility of an extension.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Contribute to the development of, and evolve, a clear vision and mandate within RCSD for the 0 to 5 population based on supporting, coordinating, supplementing or enhancing existing services and initiatives; and on strengthening the role of parents and caregivers as key resources for young children.
- Develop and cultivate collaborative relationships with stakeholders from multiple public sector organizations, including front line staff and senior leaders.
- Promote information sharing and facilitate connections between service providers and community agencies, providing navigation support as required.

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Calgary and Area RCSD Early Childhood System Connector

- Promote collaborative linkages between community-based early childhood services and schools that are ready to support young children and families.
- Create stronger linkages with community partners such as Primary Care Networks, First 2000 Days Network, Inclusion Alberta, Family & Community Support Services, Parent Link Centres, Family and Community Resource Centre, Immigrant service agencies, and Children’s Link in order to continue to explore how to integrate resources, identify potential collaborative opportunities, and support the role of parents as leaders in this sector.
- Building on existing services and service coordination initiatives, support the development of mechanisms to help families access and navigate early childhood resources.
- Develop new partnerships/coordinate/align pathways with other services and 0 to 5 initiatives.
- Identify the unmet resource needs of partner organizations and recommend areas for development.
- Identify and link existing resources to a developing regional inventory.
- Include a specific focus on the 0 to 5 population in RCSD work with First Nations (specifically Tsuut’ina Nation) in an effort to link their families and service providers to available early childhood resources and to enhance those services and supports that are provided by the Nation.
- Assist with preparation of business cases within RCSD partner organizations that reflect emergent needs and long range goals.
- Work with 0-5 Working Group co-chairs to schedule meetings, prepare agendas, minutes, presentations, and working documents.

**Qualifications**

A degree in health, education, social work or human services discipline (Master’s preferred) with a minimum of five years of leadership or management experience with a strong emphasis on children and families, and the systems that support them. Registration and/or licensure with the appropriate professional association or regulatory body is required. Experience working in a cross-sector environment and with Early Childhood Services is essential. Equivalencies may be considered.

Understanding of systems and service delivery issues between and among sectors; and appreciation for urban, semi-urban and rural issues.

Experience and skill in intersectoral collaboration and a high degree of comfort with developmental processes and evolving responsibilities. Project management experience would be an asset.

A working knowledge of, and a strong commitment to, the principles related to family centred practice and inclusive communities.

Strong organization, time management and problem solving skills; diplomacy and tact; and the ability to handle competing priorities and remain productive under pressure within tight timelines.

Demonstrated reliability, a strong work ethic and the ability to take initiative, anticipate needs, build networks and mobilize resources.

A collaborative interpersonal style and excellent written, computer and oral communication skills are essential.

Criminal records check valid within the past three months.

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Calgary and Area RSCD Early Childhood System Connector

## APPLICATION DETAILS

**Commencement date:** Immediate

**Term:** Full-time, ending on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, with a possibility of extension

**Employer:** The employment contract for this position is with Calgary and Area RCSD with payroll and benefits managed through one of its partners, Calgary Academy.

**Location:** The position will be located with the Calgary and Area RCSD Secretariat, currently located at St Leo Centre, Calgary Catholic School District. A valid driver's license is necessary and travel throughout the geographic area of the RCSD is required.

**Salary Range:** Starts at \$85,000 (under review) – salary will be commensurate with experience.

**Application deadline:** 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 10, 2017. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for November 28, 2017.

**Submission process:** Please submit cover letter and resume electronically in one PDF file to:

**Janice Popp, Regional Manager**  
**Calgary and Area RCSD**  
**janice.popp@cssd.ab.ca**

Note: Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted and require references.