

Early Learning and Child Care Task Force

April 18, 2013

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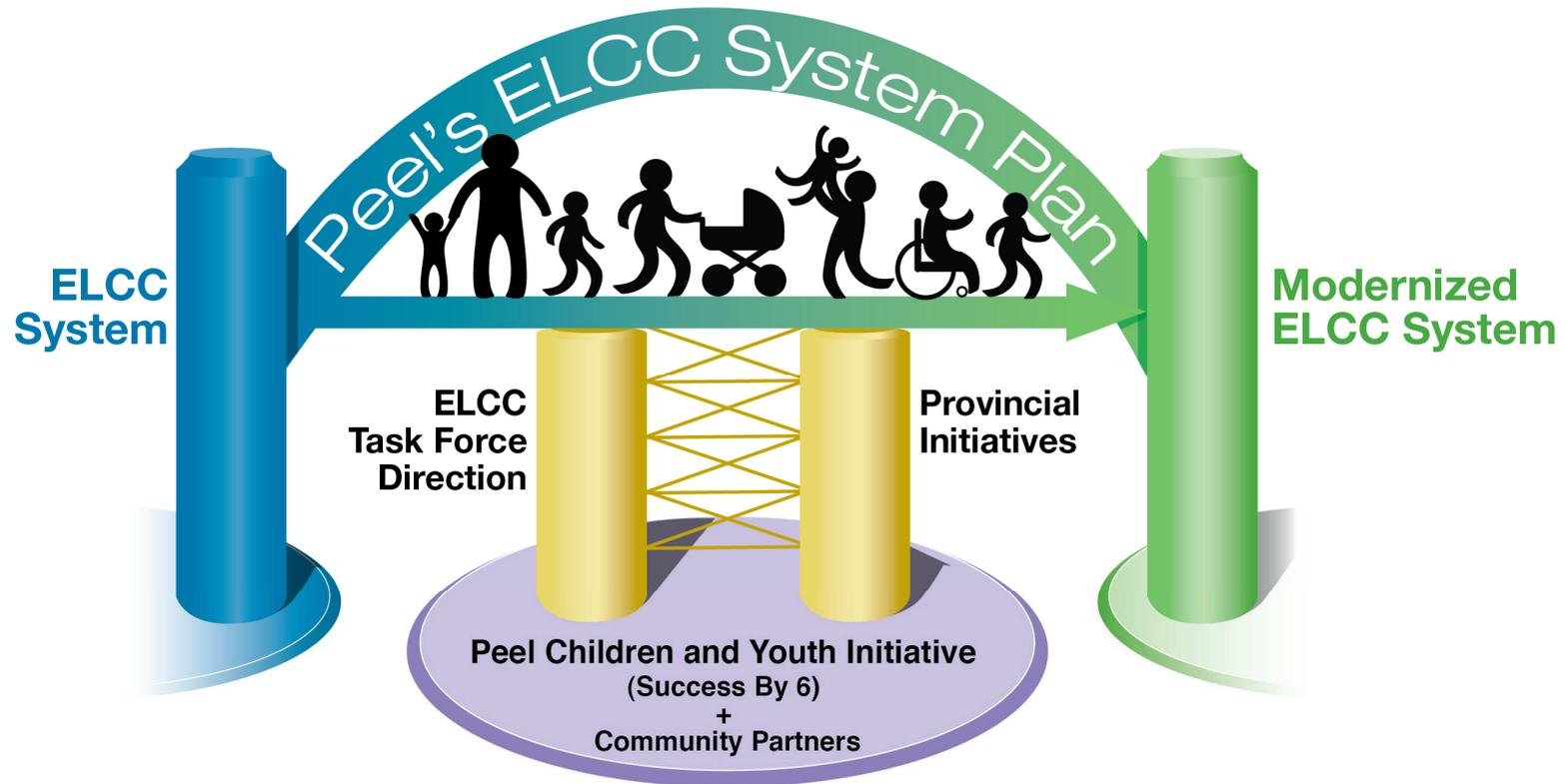
Environmental Scan

- **Ontario Early Years Policy Framework**
 - Released January 2013
 - Identifies early years programs that will transfer from Ministry of Children & Youth Services to Ministry of Education effective 2014
- **New Early Learning and Child Care Funding Formula & Framework – Ministry of Education (MEDU)**
 - Released December 2012 & effective January 1, 2013
 - 2013 considered a transition year
 - Revised Guidelines March 2013

Integrating Service System Management Planning

- **ELCC Task Force Directions: System Enhancements**
 - 21 recommendations for Region of Peel in role as Service System Manager (SSM) under five key themes:
 - service delivery & planning, special needs, quality, funding, advocacy
 - Approved by Regional Council September 13, 2012
 - 2012-2014 implementation horizon
- **Provincial Initiatives: Modernizing Child Care**
 - Implementation of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) 2010-14
 - Modernizing Child Care in Ontario (2012 discussion paper)
 - Schools First Policy (2012) & Retrofit Plans 2013-15
 - New Funding Formula & Framework for Service Managers 2013 +
 - Ontario Early Years Framework 2014 +

Peel's Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) System Plan



Integrated ELCC Planning: Builds on Partnerships Now...

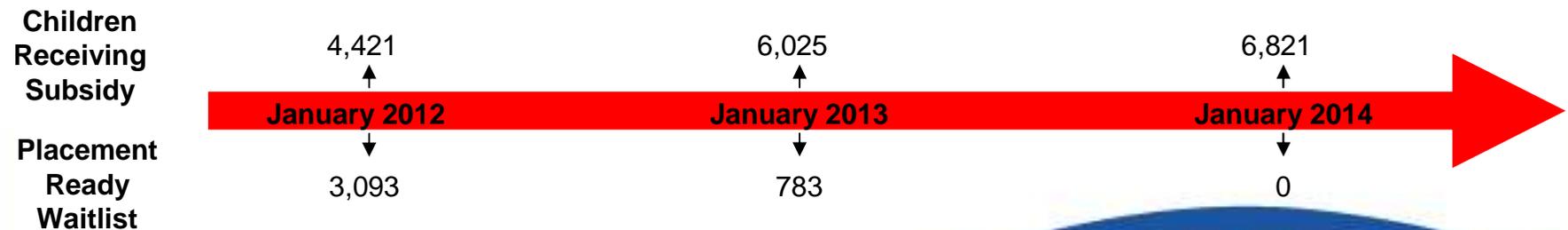
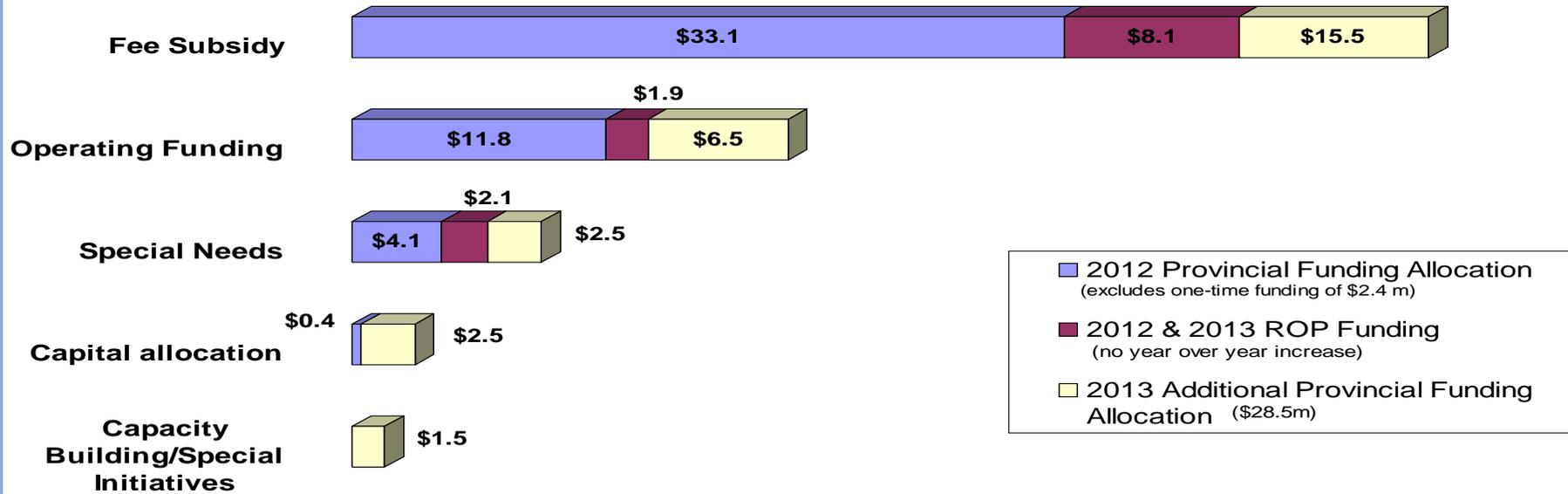
- **Peel Early Learning Special Needs Advisory Committee (est.1998)**
 - collaborative of 9 special needs support programs & 2 school boards
 - Added 17 child care representatives to act as advisory on Special Needs

Strategy & consultation process: that included other community tables (e.g. Home Child Care Providers, Multi Site Operators, Supervisors Network)
- **Child Development Resource Connection Peel (est. 2003)**
 - works with Community Partners and SSM to develop and implement system wide ELCC training & mentorship in response to identified needs & transition priorities
 - Raising the Bar (RTB) Advisory Committee (2008)
 - Professional Education Committee (2003)
- **Purposeful Planning in Peel Partnership (est. 2012)**
 - Strategic partnership of school boards, large school based multi site child care operators, SSM
 - Informs space need forecasting & data analysis
 - Coordinated approach to SSM & Schools First capital retrofit funding
 - Advisory on system and transition year system pressures

...and Moving Forward

- **Peel Children & Youth Initiative (est. 2009)**
 - Systems Integration Planning Framework for 0-24 years (2013)
 - integrated Best Start Network planning mandate into Success by 6 committee (est. 1998)
 - proposed model to close system wide planning gaps for school age & transitional aged youth (16-24)
- **Integrated Early Learning & Child Care System Plan for Peel (2013-14)**
 - Local plans are a provincial requirement (guidelines expected in winter 2013)
 - SSM to plan in partnership with Success by 6 as the integrated community planning table for children which represents a broad range of sectors/voices
 - Public Health, Child Welfare, School Boards, Early Years, Child Care, Libraries, Mental Health etc.
 - integrate current planning & implementation to modernize child care (0-12 years)
 - expand scope of planning to reflect direction of Ontario Early Years Framework and address how all community partners serving children could work
 - in an “integrated & seamless way to meet the unique needs of diverse communities”, and
 - “contribute to healthy child development today and a stronger future tomorrow” (quotations from the Framework)

Overview of New ELCC Funding Allocation (\$ millions)



Increased Access to Fee Subsidy

- **Increase in number of children receiving fee subsidy support**
 - 1,400 full time equivalent spaces can be sustained for an entire year with this new funding
 - Up to 2,400 children will benefit from the increased funding by end of 2013 due to:
 - timing of new children being placed
 - age group of children
 - full time versus part-time care
 - income levels of families
 - Sufficient vacancies exist to place additional children
- **Elimination of Child Care Fee Subsidy Wait List by December 2013**
 - 75% decrease in placement ready wait list since January 2012 due to additional sustained funding
 - new requests for subsidies will be provided through attrition for eligible families
 - access to subsidy when needed means a wait list for future care is not required
 - forecasting and monitoring service demand will continue to be important
 - the new provincial population based funding formula is designed to be responsive to future growth but is subject to capping

Increased Special Needs Supports

- **Enhanced Supports for Children**
 - 70 more children in 2012 and 137 in 2013 with increased funding
 - 8.7M or 7.8% of total funding
- **Special Needs Strategy Development**
 - leverage collective resources of special needs services and build capacity of child care agencies and centres to maximize supports to children with special needs and provide quality, inclusive programs
 - **Oct. 2012:** Core Steering Group of Funded Agencies
 - **Jan. 2013:** expanded PELSNAC to be advisor to process
 - **April 2013:** consultations with parents starting, 200 child care & special needs staff have provided input to date
 - **June 2013:** initial draft of strategy
 - **Fall 2013:** submission of proposed strategy to ELCC Task Force

Increased Quality

- **2013 Capacity Building (Professional Development & Mentoring)**
 - Partnered with CDRCP to
 - support & expand Raising the Bar (5 new since November)
 - design & implement webinar and in-class training in partnership with existing committees & local colleges
 - Increased SSM Early Learning resource support to providers
 - consultations, customized training, resource/mentoring support
 - additional components of operational criteria reviews for Purchase of Service & Raising the Bar
- **2013 Special Initiatives**
 - to increase French and other language client access to ELCC
 - signage, document/information translations
 - supporting direct service provision in French and other languages

Increased System Stability

- **SSM Minor Capital & Transformation Funding (non-profit) & Repairs & Maintenance Funding (health and safety funding- all providers)**
 - **2012:** 119 applications approved for 1.3M
 - **2013:** Board Workshops & customized site consultations for non-profits (spring) in preparation for 2013 application process
- **Joint Schools First Child Care Capital Retrofit Planning**
 - **2013-15** planning horizon: plans can be updated on ongoing basis
 - Funding provided to school boards; plans must be joint with SSM
 - **Feb. 2013** - 150 toddlers & 16 preschool conversions @ 10 sites in 3 boards
- **Operating Funding**
 - Interim support to stabilize system while new local funding formula is developed
 - developing interim strategy to allocate
 - eligible operating funding (e.g. rent/utilities)
 - wage subsidies
 - additional support for higher cost programs (e.g. infant care, evening programs)

Demand Forecasting & Data/Needs Analysis

- **Annual Peel Child Care Survey re: Impact of FDK**
 - Nov. 2012 – 52% response rate
 - 49% had experienced ECEs leave for FDK positions
 - 49% experienced revenue reductions
 - 75% plan to transition programs to serve 0-3.8
 - identified training priorities as inclusive practices and programming for 0-3.8 years
- **Space Need Forecasting & Data Analysis**
 - promoted use of 0-12 years population forecasts & use of Peel Data Centre for neighbourhood mapping
 - finalizing child care demand forecasts – informed by
 - 2011 Census Data
 - Peel Senior Kindergarten Census 2010
 - Supporting Healthy Child Development: The Experience of Parents in Peel (PCYI Parent Poll)
 - Purposeful Planning Partnership in Peel (senior mgmt of school boards, large school-based multi-sites, SSM)

Local Policy Development

Development of Local Funding Model & Policies to Meet Community Needs

- short/transition period (2013) and longer term
- local flexibility to reallocate between funding envelopes
- new policies and approaches to reflect first time funding (e.g. operating funding, capacity building etc)
- alignment with provincial guidelines
 - priority focus on non profit operators for general operating funding
- review current local funding approaches & policies
 - wage subsidy distribution
 - Council resolution re: ineligibility of commercial operators to apply for new fee subsidy agreements
- integrate new policy development currently underway
 - eligibility for fee subsidy if FDK is available
 - mandating Raising the Bar for Purchase of Service Agreements

Service Withdrawal from LPC Centres

Enrolment

- 787 children currently enrolled (70 children with special needs)
- Policies implemented to manage enrolment
- FDK available to 80% of enrolled 4&5 year olds in Sept. 2013
- 50% projected enrolment across centres in Sept. 2013

Staffing

- 96 resignations received since Jan. 2012
- Consistent supervisory leadership maintained across centres
- Operational needs met through registered ECE casual staff

Service Withdrawal from LPC Centres

Expression of Interest Process

- Request for Expression of Interest released March 1, 2013
- Fourteen Expressions of Interest received across all centres
 - mix of commercial and non-profit submissions received
 - 1 commercial and 5 non-profit submissions have POS agreements
 - Submissions received for Evening Care Program
 - Strong interest received for infant, toddler and preschool care (0-3.8)
- Submission verification and negotiation process to take place in collaboration with LPC property owners (April – July 2013)

Next Steps

- **Report Progress to ELCC Task Force in June 2013**
- **Focus areas include:**
 - Updates on 2013 Funding and Planning Priorities Presented
 - Progress on Local Funding Model Development
 - Status of Special Needs Strategy
 - Outcome of Expression of Interest Negotiation Process
 - Update on Service Transfer and Withdrawal Planning at LPC Centres