



April 8, 2010

Executive Director  
Program Manager/Facilitator  
Community Organization

**RE: Closure of Mobile Child Care Services**

As you are aware, over the past several weeks, our local agencies have been preparing for news of funding reductions to programs and services due to the significant cuts to the provincial budget for the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Last week we were informed that the entire portion of funding from MCFD for Mobile Child Care Services (MCCS) will be cut from the budget for this fiscal year. The MCFD contribution toward the entire MCCS budget was the primary source of funding that supported the infrastructure and co-ordination function of the MCCS. It is therefore with deepest regret that we must inform you of our decision to close the Mobile Child Care Services program effective May 31, 2010.

Mobile Child Care Services was implemented seven years ago as an innovative solution to a widespread challenge experienced by a number of community agencies and services represented at the Make Children First Initiative Planning Table. In response to recommendations from this planning table, MCFD funds were allocated to provide 35 hours of child minding services to Surrey based programs who identified child minding needs of high risk and hard to reach families as a significant barrier to accessing services. Over the past seven years, with the increase of MCFD dollars, Success By Six funding and fee for service contributions from agencies themselves, the service delivery has grown to provide over 350 hours of child minding service per week to the communities of Delta, Surrey and White Rock. The MCCS program has received provincial accolades and award nominations for innovation and success outcomes. It has received not only provincial, but also national attention.

Over the next few weeks, our MCCS staff will work with agencies and program facilitators to complete service commitments made for April and May and provide whatever support we can to assist programs to develop alternate child minding arrangements, if possible.

Please contact the Program Manager, Shelley Hand (604-572-8032 ext. 238) if MCCS is currently serving your program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Senior Manager, Ruth Beardsley (604-572-8032 ext. 223)

The Mobile Child Care Staff would like to thank you for all your support throughout the years.

Sincerely,

OPTIONS Surrey Community Services Society

Christine Mohr  
Executive Director