

September 1, 2021

SRD Board of Directors,

As members of the Hub Steering Committee, we are writing to you on behalf of the Sayward Children's Health Hub. Over the last three years, the Sayward Children's Health Hub and the Family Navigator, Ann Vansnick, have proven to be an invaluable support to the young children and families in Sayward. During the challenges of the past year the Hub has pivoted and continued to support families through providing healthy meal bags and activity kits, family outdoor events and virtual support. The operating costs for the Hub for one-year average about \$25,000.

We are currently looking for alternate funding to keep the Children's Health Hub operating into the 2021/22 school year, and we have been given permission by the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island to roll over the remaining funds from June into this year. The Foundation funded the Hub through to the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year, but have decided to divert funding to other projects. We currently have enough funds to keep operating into September, as we continue to seek funding to continue this important work.

We are approaching the SRD as part of our efforts to secure ongoing funding, as we feel the Sayward Children's Health Hub is a vital service for young families in the Sayward area. Specifically, we are seeking funding support to maintain the Hub Navigator position, and continue ongoing hub programming. An example of key ongoing programming is the food outreach program. Pre-COVID the program ran weekly, providing an opportunity for the Family Navigator to provide a nutritious lunch for parents and young children, and for families to benefit from the opportunity to connect with Early Years service providers and each other. The cost for this program was about \$4500 per year. When COVID forced the in person hub activities to stop last year, the Navigator set up a food delivery program that provided fresh food from local farms to area families with young children. She was able to run this program twice, and the cost of it was about \$1500.

We hope you will consider our request for the SRD to support the continued operation of the Sayward Children's Health Hub. We look forward to providing more info on September 8th at the time of our delegation.

Thank you,

The Sayward Children's Hub Steering Committee:

Kimberley Toonders, RD
Public Health Dietitian,
CR Public Health, Island Health

Alison Boucher
Child Care Consultant
PacificCARE CCRR Campbell River

Kari McInnes
Supported Child Development Consultant
Dogwood Place Child and Youth Development Centre
Campbell River and District Association for Community Living

Nachelle Hicks
Infant Development Program
Dogwood Place Child and Youth Development Centre
Campbell River and District Association for Community Living

Sayward Children's Health Hub

Delegation to the SRD

September 8, 2021



Who are We?

- ▶ Members of the Sayward Children's Health Hub steering committee
- ▶ Kimberley Toonders, Public Health Dietitian, NI Public Health
- ▶ Alison Boucher, Child Care Consultant, PacificCARE CCRR Campbell River
- ▶ Ann Vansnick, Children's Health Hub Navigator, Sayward Literacy Coordinator

Background on the Sayward Hub

- ▶ The Sayward Children's Health Hub opened in 2018 with funding from the Children's Health Foundation.
- ▶ Created to provide families (with children aged 0-6 in the Sayward Valley) access to support services
- ▶ Family Navigator advocates for services in Sayward, connects families with services and to one another, and coordinates health promoting activities



Accessible Services

- ▶ Local place of connection for families who can be isolated and vulnerable
- ▶ Space for service providers to meet with families
- ▶ Encourages collaboration between diverse service providers
- ▶ Parent information sessions hosted at the hub
- ▶ Support of local programming including Family Gym and Strong Start



Building Community Capacity

- ▶ The Sayward Children's Health Hub has allowed local parents to gain confidence and to lead hub activities
- ▶ Hub Navigator role has been filled by a committed community member, who is well-known and involved in many areas of Sayward



How Can the SRD Support Sayward Families?

- ▶ Improve local and regional transportation networks
- ▶ Food Security including transport of food into and within the region, local land use for food production
- ▶ Housing-lack of availability of rentals, particularly affordable housing
- ▶ Child care

How Can the SRD Support Sayward Families?

- ▶ Support the Sayward Children's Health Hub financially
 - ❖ Looking for new funding sources to continue to provide a hub navigator position
 - ❖ Support food programming including lunch program and healthy meal bag drop off for hub families
 - ❖ Operating costs for the hub for 1 year average about \$25,000

Thank You

- ▶ Thank you for considering our request for financial support of the Sayward Children's Health hub
- ▶ Your support will allow continued support of vulnerable families in Sayward, as well as ongoing community capacity building
- ▶ Questions?

