

Orientation Toolkit for the *Infants and Toddlers Living in At Risk Environments Community Protocol*

Protocol available at: www.contactbrant.net - Community Information/Information Resources/Information for Professionals tab

1. Purpose

The purpose of the *Infants and Toddlers Living in At Risk Environments Community Protocol* is **to establish and implement interagency collaboration that will help to ensure early detection and intervention of neglect, harm or threat of harm and possible death** of infants and toddlers under the age of three prenatally.

We cannot assume that others are taking action. Collaborative case planning including discharge planning will be utilized to assist parents/caregivers and to support the child's ongoing development and well-being. The illusion that safety is found in services cannot continue to permeate practice; instead, timely and intentional community collaboration mitigates risks and increases the likelihood of enhanced safety. Each professional needs to take action to identify risks, protective factors, and support interagency collaboration.

2. Background/Framework

Infants and toddlers are our most vulnerable population. They are more physically fragile, they are more isolated than school-aged children, and they are dependent on their caregivers for care and nurturing. Therefore, all service providers in Brant who work with clients or families where there is *also* an infant or toddler will consider the needs of that child in the provision of service to the family/client. This early identification of infants and toddlers, and timely and intentional community collaboration mitigates risk and increases the likelihood of enhanced safety.

Identifying and protecting infants and toddlers is a community responsibility that relies on collaboration. In response to a Coroner's Inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death of Jordan Heikamp, the Brant community developed the *Infants Living in At Risk Environments Protocol 2004*. In 2014, the Children and Youth Services Committee acknowledged the importance of community collaboration to address young children at risk, and requested a review that resulted in the new Protocol being approved in September 2015. The Best Start Network also supported this community protocol.

Each organization is responsible to orient their staff to this community protocol. The *Brant Community Service Collaboration Protocol* is an additional community protocol to reference as a framework for community collaboration (available at www.contactbrant.net - Community Information/Information Resources/Information for Professionals tab).

3. Key Information in the Protocol

- Guiding Principles
- Practice Guidelines (Protocol Appendices provide further details)
- Responsibilities of Service Providers Working with Infants/Toddlers/Families
- Identification of Risk Factors and Protective Factors
- Determine action plan; Collaborate; follow-up; document; Close the Loop
- Respecting privacy and taking action
- Risk Factors and Protective Factors Checklist – use the tool (attached)
- Risk Checklist and Safety Plan – use the tool (attached)
- Flow Chart for Collaboration (attached)
- Brant Resources (attached)

| RISK FACTORS | | |
|--|--|---|
| Prenatal, birth and development: | | |
| Low birth weight | | Social and emotional development |
| Prematurity | | Motor skills |
| Multiple births | | Vision |
| Medical conditions | | Hearing |
| Exposure to alcohol and drugs | | Cognitive development |
| Parenting: | | |
| Minimal prenatal care | | Attachment concerns |
| Caregiver under the age of 19 | | |
| Caregiver Limitations: | | |
| Mental health issues | | Medical/physical conditions |
| Alcohol or drug use | | Cognitive/developmental |
| Caregiver History: | | |
| History of child abuse or family violence | | Poor supervision of older siblings |
| Other children in care of FACS or relatives | | History of being deceptive or resistant with professionals |
| Environment: | | |
| Caregiver resides with one or more non-family members who have less than one year involvement | | Infant's bed does not meet Health Canada regulations |
| Housing | | History of homelessness |
| Residing in a shelter | | |
| Support Systems: | | |
| Limited abilities in getting support | | Isolated |
| Perceived support system involved in criminal/antisocial activities | | |
| Other: | | |
| PROTECTIVE FACTORS | | |
| Infant/toddler seen by a physician for regular assessments, medical appointments and immunizations | | Caregiver demonstrates effective problem solving skills, decision-making skills, and the capacity for learning new skills and information |
| Reliable formal or informal supports are in place | | Caregiver engages in open and honest communication with service providers |
| Caregiver has insight into risk factors | | Caregiver maintains regular contact with service providers |
| Caregiver receptive & actively working with services to address identified risks | | |
| Other: | | |

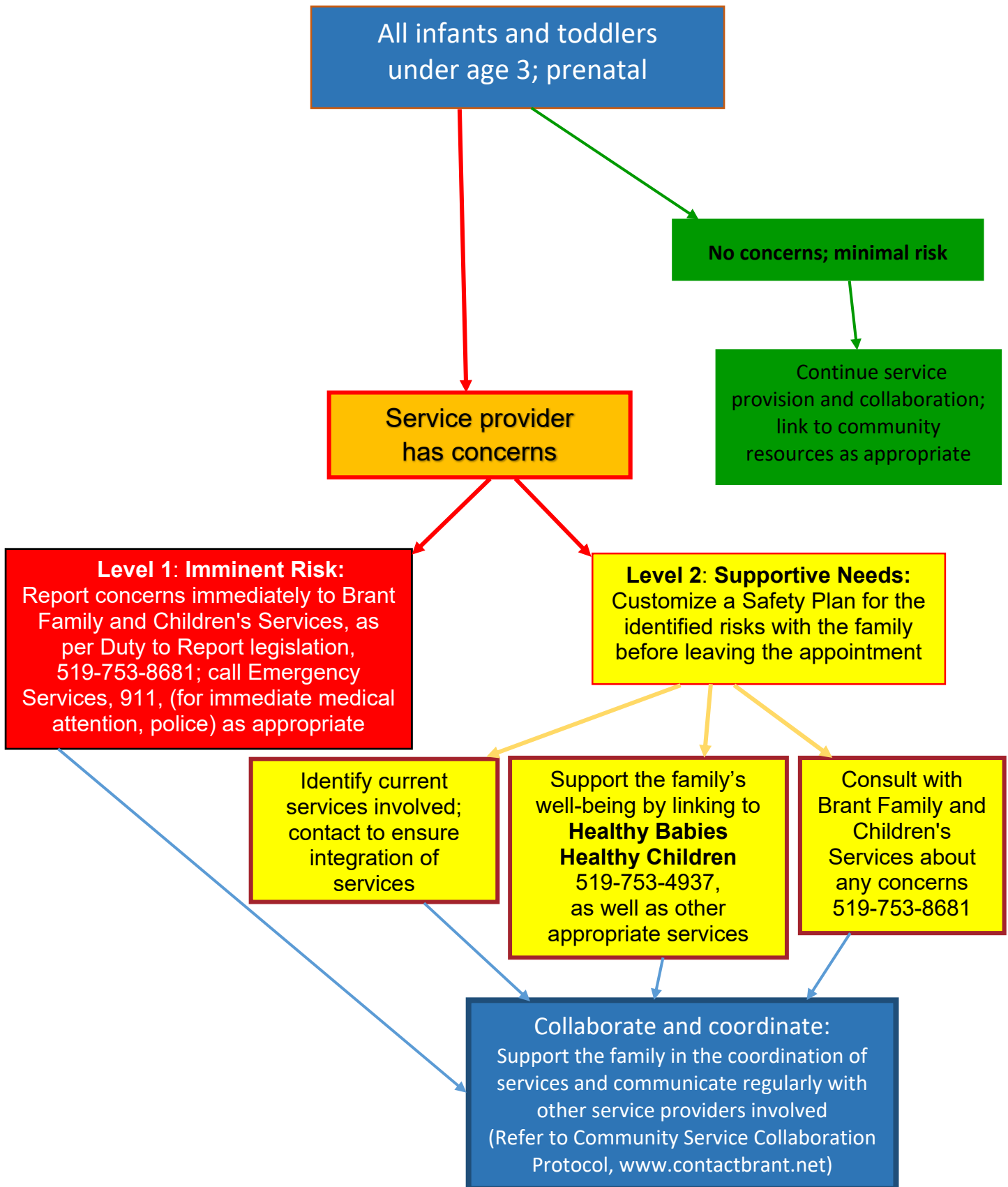
Risk Checklist

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| Level 1: Imminent Risk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report concerns to Brant FACS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call Emergency Services/Police, as appropriate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborate and Coordinate |
| Support the family in the coordination of services and communicate regularly with other service providers involved (refer to Community Service Collaboration Protocol) |
| Level 2: Supportive Needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customize a Safety Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identify other service providers involved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Link to Healthy Babies Healthy Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consult with Brant FACS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborate and Coordinate |
| Support the family in the coordination of services and communicate regularly with other service providers involved (refer to Community Service Collaboration Protocol) |
| Level 3: Minimal Risk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continue service provision and collaboration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Link to community resources as appropriate |

Safety Plan

| Concerns | Strengths | Actions | Who is Responsible | Timeframe/Date |
|----------|-----------|---------|--------------------|----------------|
| | | | | |

**Flow Chart for Collaboration
for Infants and Toddlers Living in At Risk Environments**



For Information on the Brant Infant/Toddler and Family Resource System

Specialized
Support
Services



Call Contact Brant
519-758-8228
www.contactbrant.net

Programs
for Infants
and
Toddlers



Call Ontario Early
Years Centre Brant
519-759-3833
www.eycbrant.ca

Family
Support
Services



Call Contact Brant
519-758-8228
www.contactbrant.net

Autism Intervention
Child Development
Speech and Language
Occupational Therapy
Physiotherapy
Hearing and Vision
Child Mental Health
Child Protection and Parenting
Support
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
Disorder
Healthy Babies Healthy Children
Dental
Nutrition
Social/Emotional/Behavioural
Intellectual/Developmental

Best Start Centres
Child Care Centres
Family & Literacy Centres
Ontario Early Years Centre
and sites
Private Home Day Care

Addictions
Child and Family Support
Food security
Housing and Shelters
Income & Child Tax Programs
Libraries
Medical/Health Centres
Mental Health
Parenting Programs
Settlement & Immigration

For service information, also check out:

- Your Guide publications or www.contactbrant/yourguide.net
- www.bhn-info.ca
- Call 2-1-1 (24/7 phone service)

See attached list of key service providers

Key Service Providers in the Brant Infant/Toddler and Family Resource System

| Service Provider | Description | Contact Information |
|--|---|--|
| Aboriginal Health Centre De Dwa Da Dehs Nye>s | Assists Aboriginal people in accessing culturally appropriate preventative and primary health care | 519-752-4340 aboriginalhealthcentre.com |
| Best Start Centres | Parent support and early child development programs. Free, drop-in, parent-child interactive centres | 519-759-3833 www.ourbeststart4brant.ca |
| Brant County Health Unit | Dental services: regular dental care for children 17 years of age and younger who meet financial eligibility. Healthy Babies Healthy Children- A free support for expectant parents and/or families with children from birth to school entry. Prenatal classes for adults and teenagers. Sexual Health Clinic Quit Clinic for tobacco cessation | 519-753-4937 x 450 519-753-4937 x 464 519-753-4937 x 471 519-753-4937 x 455 www.bchu.org |
| Brant Family and Children's Services (FACS) | Parenting support to families. Community parenting groups and Family Resource Centres. Child protection services. Foster care and adoption. | 519-753-8681 www.brantfacs.ca |
| Brantford Native Housing | Subsidized housing in Brantford provided for low income native families & support services | 519-756-2205 www.brantfordnativehousing.com |
| City of Brantford Social Services | Financial assistance through Ontario Works. Subsidized housing through City of Brantford Housing Department | 519-759-7009 519-759-3330 www.brantford.ca |
| City of Brantford Child Care Services | Financial assistance for child care costs | 519-756-3150 www.brantford.ca |
| City of Brantford Parks and Recreation | Recreation and leisure activities for all ages. Financial assistance for qualified applicants | 519-756-1500 www.brantford.ca |
| Community Legal Clinic | Provides legal information and legal representation. | 519-752-8669 www.bhnlegalclinic.ca |
| Contact Brant for Children's and Developmental Services | Single point of access for children's developmental services including Autism, and children's mental health services. Registration for Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) groups or seminars offered by community agencies. | 519-758-8228 www.contactbrant.net |
| Family Counselling Centre of Brant | Counselling and support for families and children | 519-753-4137 www.fccb.ca |
| Grand River Community Health Centre | A non-profit, primary health care provider for vulnerable community members | 519-754-0777 www.grandriverchc.ca |
| Lansdowne Children's Centre | Supports children, youth and their families with physical, developmental or communication needs. Brant County Preschool Speech and Language Program (Talking Tots) | 519-753-3153 519-753-7453 www.lansdownecentre.ca |

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| Brantford Public Library | Free borrowing of books, magazines, videos, CDs, books on tape, for children and parents. Computer access, activity programs for children | 519-756-2220 www.brantford.library.on.ca |
| County of Brant Public Library | Free borrowing of books, magazines, videos, CDs, books on tape, for children and parents. Computer access, activity programs for children | 519-442-2433 www.brant.ca |
| Nova Vita | 24 hour crisis line. Safe, emergency shelter for women and children. Counselling and safety plan assistance. Group counselling for men | 519-752-HELP 519-752-4357 www.novavita.org |
| Ontario Disability Support Program | Long term financial assistance | 1-866-729-2228 www.mcass.gov.on.ca |
| Ontario Early Years Centre Brant | Free services for parents, caregivers, educators and young children 0-6 years. Drop-in programs, workshops, Quality Child Care information. | 519-759-3833 www.eycbrant.ca |
| Parenting and Family Literacy Centres (BHNCD SB and GEDSB) | Drop-in centres that provide a play environment where parents and children can learn through play. | 519-720-5149 www.granderie.ca |
| Sexual Assault Centre | 24 hour crisis line and ongoing support and counselling | 519-751-3471 www.sacbrant.ca |
| Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCD SB) | Kindergarten Registration information | 519-756-6505 www.bhncdsb.ca |
| Grand Erie District School Board (GEDSB) | Kindergarten Registration information | 519-756-6301 www.granderie.ca |
| Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud (French Catholic School Board) | Kindergarten Registration information Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys is the French Catholic school in Brant. | 519-756-4750 www.csdccs.edu.on.ca |
| St. Leonard's Community Services | Immediate crisis support and/or counselling for individuals experiencing an addictions, mental health or situational crisis. | 519-759-7188 for 24/7 crisis support www.st-leonards.com |
| Victim Services of Brant | Emotional support to victims and survivors. Practical assistance via accompaniment to appointments and court. | 519-752-3140. After hours call 519-756-7050 www.victimservicesbrant.on.ca |
| Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services | Individual and family counselling, group counselling for children and youth age 0 - 18. Referrals are made through Contact Brant. | 752-5308 Referrals: 519-758-8228 www.woodview.ca |
| YMCA Employment, Education and Immigrant Services | Connect with the wide range of services for newcomers to Canada; literacy and basic skills programs. | 519-752-4568 www.ymcahbb.ca |

For more information on the *Infants and Toddlers Living in At Risk Environments Community Protocol*, or other Children and Youth Services community protocols, call: Contact Brant 519-758-8228.