

**EARLY YEARS/BEST START REGIONAL MEETING**  
**Hamilton/Niagara Region**  
**January 27, 2009**

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of the regional meeting last month. We appreciate the great work and many contributions to the Best Start vision that are occurring across our region and hope that the day was successful in sharing some of those successes.

Please find below a summary of the Early Years/Best Start Regional Meeting held in Hamilton on January 27, 2009. This is being provided to all invitees, attendees and can be shared as appropriate.

With the generous agreement of the participants we have included contact and presentation information wherever possible. Please feel free to follow up on any items of interest. To ensure the attachments are provided are manageable for all email systems, they are divided into three separate emails. Please contact Jessica if you have any technical problems.

We will follow-up very shortly to ask for your attention once more to complete an evaluation survey to help us plan our next opportunity to bring our four communities together. Our thanks in advance for your help with this.

**Early Years Hamilton/Niagara Regional Meeting (morning)**

1. Hamilton/Niagara regional office changes
  - organizational charts, attachments follow
2. Student Nutrition Program, new funding to support expansion
  - web link to program locations and contact information  
<http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/programs/beststart/nutrition/index.html>
  - web link to ministry announcement:  
English: <http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/news/releases/243734.html>  
French: <http://www.gov.on.ca/children/french/news/releases/243735.html>
  - SNP revised nutrition guidelines 2008 <http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/255361.pdf>
  - web link to *Breaking the Cycle*, poverty plan video showcasing SNP:  
[http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/video\\_three.asp](http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/video_three.asp)
3. MCYS Strategic Framework, *Realizing Potential*
  - web link to MCYS Framework:  
English: <http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/244264.pdf>  
French: <http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/244265.pdf>
4. Early Literacy/Infant Development Program, Provincial Reviews
5. OEYC Provincial Network  
Presenter: Lauren Brydges  
[lbrydges@todaysfamily.ca](mailto:lbrydges@todaysfamily.ca)
6. *Ages and Stages* brochure available through Stoney Creek OEYC
  - To see samples (English or French):  
[http://www.gov.on.ca/children/oeyc/en/library/Information\\_on\\_early\\_child\\_development\\_and](http://www.gov.on.ca/children/oeyc/en/library/Information_on_early_child_development_and)

[health in English/index.html](#)  
<http://www.gov.on.ca/children/oeyc/fr/library/reseignementsfr/index.html>

- Request Form, attachment follows

## 7. Panel on Engaging Communities

### **Facilitator:**

David Derbyshire, Wesley Urban Ministries [david.derbyshire@wesleyurbanministries.com](mailto:david.derbyshire@wesleyurbanministries.com)

### **Panellists:**

Hélène Pouliot Cleare, Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest,

[pouliotcleareh@cfdcso.on.ca](mailto:pouliotcleareh@cfdcso.on.ca)

Material provided, attachment follows

Janice Horner, Children's Services, Regional Municipality of Niagara

[janice.horner@niagararegion.ca](mailto:janice.horner@niagararegion.ca)

Material provided, attachment follows

Jaynane Burning-Fields, Niagara Regional Native Centre

[burning-fields@hotmail.com](mailto:burning-fields@hotmail.com)

Material provided, attachment follows

Denise Doyle, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

[ddoyle@hcci.ca](mailto:ddoyle@hcci.ca)

Material provided, attachment follows

## **Early Years Best Start Hamilton/Niagara Regional Meeting (afternoon)**

### **Community Collaboration Case Studies**

Paul Johnson, Wesley Urban Ministries [paul.johnson@wesleyurbanministries.ca](mailto:paul.johnson@wesleyurbanministries.ca)

Sue Honeyman, Early Words [honeyman@earlywords.ca](mailto:honeyman@earlywords.ca)

- Service provider network handout, attachment follows

Jackie Van Lankveld, Speech Services Niagara [jvan@npcc.on.ca](mailto:jvan@npcc.on.ca)

- Presentation, attachment follows

Jennifer Powell-Fralick, Hamilton Wentworth DSB [jennifer.powell-fralick@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.powell-fralick@hwdsb.on.ca)

- Presentation, attachment follows
- Web link to HWDSB, Parenting and Family Literacy Centre information, <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/programs/childcare/index.aspx>

## Poverty

### *Breaking the Cycle*

English: <http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/default.asp>

French: <http://www.growingstronger.ca/french/default.asp>

1. Enhancing programs for at-risk kids in school:
  - Ensure needs of parents are addressed as well, ie. OEYC/hubs in schools
  - Pay attention to transition points
  - Eliminate transportation barriers
  - Essential that schools are hubs beyond school hours
  - Develop communication strategies between school and community groups
  - Develop more partnerships between schools and community groups
  - Caution: too difficult to define/identify at-risk kids, should be universal
  - Build on existing resources including LEAP, trades programs, Brighter Futures, CPNP, mentoring, Student Nutrition Program, homework clubs
  - Expand use of child care fee subsidy in recreation and other non-traditional settings
  - Engage youth in planning
2. Supporting more recreation programs for high-needs neighbourhoods
  - More integration between city recreation and schools
  - Include faith-based organizations
  - Continue the focus on physical activity but include arts, music, dance
  - More access to libraries and computers, including in schools
  - More flexibility in legislation to increase use of physical plant for more hours in the day and in the summer
  - Build on successful programs like Pro-Kids:  
<http://www.niagararegion.ca/government/community-services/kids-pro.aspx>
3. Providing more supports for parents to get involved in their kids' education
  - Consider needs of parents, self-esteem, food, fun, education, basic health care, dental care, transportation
  - Make the school environment more friendly
  - Make schools/teachers more aware of community resources and opportunities for collaboration
  - Family camps, literacy centres
  - Link Best Start with Student Support Leadership Initiative  
<http://cal2.edu.gov.on.ca/apr2008/SSLIPanningandReporting.pdf>
4. 'Back of the page' suggestions and comments we couldn't leave out
  - Use research and evidence-based programs as much as possible
  - Evaluate existing programs/strategies and eliminate and/or replace those that are not working
  - Need to consider language of 'at-risk'; it is not necessarily synonymous with socio-economic status
  - Need to focus on quality staff, programs and environment through education, standards and monitoring
  - Expand Best Start to 0-18
  - Better municipal-provincial-federal alignment in children's programs and services

## **Moving Forward with existing funding: brainstorming and sharing session**

Paul Johnson, Wesley Urban Ministries [paul.johnson@wesleyurbanministries.ca](mailto:paul.johnson@wesleyurbanministries.ca)

Brief notes of ideas from the discussion:

- There is value in a collective voice that includes those who typically would not directly have a stake in a funding decision, to demonstrate the importance the broader community places on the expected outcomes. Proposal proponents will be more prepared to defend their requests if they have involved many voices in the preparation phases. Reference to the rigorous preparation of entrepreneurs seeking funds in the Dragon's Den: <http://www.cbc.ca/dragonsden/about.html>
- Agencies practicing collaborative strategies need board support. There may be a need to consider the readiness of boards to join in collaborative community planning. The Carver model of board governance speaks to the need for boards of non-profit agencies to respect their true membership - the community they represent - not only by strengthening their own agency, but also by being outward looking and engaged in systems management.
- Given the large number of children's agencies relying on board governance structures, there may be a high level of board member fatigue. There is a need to consider strategies to better educate board members about what is happening in the community and to support their desire to achieve the best outcomes for children. Possible strategies used in some of our communities include board-to-board work on community planning initiatives.
- Leadership is a critical ingredient to guide development of a collective vision that individuals can carry back to their boards.
- Non-profit boards should consider whether their out-reach is including all governance boards, including non-profit service provider boards, school boards, city government, and granting agency boards.
- Some thinking was shared about the need for social service agencies to better package the sector's business in a common framework that would be amenable to a marketing plan to better attract investment from both traditional and non-traditional public and private partners.

## **Other References and Resources**

Niagara Poverty Video, web link:

<http://www.niagararegion.ca/government/community-services/default.aspx>

Brantford Best Start Magazine:

<http://www.ourbeststart4brant.ca/files/BestStartMagazine-Winter0809.pdf>

Hamilton Best Start Public Service Announcement

<http://old.hamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/HealthandSocialServices/SocialServices/ChildCareAndParenting/Video.asp>

Haldimand and Norfolk – Report Card: Our Children our Neighbourhoods – Shaping our Future

[http://www.hnhu.org/images/reports/our\\_children.pdf](http://www.hnhu.org/images/reports/our_children.pdf)

**PAN CANADIAN SUMMIT  
RESOURCE LIST  
February 2009**

***Play and Exploration, Early Learning Program Guide, April 2008***

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, Early Learning and Child Care Branch  
Publication can be found on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education website

***Early Years Study 2, Putting Science into Action, March 2007***

Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain, J. Fraser Mustard, Dr. Stuart Shanker  
Publication can be ordered through [cecd\\_general@councilecd.ca](mailto:cecd_general@councilecd.ca)

***Educaring: Strengthening Partnerships between Schools and Child Care***

The Manitoba Child Care Association  
Publication can be ordered through [www.mccahouse.org](http://www.mccahouse.org)

***Canadians are Siding with Erasmus!, CCL Early Childhood Learning Bulletin  
Volume 1 December 2006***

Additional information available at [www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning)

***Language Development in Young Children, CCL Early Childhood Learning Bulletin,  
Volume 2 June 2007***

Additional information available at [www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning)

***Searching for Effective Canadian Early Childhood Learning Programs, CCL Early Childhood  
Learning Bulletin, Volume 4 January 2009***

Additional information available at [www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning)

***Parenting Styles, Behaviour and Skills and Their Impact on Young Children, CCL Lessons in  
Learning, Early Childhood Learning Bulletin, February 2008 Issue***

Additional information available at  
[www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20071213ParentingSkills-Part2.htm](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20071213ParentingSkills-Part2.htm)

***Let the Children Play: Nature's Answer to Early Learning, CCL Lessons in Learning, Early  
Childhood Learning Bulletin, December 2006 Issue***

Key contributor: Jane Hewes, PhD, Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Canada  
Additional information available at [www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning)

***Community Programming Initiatives Bulletin (Parent-Child Preschool Programs / Count-  
down to Kindergarten/Youth Programs/Support for Immigrants and New Canadians***

by River East Transcona School Division  
Detailed information about all programs listed in the KinderLinks newsletter is available for  
downloading from [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca)

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***A Child's Message to my Parents (A focus on the basic needs of children as they grow and develop)***

Written by Pat Bowslaugh, M.Ed. and illustrated by Ken Frazer, MPA

***Working Together for Children's Success – A Early Years Integration Strategy***

Developed by the Toronto District School Board Early Years Team  
Additional information available at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca)

***Your School Board is the Link between Your Community and it's Schools***

Developed by the Manitoba Association of School Trustees  
Additional information available at [www.mast.mb.ca](http://www.mast.mb.ca)

***The Early Development Instrument (EDI) in British Columbia (Documenting Impact and Action in Schools, Communities and Early Childhood Development***

Developed by the Human Early Learning Help Partnership, the Canadian Council on Learning and the British Columbia School Trustees Association  
Additional information available at [www.earlylearning.ubc.ca](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca)

***Early Childhood Learning, Knowledge Centre Catalogue***

All products available online at [www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/childhoodlearning) or in hard copy by writing to: [childhoodlearning@ccl-cca.ca](mailto:childhoodlearning@ccl-cca.ca)

***From Genes to Child Care: TOP TEN Studies on ECD for 2007, Bulletin from the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development – Volume 7 December 2008***

Additional information available at [www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca)

***Wise Words from Rotterdam, Bulletin from the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network, Volume 4 May 2005***

Additional information available at [www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca)

***The Value of Networks in Changing Times, Southern Alberta Child & Youth Health Network News Bulletin Fall 2008 Issue***

By Janice Popp, Director, Southern Alberta Child & Youth Health Network  
Additional information available at [www.sacvhn.ca](http://www.sacvhn.ca)

***Your Guide to Early Learning and Care in Hamilton, Hamilton Best Start Bulletin 2008/09***

Additional information and free early learning programs available at [www.hamilton.ca/bestart](http://www.hamilton.ca/bestart)

***Welcome to Kindergarten Fact Sheet***

Through the Learning Partnership, Champions of Public Education Across Canada  
Additional information available at [www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca)

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***Eyes on Aggressive Behaviours (1) Better Management through Understanding***

A Publication through the Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being  
Additional information available at [www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca)

***Eyes on Aggressive Behaviours (2) When should we be worried?***

A Publication through the Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being  
Additional information available at [www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca)

***Eyes on Aggressive Behaviours, More Support, for Better Prevention***

A Publication through the Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being  
Additional information available at [www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca)

***Talking is Key....Tips for Helping Children Learn Language (CD)***

Sponsored by the Alberta Health Services, the Alberta Government and the Children's Hospital

## **Hub Development Work Plan 2009 Focus**

### **Niagara's Vision of Best Start**

- Niagara – a community that ensures every child will reach optimal potential through cooperative investment in the Early Years.
- All children in Niagara region are safe, healthy and respected.
- All families in Niagara are supported to provide children with the best possible opportunities early in their lives.

## Early Years HUBS Strategic Direction

Ultimate Goal of Strategies....

**Optimal Joint Service Delivery and  
Improved Access**

## Strategic Direction

- Towards Increased Awareness and Utilization
- Strategies to get there....
  - Development of a Joint Communications and Marketing Strategy
  - Increased Parental Engagement

## Strategic Direction

- Towards Service Excellence
- Strategies to get there....
  - Development and Implementation of Quality Assurance Practices
  - Collaborative Human Resource Development

## Strategic Direction

- Towards Service Integration
- Strategies to get there....
  - Development and Implementation of a Collaborative Hub Planning Process
  - Linking and Coordinating of Hub Services

## Hub Development Focus 2009

- Strategic Direction – Towards Awareness and Utilization
- Focus of the development of a joint Communication Plan and Marketing Strategy
  - Parents/caregivers, program participants
  - Stakeholders and elected officials
  - Early Years Services Providers

## Hub Development Focus 2009

- Strategic Direction – Towards Service Excellence
- Development and Implementation of “Quality Assurance Practices”
  - Early Years Hub Services Committee – focusing on consistent practices to achieve service/quality assurance

## Hub Development Focus 2009

- Strategic Direction – Towards Service Integration
- Focus on the linking and Coordination of Hub Services
  - Specifically the areas of building on existing services and formalizing linkages
  - Develop collaborative hub planning process

## Niagara Best Start Network Integrated Community Plan – 2008-09 Work Plan

- Key Tasks:
  - Hub's will have common language and mutually accepted terminology
  - A plan will be established to ensure designated HUBS will have awareness of the services provided at each.
  - There will be recognized branding of HUBS.
  - Hubs will move from awareness of each others services to actively communicating and sharing information
  - Hubs will use the knowledge of other services to guide their planning to avoid duplication of service
  - A strong communication plan will be developed.
  - Provide opportunities for designated HUB staff to share / join in professional development

## Hub Development Work Plan Focus

Questions??

Development of Joint Communication & Marketing Strategy

Increased Parental Engagement

**Towards  
Increased  
Awareness &  
Utilization**

Development & Implementation of Quality Assurance Practices

Collaborative Human Resource Development

**Towards  
Service  
Excellence**

Development & Implementation of a Collaborative Hub Planning Process

Linking & Coordinating of Hub Services

**Towards  
Service  
Integration**

**Optimal  
Joint  
Service  
Delivery &  
Improved  
Access**

## EARLY YEARS SERVICES STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION ACTION PLAN

Direction	Strategy	Planned Action	Steps	Who	Timeframe
<b>Towards Increased Awareness &amp; Utilization</b>	<b>Development of a Joint Communication &amp; Marketing Strategy</b>	Develop communication plan: parents/caregivers, program participants	Marketing Strategy Creation of common brand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brand – billboards, radio, pamphlets</li> <li>○ Logo</li> <li>○ One Phone number</li> </ul> </li> <li>• List of programs and services (Parent Directory)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Look at work that has already been done (i.e. Focus groups of parents, Previous successful initiatives)</li> <li>○ Dissemination process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• French and English communication products</li> <li>• Get updates and consistent technical support</li> </ul>		Within 18 months
		Develop communication plan: stakeholders and elected officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give stakeholders and elected officials the issues to build understanding and actions to address issues</li> <li>• Engage stakeholders (i.e. have them visit hubs)</li> <li>• Give EYNPC recommendations so they can use them to allow for a broader and more powerful voice</li> <li>• Build understanding of different target groups and create messages that will inform and engage</li> </ul>		2-3 years
		Develop communication plan: Early Years Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create communication committee to develop an internal communication plan that includes parents (committee does not need to execute plan)</li> <li>• Include the development of shared key messages</li> <li>• Joint communication planning between hubs</li> <li>• Look at past EYNPC communication plans</li> <li>• Awareness of each other's programs and services –have joint hub meetings at different Hub locations</li> <li>• Create a resource inventory of programs and services (look into 211, Information Niagara, ECCDC)</li> <li>• Information meetings with schools, CHC, etc. on services provided</li> <li>• Inventory of services –define roles</li> <li>• Information session with various planning groups</li> <li>• Build links to French Language Services –school boards</li> <li>• Build links to Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council</li> </ul>		1 year or less
	<b>Increased Parental Engagement</b>	Engage Families	Develop Family Engagement framework inclusive of all families and members to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness activities i.e. child/family passport</li> <li>• linkages / communication i.e. Baby Talk Classes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ helps new mom / dads learn about services in community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Family Council / Program Advisory meetings                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ decision on training for the parents</li> <li>○ decision on planning for classroom activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Strategies to engage the uninvolved parent</li> </ul>	Everyone including parents	Continuously/ engage parents immediately

Direction	Strategy	Planned Action	Steps	Who	Timeframe
<b>Towards Service Excellence</b>	<b>Development &amp; Implementation of Quality Assurance Practices</b>	<p>Establish consistent practices to achieve service excellence/quality assurance</p> <p>Develop benchmarks for quality assurance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Hub needs to provide an inventory of all services or Best Practices and identify what programs / services are evidence based.</li> <li>• Develop a starting template / survey. Having agencies responsible for completing analysis of information collected</li> <li>• Meeting with all Hubs to differentiate between evidence / research based and non-evidence-based sharing of information</li> <li>• Research and training on best practices and what is meant by quality assurance</li> <li>• Common communication message related to Quality Assurance</li> </ul>	All Hub Development Operators	2-3 years / Immediately
	<b>Collaborative Human Resource Development</b>	<p>Strategically plan professional learning for all service providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Professional Development Committee (continued Quality Assurance committee)</li> <li>• Identify areas of need and develop opportunities for professional development</li> <li>• Outsource speakers and involve community partners (i.e. Train the trainer)</li> <li>• Education on Legislation</li> <li>• French Language Act</li> <li>• DNA</li> <li>• Education Act</li> <li>• Cultural sensitivity</li> </ul>	A Hub Coordinator	Ongoing / Immediately
	<p>Human resource enhancement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Human Resource development enhancement, collaboration, integration and retention strategies with consideration to unique populations (i.e. French Language and Aboriginal)</li> </ul>			

Direction	Strategy	Planned Action	Steps	Who	Timeframe
Towards Service Integration	Development & Implementation of a Collaborative Hub Planning Process	Develop collaborative hub planning processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EY Hubs need to share their goals, workplan and identify areas where we can work together – in relation to each other / to work toward one plan</li> <li>Check goals against community needs based on research</li> <li>Linkages with community partners sustain (i.e. EDI, UEY, Public Health, SSN, DAC, Infant Development, How Niagara lives)</li> <li>Scan is needed of other plans to determine what is relevant to inform our action (align with community partners for common outcomes)</li> <li>Identify common threads from 07/08: Integrated community plan</li> </ul>	Hub Com.  Hub Com. w/ DAC support EYNPC/BEC  M.Andrewes/ BEC	Ongoing -1 year  1 year  ongoing bring forward at 2009 annual joint planning forum “strategy”
		Ensure appropriate representation at Hub table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Terms of Reference and membership</li> </ul>		
	Linking & Coordinating of Hub Services	Build on existing services and formalize linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing tools, evaluate their effectiveness, identify gaps and making further recommendations (i.e. 211, Information Niagara, Hamilton guide, ECCDC)</li> <li>Discern what services parents actually use (feeding this information to communication committee)</li> <li>Revise Terms of Reference</li> <li>Plan for reciprocal linkages/support based on common outcomes</li> <li>Explore local parent directory</li> <li>Strengthen links with French Language and Aboriginal services to ensure integration in planning</li> </ul>	Build the commitment as steps are achieved. Still led by Hub Development committee / Sub-Hub / anyone who has an interest: SSN, Contact Niagara, etc...	1 year –building on existing services guides & 2-3 years – formalizing linkages & services / TBD as goals for year 1 are reached
		Develop service coordination model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad examination of other service coordination models</li> <li>Include current quality assurance practices and best practices (link with ‘Service Excellence’ direction)</li> <li>Develop work plan</li> </ul>	Same as previous	4 – 5 years and on / TBD as goals reached
		Develop a tool to identify consistent service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory of existing service coordination and linkages</li> <li>Measurement tool, considering the Early Learning Framework (ELECT)</li> </ul>		