

Early Years Niagara Planning Council Meeting (EYNPC)
December 14, 2007 9:00 – 12:00 PM
Four Points Sheraton Hotel & Conference Centre

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Anne Biscaro, Bill Charron, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Darlene Edgar, Tiffany Gartner, Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Linda Kartasinski, Margaret Jarrell, Crystal LaForme, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Patti Moore, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd, Ted Palmer, Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Pat Thacker (for John Crocco), Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Jackie Van Lankveld, Tracy Zachariah

Regrets: Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, John Crocco, Elke El Farsi, Odette Lamontagne, Linda Langston, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Catherine Mindorff, Kaarina Vogin, Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Tim Wright

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	M. Andrewes welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made.		
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved.		
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES	Moved by Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee Seconded by Barb Sockovie <i>That the EYNPC notes of November 9, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	Moved by Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee Seconded by Barb Sockovie <i>That the EYNPC notes of November 9, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	
4. BUSINESS ARISING	The following is business arising from the previous minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations from the Ministry's Expert Panels has been deferred to the March 2008 meeting. 		
5. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	B. Charron and D. Madar were thanked for their contributions to the early years community upon their retirement. M. Jarrell was thanked upon moving to the position of Executive Director, Hospice Niagara.		
6. PRESENTATION: "Go Green Revolution" (attached) David Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention Division, Niagara Region Public Health Maria Brigantino, Health Promoter, Tobacco Control Program, Niagara Region Public Health	D. Lorenzo and M. Brigantino provided a summary of the "Go Green Revolution" Youth Forum on November 20, 2007. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum planning was led by the Niagara Region Public Health Department's REACT program. REACT is a peer led model for tobacco prevention and promotion of children's rights to youth. • Over 270 youth were involved and 300 total participants at the event. Feedback was very positive. • The event was moderated by youth and there were several interactive exhibits for participants to engage in. • Next steps include: building on youth momentum; engage local community leaders; and continue to collaborate with community 		

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	<p>partners</p> <p>It was noted that youth led groups such as REACT play an important part in advocating for investment in children in the 10-18 age group.</p> <p>Ongoing communication between this group and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committees should be formalized.</p> <p>This model could be expanded to other lifestyle and advocacy activities into middle and late adolescence.</p> <p>It was decided that REACT would be invited to provide an update at the May 2008 EYNPC meeting.</p>	<p>EYNPC Agenda Coordinating & Accountability Committee to schedule update from REACT for the May 2008 meeting.</p>	
<p>7. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>7.1 Agenda Planning & Accountability</p> <p>M. Andrewes, Co-Chair</p>	<p>M. Andrewes provided an update on behalf of the Agenda Planning and Accountability Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met to plan program for the Ministry's Expert Panels to be scheduled for the March 2008 meeting. • Correspondence items were circulated and will be included in the next news digest. • A presentation was made on behalf of the EYNPC at the forum <i>Bridging Knowledge and Action: The Early Years Niagara Story</i>. A one-page summary of goals for 2007-08 was provided. 	<p>BEC to forward correspondence items in next News Digest.</p>	
<p>7.2 Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification (COESE)</p> <p>J. Van Lankveld, Lead</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld reported that the group has not met since the last EYNPC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2008.</p>		
<p>7.3 Hub Development</p> <p>M. Jarrell, Lead</p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the Hub Development Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Dolan has been selected as the new chair for this committee. • The work plan has been established and will be shared with the EYNPC as the group moves forward. • Two task groups have been struck: the first to establish an inventory of services and programs in the area and to perform a gap analysis for hub development, and the second to develop parameters around communications, including logo and naming, working in consultation with parents and other target groups as needed. • The next meeting date is scheduled for February 6, 2008. • A representative from AFSSN is to be recruited for both the EYNPC and the Hub Development Committee. 	<p>A representative from AFSSN to be recruited.</p>	

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<p>Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Chair</p>	<p>Early Years Niagara Story' was a success with 88 in attendance at the breakfast session, including several elected officials, and 119 at the dinner. Following the forum there have been several requests for customized briefs and additional presentations on the data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EYNRAG Planning Task Group is continuing to collect information for the 2008 Community Report. A full day of planning is scheduled for January 16'08. 		
<p>7.8 Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara</p> <p>Tammy McCormick Ferguson, Chair</p>	<p>Tammy McCormick Ferguson provided an update on behalf of the Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3rd Annual Poetry Celebration was a success and has been expanded to include a poster celebration for children up to Grade 3. • 11 municipalities hosted 13 free family skates in recognition of National Child Day, along with four free family swims at all local branches of the YCMA and the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara held throughout the month of November. • The group has also developed an action plan and top priorities for 2008. • Peter Papp and Judy Reid have been selected to co-chair beginning January 2008. 		
<p>7.9 Early Years Niagara School-Readiness Committee</p> <p>Judy Reid, Chair</p>	<p>Judy Reid provided an update on behalf of the Early Years Niagara School-Readiness Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off to School 2008 calendar is complete and distribution will be carried out before the end of December. • A school-readiness brochure for parents has been developed. 		
<p>8. REPORT: Ministry of Child & Youth Services – Hamilton/Niagara Region</p> <p>Patti Moore, Program Supervisor</p> <p>Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Program Supervisor, FLS</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Gartner has been working with the school boards and Offord Centre to prepare for the next round of the Early Development Instrument (EDI). This round may include a Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS). • F. Ngenzebuhoro added that the francophone community appreciates the availability of the Executive Summary and other materials in French. • The first meeting of the Francophone Network was held on December 10th. It is hoped the terms of reference can be finalized in March. The Niagara Best Start Network is represented by four members: Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Raymonde Lafond, Elke El Farsi, and Robin Springer. • Hélène Moncion, a francophone consultant, has been hired to help identify francophone resources in this community. 		

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<p>9. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department (attached)</p> <p>Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht provided an update from Niagara Region Children's Services (attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the request of the EYNPC, P. Moore and P. Heidebrecht developed a chart to help clarify the allocation of Best Start funding and additional child care spaces. • The Niagara Region is restoring cost sharing. • There has been an increase of approximately 8% with Best Start spaces. • Every ECE across the province has benefited from wages incrementally starting to improve. 1K has been provided to ECEs this year and will also be provided next year. 		
<p>10. REPORT: Business Education Council of Niagara (attached)</p> <p>Judy Reid, Manager, Labour Force Development</p>	<p>J. Reid provided an update on behalf of the Business Education Council of Niagara (attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to Early Years Niagara activities, the Small Business Club of Niagara donated 700 pajamas and 700 books to families in need. The fundraiser was held on National Child Day. Several requests for assistance have come in since the launch of the program. 		
<p>11. NEW BUSINESS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Cunningham reported that numbers are needed for enrolment in the ECE program. • The first scientific café co-hosted by Niagara College and Brock University will be held on January 29, 2008. This session is being held to address autism. 		

EYNPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
January 11, 2008 9:00-11:30 AM	District School Board of Niagara Board Office, Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines