

Early Years Niagara Planning Council Meeting (EYNPC)
May 9, 2008 9:00 – 11:30 PM
Niagara Catholic District School Board

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Donna Cunningham, Lisa DeGasperis, Christine Graham, Pat Heidebrecht, Trudy Hill, Dawne Mach, Patti Moore, Sandra Noel, Ted Palmer, Lynda Reinhart, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Sandy Toth, Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Jackie Van Lankveld, Kaarina Vogin, Tim Wright, Tracy Zachariah

Regrets: Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Anne Biscaro, Janet Booth, John Crocco, Elke El Farsi, Bonnie Filipchuk, Carol Germyn, Christine Graham, Brian Hutchings, Crystal LaForme, Odette Lamontagne, Linda Langston, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Catherine Mindorff, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd, Judy Reid, Glory Ressler, Pat Thacker (for John Crocco)

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Welcome and introductions were made.		
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved.		
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES	Moved by M. Vanderlee Seconded by S. Toth <i>That the EYNPC notes of March 28, 2008 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	Moved by M. Vanderlee Seconded by S. Toth <i>That the EYNPC notes of March 28, 2008 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MEETING NOTES	M. Andrewes highlighted the Best Start Expert Panel forum on April 11'08.		
5. CORRESPONDENCE M. Andrewes, Chair	M. Andrewes highlighted the following correspondence items received since the last meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memo re Integrated Status Update received from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services • Memo re French Language Best Start Network. A number of structural documents and diagrams have been shared. It is hoped that F. Ngenzebuhoro or J. Blais-Breton would be able to present these items at an upcoming meeting. • Invitation has been sent out for the May 21st Interactive Session on Full Day Learning. Members are asked to contact S. McPetrie or M. Thacker for more information. • P. Heidebrecht's retirement celebration is scheduled for June 25'08 at Niagara College Courtyard, Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus. A formal invitation will be sent. • Copies of the Early Years Research Inventory were circulated at the last meeting. Additional copies are available through G. Ressler. 		

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<p>6. INTEGRATED COMMUNITY TASK GROUP REPORT</p> <p>Lisa DeGasperis, YMCA</p>	<p>L. DeGasperis reported on behalf of the Integrated Community Task Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members were thanked for submitting their completed work plan templates for the Integrated Community Work plan. • All pieces have been reviewed for the purposes of completing the 2008-09 Best Start Integrated Status Update. • The data collected for the Integrated Community Plan will form a consolidated work plan for the Network, including community, child care, and OEYC. This information will be reviewed again in June. • The information provided in the Status Update pertains primarily to system integration and parent engagement and is intended to be a summary of activities and priorities. These themes were identified by Best Start Networks across the province as posing particular challenges for implementation, during last year's planning process. • Members are asked to review the Status Update and provide feedback on any serious gaps or inaccuracies by May 29'08. • It was noted that additional information on: Infant Education; Healthy Babies, Healthy Children; Preschool Speech and Language; Infant Hearing; 18 Month Well Baby Strategy; and Roots of Empathy will be forwarded for inclusion in the highlights section of the update. • A cover letter from the co-chairs will indicate the support of the Network rather than an individual sign off process. The letter should acknowledge that the concerns of the Network were heard by the Ministry in simplifying the reporting process. • It is hoped that the final draft will be endorsed at the June 13'08 meeting. <p>T. Wright noted that there is a need to ensure that children with special needs are represented in planning for hub development.</p> <p>D. Mach will connect with T. Wright re children's sector services and children with special needs.</p> <p>It was recommended that the chart be grouped by topic in order to more easily identify gaps.</p>		
<p>7. PRESENTION: NEW EARLY LITERACY PILOT PROJECT (attached)</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld presented the "Imagination Library" initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Imagination Library" is a preschool literacy program that provides children with a new, free age-appropriate, hardcover book each month • Open to children from birth to age five, regardless of 		

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	<p>socioeconomic status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program was launched by Dolly Parton in 1996 in Tennessee; and four years later, the program was implemented nationally • Dolly Parton’s Dollywood Foundation partnered with Invest in Kids and launched the Imagination Library in Canada in November 2006 • Mayor Damian Goulbourne of Welland has agreed to be our Champion and run the pilot in the city of Welland and will include a broad array of community partners. A community forum will be held in Welland announcing the project. • Details of the pilot are still forthcoming; including start date; funding; and which cohort will be piloted. 		
<p>8. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED PLANNING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS:</p> <p>8.1 Agenda Planning & Accountability</p> <p>M. Andrewes, Chair</p> <p>8.1.1 Terms of Reference - EYN/EYNPC Committees & Working Groups</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported on behalf of the Agenda Planning & Accountability Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Andrewes and Dr. Williams will be stepping down from the position of co-chairs of the EYNPC; however, they will continue to champion early years. • A job description has been developed by the Agenda Planning and Accountability Committee for a Co-Chair and Vice-Chair. A copy of the description will be forwarded with a call for nominations in the coming week. All members are asked to submit any nominees to J. Reid at their earliest convenience. Nominations may come from the EYNPC table or externally. It is hoped that a decision can be reached at the September 12’08 meeting. • EYN/EYNPC Committee Terms of Reference were circulated at the March 28’08 meeting. All members are asked to review their terms of reference package in preparation for discussion and approval. • It was noted that the new terms of reference for the Regional French Language Best Start Network should replace those in the package and that the terms for the Francophone Advisory Committee are not yet available. It is hoped that terms of reference for these groups and any others that have not yet been established will be available for endorsement at the September 12’08 meeting. • The following terms of reference are included in the package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Niagara Best Start Network ➢ Niagara Aboriginal Children’s Planning Council ➢ Hub Development Committee ➢ Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification Committee (COESEI) ➢ JK/SK 2010 Task Group 		

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<p>8.1.2 Dr. Charles Pascal Consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children’s Rights Interest Group of Niagara ➤ Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group ➤ Early Years Niagara School-Readiness Committee ➤ Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award <p>Minor amendments are to be made to the terms of reference for the Children’s Rights Interest Group (removing deliverables from the document), and the Hub Development Committee (addition of Niagara Aboriginal Children’s Planning Council representative)</p> <p>It was moved by J. Van Lankveld and seconded by M. Vanderlee <i>That the terms of reference be approved by the Early Years Niagara Planning Council with the aforementioned amendments. Carried.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Dr. Pascal was unable to attend the recent Best Start Expert Panel forum, a subsequent meeting has been scheduled with a small group to discuss full day learning for 4-5 year olds. A balance of representatives from child care, early years, and all four school boards have been invited. 	<p>It was moved by J. Van Lankveld and seconded by M. Vanderlee <i>That the terms of reference be approved by the Early Years Niagara Planning Council with the aforementioned amendments. Carried.</i></p>	
<p>8.1.3 EYNPC Sustainability</p>	<p>T. Palmer thanked J. Reid for her leadership on the project. An overview of the Early Years Niagara/Best Start budget was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget is projected at 236K, with 76K deferred from 2007. • Best Start funding has been directed to provide infrastructure support; with the remaining funds from partners to support products. The annual activity report that has been circulated highlights some of these deliverables. • Funding amounts are the same as in previous years. Multi-year funding could also be considered in subsequent years. • Letters from the co-chairs will be sent to partners in the coming week. 		
<p>8.2 Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification Committee (COESEI)</p> <p>J. Van Lankveld, Lead</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld provided an update on behalf of the Coordination of Education, Screening and Early Identification Committee (COESEI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is working on a definition of early identification and special needs for the Hub Development Committee. • The next meeting is scheduled for June 5’08 at 1:00 PM at the Niagara Peninsula Children’s Centre. 		

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<p>8.3 Hub Development</p> <p>L. DeGasperis, Lead</p>	<p>L. DeGasperis reported on behalf of the Hub Development Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system integration index and hub development action plan were revisited. • The Sub Hub Task Group has completed focus groups and developed recommendations for implementing a communications strategy. • It is recommended that a Communications Committee be established to develop an overall communications strategy for the Early Years Niagara Planning Council and identify the resources required to implement such a strategy at a variety of price points. In-house expertise and resources could also be maximized (e.g. approaching marketing students with Niagara College/Brock, in-house printing, redirecting funds for individual resources to develop integrated resources). • It was noted that the process for establish a committee would be discussed at the Agenda Planning and Accountability Committee table. <p>Moved by L. DeGasperis Seconded by C. Graham <i>That the task group move forward with their recommended communications strategy as stated in their report. Carried.</i></p>	<p>Moved by L. DeGasperis Seconded by C. Graham <i>That the task group move forward with their recommended communications strategy as stated in their report. Carried.</i></p>	
<p>8.4 Early Learning and Parenting</p> <p>8.4.1 JK/SK 2010 Task Group</p> <p>Barb Sockovie, Lead</p>	<p>A report from the JK/SK 2010 Task Group was deferred to the next meeting.</p>		
<p>8.5 Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council</p> <p>T. Hill for Crystal LaForme & T. Zachariah</p>	<p>T. Hill reported on behalf of the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work plan is completed. • Some members are meeting to develop a proposal related to hub development. 		
<p>8.6 Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee</p> <p>Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Chair</p>	<p>J. Blais-Breton reported on behalf of the Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there is a gap in representation of the Francophone Advisory Committee at the Hub Development table. 		

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<p>9. REPORT: Ministry of Child & Youth Services – Hamilton/Niagara Region</p> <p>Patti Moore, Program Supervisor</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update on behalf of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba has announced the five year early years model, 'Family Choices'. The intention is to improve accessibility, quality and reduce child care fees for families in the province. The model also intends to expand child care in schools. http://www.gov.mb.ca/familychoices.html The Ministry of Education has announced the expansion of Parent Literacy Centres building on the approach of Mary Gordon, founder of Roots of Empathy. The expansion includes 3 additional sites in the Hamilton area. Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Youth Services are working on expanding French language instruction in 23 schools by 2011. 		
<p>10. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department</p> <p>Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht provided an update on behalf of Niagara Region Children's Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Services is continuing to work with FACS on service provision needs in Smithville. 		
<p>11. REPORT: NIAGARA CHILD CARE SECTOR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niagara Child Care Sector Surveys have been distributed. The results should be available to be shared with the EYNPC in the fall. 		
<p>11. REPORT: Business Education Council of Niagara</p> <p>Judy Reid, Manager, Labour Force Development</p>	<p>M. Thacker provided an update on behalf of the Business Education Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual activity report has been circulated. Businesses that indicated their interest in endorsing the Niagara Children's Charter at the BEC breakfast are beginning to submit their completed forms. To-date, there are 52 endorsements from community organizations, government, and education. 		
<p>12. OTHER BUSINESS</p>	<p>S. Toth reported that following a review in the services provided by AFSSN they discovered a gap in providing outreach services to adolescent parents. AFSSN has subsequently developed a resource centre hub model to provide supports for teen parents to improve outcomes in education and health. The model also ties into the need to address poverty in Niagara.</p>		

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	<p>Moved by Dr. Williams Seconded by J. Blais-Breton <i>That the proposed model be supported based on the need to support adolescent parents in receiving educational and health supports for themselves and their children.</i> Carried.</p> <p>AFSSN is also training four adolescent mothers to share their story with a few Grade 12 classes at Dennis Morris Secondary School. The workshop is on postponing pregnancy until you're ready and will include an exercise on the realities facing teen parents.</p> <p>A presentation on this initiative should be planned for a future meeting of the EYNPC.</p> <p>M. Vanderlee announced that Brock University is acknowledging Dr. Williams and her leadership in Niagara with an honorary degree.</p>	<p>Moved by Dr. Williams Seconded by J. Blais-Breton <i>That the proposed model be supported based on the need to support adolescent parents in receiving educational and health supports for themselves and their children.</i> Carried.</p>	

EYNPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
June 13, 2008 9:00-11:30 (breakfast begins at 8:30 AM)	The Wild Flower Restaurant 219 Highway 20 East, Fonthill