

**Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)**

**April 13, 2007 9:00 – 11:30 AM**

**Niagara Catholic District School Board**

**Present:** Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Angela Alfieri-Maiolo (for Anne Biscaro), Barbara Ally, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Lucette Farr, Tiffany Gartner, Chris Graham (for John Crocco), Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Patti Moore, Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Wendy Sturgeon, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Kathy Thompson (for Paul Collins), Kaarina Vogin (for Steve Novosedlik)

**Regrets:** Anne Biscaro, Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Jean-Luc Bernard, Paul Collins, John Crocco, Bill Charron, Elke El Farsi, Richard Francki, Bruce Henry, Geralda Jamieson, Wendy Jones, Odette Lamontagne, Catherine Mindorff, Linda Langston, Daniel Lefebvre, John McNamara, Steve Novosedlik, Rona O'Banion, Ted Palmer, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Jackie Van Lankveld, Art Wing, Tim Wright, Tracy Zachariah

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. <b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	M. Andrewes welcomed all in attendance.		
2. <b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	The agenda was approved with the deferral of item 5 <i>Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group/Understanding the Early Years Project.</i>		
3. <b>APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES</b>	Moved by Dori Madar Seconded by Eleanor Dolan <b><i>That the NCPC notes of March 9, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>	Moved by Dori Madar Seconded by Eleanor Dolan <b><i>That the NCPC notes of March 9, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>	
4. <b>BUSINESS ARISING</b> 4.1 <b>Niagara Week Update re: Child Poverty</b>  B. Hutchings, Commissioner Niagara Region Community Services  P. Heidebrecht, Director Niagara Region Children's Services	B. Hutchings and P. Heidebrecht reported on behalf of the Niagara Week Task Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In developing a proposal for Niagara Week., the group consulted local Mayor's Youth Advisory Groups for their input on needs of local youth. They were primarily concerned with nutrition, financial needs for postsecondary education, as well as issues around 'dress down' days for children in poverty, and youth involvement in sports.</li> <li>• United Way has reported that 14/17 applications in Ontario's rural areas involve youth at-risk issues. Now that urban issues have stretched to rural areas, it is felt that there is a real need to make programs universal.</li> <li>• The subgroup is considering the following directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transit assistance in order to make it easier for youth to get to jobs.</li> <li>○ Subsidizing courses such as lifeguard certification, in order that youth may apply for jobs that provide a higher wage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preventative dental programs for secondary school students via an extension of the Public Health Department's Health Bus.</li> </ul> <p>These options bridge the gap from children to youth and focus on fundamental concerns of children living below the poverty line in Niagara.</p> <p>K. Thompson recommended that the 40 developmental assets be considered as a framework. It was agreed that the assets could be incorporated in any of the options when filtering down to specific actions.</p> <p>It was agreed that the direction of the task group is consistent with the needs of the Niagara community. The NCPC is in support of B. Hutchings and P. Heidebrecht in moving forward with the proposal on behalf of council. The application will be submitted to the Regional Chair's office in the week of Monday, April 16'07.</p>	B. Hutchings and P. Heidebrecht to submit proposal on behalf of the NCPC.	Week of April 16'07
<p><b>5. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>5.1. Communications &amp; Advocacy Subcommittee</b> B. Ally</p>	<p>B. Ally reported on behalf of the NCPC Communications and Advocacy Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. McNamara, Co-Chair of the Communications and Advocacy Subcommittee, will be able to attend NCPC meetings as of May 2007.</li> <li>• The subcommittee has met to discuss implications of the update to the Integrated Community Plan and the direction of the NCPC. The update of the plan will inform the development of a comprehensive communications strategy. In order to inform the next steps in developing a strategy and communications materials, all members are asked to share their communication materials, including pamphlets, surveys, etc., that are targeted for the 0-6 population by April 26'07. This will also help the group to determine the type of information that parents typically receive.</li> <li>• Branding issues with 'Early Years' and 'Best Start' were also discussed, in that 'Best Start' is a term that is currently relevant at the planning level and 'Early Years' is generally known to the target audience.</li> </ul>	All members to forward all forms of communication materials targeted for the 0-6 population to M. Thacker or J. Reid at the BEC.	By April 26'07.
<p><b>5.2. Hub Development</b> M. Jarrell</p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the NCPC Hub Development Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group met on April 27'07. Discussion took place on the need to formalize the parental voice and connect to parents throughout the planning process. It is the belief of the subcommittee that this linkage is integral to the planning process; as it underscores</li> </ul>		

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	the entire work of the council.		
<b>5.3. Early Identification</b> J. Van Lankveld	An update from the Early Identification Subcommittee was deferred to the next meeting.		
<b>5.4. Early Learning and Parenting</b> B. Sockovie	B. Sockovie reported on behalf of the Early Learning and Parenting Subcommittee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group has scheduled a meeting in May to revisit the purpose and objective of the subcommittee in order to avoid duplication.</li> </ul>		
<b>5.5. Agenda Coordinating</b>	M. Andrewes reported on behalf of the Agenda Coordinating Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting of NCPC and EYN subcommittee leads has been scheduled in order to facilitate completion of surveys for the update to the community integrated plan and maximize time of committee members.</li> <li>• A meeting has been scheduled to revise the NCPC terms of reference as part of the update to the plan, as well as to incorporate the revisions of the March 24'06. Recommendations will be brought forward to the NCPC for approval.</li> <li>• Both the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council and French Language Best Start Network have requested to be added to the NCPC agenda as a standing item.</li> <li>• M. Andrewes reported that the ministry has announced \$1.8 million for the new Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program, for preschool children who are blind or have low vision and their families. The initiative involves intervention services for children and families, consulting for parents and children, and education for parents and professionals.</li> <li>• Program planning is occurring at the regional office through the existing "Early Voice" program. A request has been made to organize a focus group in Niagara to inform the planning process. All members are welcome to attend. Once the date has been finalized an invitation will be forwarded.</li> <li>• T. Gartner provided an update on the status and emerging themes from the survey for the Integrated Community Plan update <b>(attached)</b>.</li> <li>• A writer will be hired to consolidate all pieces of the update.</li> <li>• It was noted that where possible the update would retain specificity in areas that it will provide a meaningful impact.</li> </ul>	M. Thacker to forward invite to NCPC.	

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<p><b>6. REPORT: NIAGARA ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S PLANNING COUNCIL</b> W. Sturgeon</p>	<p>W. Sturgeon reported that the Aboriginal Children's Planning Council will be meeting with K. O'Hagan Todd to facilitate their update to the plan.</p>		
<p><b>7. REPORT: NIAGARA FRENCH LANGUAGE BEST START NETWORK</b> J. Blais-Breton</p>	<p>J. Blais-Breton reported that a provincial meeting has been held on the restructuring of the French language Best Start Networks as well as a meeting of Niagara French Language Best Start Network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been an expansion from four to nine networks for the central southwest region, with program supervisors dedicated to linking with local Best Start networks.</li> <li>• It is the vision of the Niagara French Language Best Start Network to align with the local network and ministry of health to work across sectors and ministries.</li> <li>• The network is planning to meet with a consultant in order to complete their update to the plan.</li> <li>• Once completed, the updated NCPC plan should be provided to the Program Coordinator for the French Language Network.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>8. REPORT: REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA – COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT</b> P. Heidebrecht</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht reported that guidelines for the child care service plan have been received (<b>attached</b>). This plan will be incorporated into the Integrated Community plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K. O'Hagan-Todd has been hired to the position of Manager, Children's Services for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>9. REPORT: MINISTRY OF CHILD &amp; YOUTH SERVICES – HAMILTON/NIAGARA REGION</b> P. Moore</p>	<p>P. Moore reported that the Hamilton Best Start Network is planning a conference with Dr. Jean Clinton for November 19-21'07. (<a href="http://puttingitaltogether.ca/">http://puttingitaltogether.ca/</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ontario Early Years Centres are moving forward with their service plan. The plan will be consistent with the Integrated Community Plan.</li> <li>• The federal government announced an additional 25 million in March. Funds are to enhance the existing system and better support the newly created spaces. Funds could be used for such things as wage enhancements for Early Childhood Educators; to stabilize the system; however, they cannot be used for capital or development.</li> <li>• 80% of the funds must be put into child care. There is no requirement that the funds be directed to an expansion of services.</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>10. REPORT: BUSINESS EDUCATION COUNCIL OF NIAGARA</b> J. Reid</p>	<p>J. Reid reported that a panel presentation on community capacity building was held with M. Andrewes, P. Heidebrecht, W. Sturgeon, and M. Thacker at the Success by Six Peel Spring Forward National Early Years Conference on March 26'07.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of the Early Years Study 2 have been circulated to all members along with an executive summary. Additional copies may be obtained through <a href="http://www.successby6.ca">www.successby6.ca</a> or by contacting the Business Education Council.</li> <li>• 25 committee meetings have been held this quarter.</li> <li>• Assistance was provided to Speech Services Niagara in hosting the Community Literacy Forum on March 8, 2007.</li> <li>• The Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara is planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Poetry Celebration (for Grades 4-8) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Poster Celebration (for K-Grade 3) in recognition of National Child Day. Municipally sponsored skating and swimming sessions are also planned.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>10. NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported that the Violence Against Women Coalition (VAW) has been approached regarding representation at the NCPC table. It was agreed that D. Madar and M. Jarrell would continue to represent the VAW at council, rather than appointing an additional council member.</p>		

<b>NCPC Meeting Schedule</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
May 11, 2007	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland
June 8, 2007	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland