

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)
December 8, 2006, 9:00 – 11:30 AM
District School Board of Niagara, St. Catharines Room

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, John Crocco, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Lucette Farr, Pat Heidebrecht, Margaret Jarrell, Wendy Jones, Paul Johnson (Guest), Linda Langston, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Grace Mater (Guest), John McNamara, Patti Moore, Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Adèle Tanguay, Kathy Thompson, Michelle Thacker, Jackie Van Lankveld, Tim Wright, Art Wing

Regrets: Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, Paul Collins, Richard Francki, Bruce Henry, Brian Hutchings, Gerald Jamieson, Cathy Jenkins, Odette Lamontagne, Daniel Lefebvre, Steve Novosedlik, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Wendy Sturgeon

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Welcome and introductions were made.		
2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES	<p>The previous minutes are to be amended to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of action items relating to endorsement of the Niagara Children's Charter of Rights, invoicing for EYN in December. • P. Moore had indicated that infrastructure funding was anticipated for 07, 08. <p>P. Heidebrecht further suggested that the minutes be reformatted to record motions as action items.</p> <p>Moved by Lucette Farr Seconded by Dori Madar <i>That the NCPC notes of December 8, 2006 be adopted as amended. Carried.</i></p>	<p>Moved by Lucette Farr Seconded by Dori Madar <i>That the NCPC notes of December 8, 2006 be adopted as amended. Carried.</i></p>	
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved.		
4. PRESENTATION: Hamilton Best Start Network Paul Johnson , Chair, Hamilton Best Start Network Grace Mater , Project Manager, Best Start, City of Hamilton	<p>P. Johnson, Chair of the Hamilton Best Start Network and G. Mater Program Manager of Best Start with the City of Hamilton presented on behalf of the Hamilton Best Start Network. (See attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All network activities begin with the vision. The vision is inclusive of all sectors and is a vision for the community. It is thought of as something that lives through the actions of the network. In order to move forward with nearly 60 members, members of the network are neutral about specific strategies as long as the activity is aimed at achieving the vision. • As a best start demonstration site, Hamilton has created 288 universal preschool spaces. Preexisting infrastructure was 		

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	<p>expanded on by forming hubs out of Ontario Early Years Centres. Planning through the OEYCs is now integrated with planning through the Best Start Network. It is hoped that integration will reach the point where OEYC funding flows with Best Start funding. There is also attention given to ensuring that the network is not planning in isolation from other planning tables, especially those dealing with adult education and poverty reduction. All spaces are currently being termed 'quality child care spaces,' with logos consistent with the OEYCs. All family resource centres are also integrated into the hubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network is broken into a number of subcommittees, that are not involved in decision-making but rather provide a forum for members to share in agenda planning, member requests, and moving forward action items of the network. • In summary, collaboration must be seen as a process and not an event. This process is happening all the time at different rates and in different ways. The network is currently concerned with developing clear communications messaging to the public, ensuring sustainability of the already tremendous commitment from the education sector. This is already moving forward through additional involvement at the table from the presidents of the school boards' teacher's federations. • The Hamilton Best Start Network is willing to connect with the NCPC as subgroups emerge and are open to continued discussion. • M. Andrewes thanked P. Johnson and G. Mater on behalf of the NCPC and opened the floor for discussion. • Highlights of the discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In order to identify the optimal location for hubs, schools, recreation centres, and libraries were clustered, defining those areas in need of service. The committee also considered what the most natural fit would be for each particular community, through community consultation and assessment at the neighbourhood level. Advisory committees are being developed for these areas. ○ In addition, some existing OEYC's became hubs through the addition of a child care and preschool piece. Some of these hubs were not physically located in a school, but maintained a strong link to one and were within a quarter block area of it. ○ The role of service coordinator is tied into service planning, in coordinating the services of all hubs and Ontario Early Years Centres so that time and resources are shared. In this way, coordination becomes more of a 		

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	<p>community effort and is not directly connected to any one agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is parent representation by two parents at the Hamilton Best Start Network table. Parents are also involved at the neighbourhood hub level, with many contacted through Hamilton's early learning programs. ○ Research and evaluation will be carried out in part through the City of Hamilton. The Understanding the Early Years (UEY) for Hamilton initiative will also feed into current tools. A. Biscaro will contact G. Mater for additional information on the tools used. <p>All members are welcome to contact P. Johnson or G. Mater for additional information on the Hamilton Best Start Network.</p>	<p>A. Biscaro to follow up with G. Mater for additional information on the tools used for research and evaluation.</p>	
<p>5. REPORT: Ministry of Child & Youth Services BEST START FORUM – November 15</p> <p>Margaret Andrewes Patti Moore</p>	<p>The Best Start Forum of November 15'06 was organized to update community networks on the current status of Best Start and clarify next steps and expectations around updates to the integrated community plan. All members have received a copy of the handouts via email.</p> <p>The focus of the session was on the addendum to the implementations guideline, the ministry's response to community inquiry on expectations for integration. The document sets some parameters for completing updates to the community plan, due in June 2007. The plan itself has been provided in a template format and is clear on what is to be updated over the next six months.</p> <p>All members are encouraged to read all documents as circulated prior to the next meeting of the NCPC. Any additional documents for review will be circulated by P. Moore.</p> <p>The three year plan for Ontario Early Years Centres will also come due at the same time as the Best Start plan. It was noted that the Ontario Early Years Centres' plan should compliment the NCPC plan, as the two are intended to move forward together.</p>	<p>NCPC to review documents from the November 15th Best Start Forum.</p>	<p>January 19'07.</p>
<p>6. DISCUSSION: Niagara Best Start Network & Children's Planning Council WORKPLAN & PLANNING PRIORITIES</p> <p>Margaret Andrewes</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported that the NCPC-EYN organizational chart has been modified to reflect that the Agenda Planning Committee acts as a liaison between the NCPC and BEC, in order to provide support and not to make decisions on behalf of the council. The agenda planning group includes representation from the Co-Chairs, BEC, MCYS, and Children's Services.</p>		

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<p>Anne Biscaro Pat Heidebrecht Judy Reid</p>	<p>Following the Best Start forum, the group determined that although all members of the council will have a role in updating the plan, there is a need to establish a working group to develop a comprehensive work plan that would address requirements of the update. Key representation would include: P. Heidebrecht, A. Biscaro, J. Van Lankveld, K. Thompson, and E. Dolan. Additional representation outside of the council may also be required.</p> <p>The group will bring the work plan and recommended priorities before the NCPC at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Working Group to report back to NCPC re work plan and priorities as they relate to the integrated community plan update.</p>	<p>January 19'07</p>
<p>7. REPORT: Communications/ Advocacy Working Group</p> <p>John McNamara</p>	<p>J. McNamara reported on behalf of the Communications/Advocacy Working Group.</p> <p>Due to a change in schedules, B. Ally will be reporting on behalf of the Communications/Advocacy Working Group in J. McNamara's absence.</p> <p>The group met on December 7'06 to review current priorities; and will be focusing primarily on utilizing the EYN website to communicate the activities of the NCPC.</p> <p>This includes sharing meeting notes and schedules, as well as the terms of reference and executive summary. These areas will be available to the public.</p> <p>A list of the members of the council will also be published, that will include the name, title, organization, and website for each member. Profiles of the NCPC co-chairs will also be hosted.</p> <p>The group has also considered the need to develop promotional material around the vision of the network, similar to the card developed by Hamilton, as well as a one-page fact sheet to capture the vision of the NCPC, some of the broad initiatives, best practices, and evidence-based practices. It is felt that these activities work well in concert with the 2007-08 plan.</p> <p>L. Langston recommended that the group also consider partnering with Cogeco to develop public service announcements on behalf of the NCPC.</p> <p>K. Thompson added that it would also be helpful to include a power point presentation on the website that members could use when reporting to the their organization or the community.</p>		

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	<p>The NCPC Communications/Advocacy Working Group will consider these items at their next meeting.</p>		
<p>8. REPORT: Subcommittee on Parenting Programs</p> <p>Linda Langston</p>	<p>L. Langston reported on behalf of the Subcommittee on Parenting Programs.</p> <p>The group has received a grant of 10K through the United Way of St. Catharines to develop a plan for a community strategy to deliver parenting programs across Niagara. There is a second application pending with the United Way of Niagara Falls.</p> <p>The group continues to have discussions with communities who have utilized the Triple P program.</p> <p>Any suggestions for funding opportunities or recommendations for the planning committee are to be forwarded to L. Langston or J. Reid.</p>		
<p>9. REPORT: Ministry of Children and Youth Services</p> <p>Patti Moore</p>	<p>P. Moore reported that the Niagara Children’s Planning Council and Speech Services Niagara will be coordinating the early literacy piece for the ministry, effective January 1’07. P. Moore will forward any subsequent reports related to this announcement to the council.</p>		
<p>10. New Business & Announcements</p>	<p>Due to scheduling conflicts with monthly Ministry of Health meetings, it is recommended that the NCPC meet on the third Friday of every month rather than the second. A new schedule and meeting locations will be forwarded once confirmed.</p>		