

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)
February 9, 2007, 9:00 – 11:30 AM
Niagara Catholic District School Board

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Paul Collins, John Crocco, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Tiffany Gartner (Guest), Janice Horner (for Pat Heidebrecht), Margaret Jarrell, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Patti Moore, Sandra Noel (Guest), Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Wendy Sturgeon, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Jackie Van Lankveld

Regrets: Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, Elke El Farsi, Lucette Farr, Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Richard Francki, Bruce Henry, Geralda Jamieson, Wendy Jones, Linda Langston, Odette Lamontagne, Catherine Mindorff, Daniel Lefebvre, John McNamara, Steve Novosedlik, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Kathy Thompson, Art Wing, Tim Wright, Tracy Zachariah

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	<p>Margaret Andrewes welcomes everyone and thanked John Crocco and staff of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>Tiffany Gartner, Ontario Early Years Data Analysis Coordinator who will be covering maternity leave for Sandra Noël, was welcomed to the group.</p>		
2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES & BUSINESS ARISING	<p>Moved by Eleanor Dolan Seconded by Donna Cunningham <i>That the NCPC notes of January 19, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></p> <p>It was noted that NCPC membership, as identified by B. Hutchings at the last meeting, will be addressed throughout the community planning process.</p>	<p>Moved by Eleanor Dolan Seconded by Donna Cunningham <i>That the NCPC notes of January 19, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></p>	
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	<p>The agenda was approved.</p>		
4. Building on the Foundation – Moving Forward 2007 Best Start Community Plan Update	<p>The work plan task group provided an overview of the next steps in updating the Best Start community plan.</p> <p>The group has distilled the template for the update into a survey, in order to allow all members to provide their input, and serve as a tool in forming the next steps for the NCPC. The survey and reference materials are available at http://www.earlyyearsniagara.org.</p> <p>All members are asked to complete the survey by March 15, 2007. Those members that represent a sector or agency should obtain input</p>	<p>All NCPC members to complete and submit survey.</p>	<p>By March 15, 2007.</p>

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	<p>from their membership to complete the survey. It is essential that those agencies funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, as identified in the Best Start Plan, complete the survey. Completed surveys are to be forwarded to mthacker@becon.org.</p> <p>It is recommended that subcommittees be established in the areas of early identification, hub development, early learning and parenting programs, and communications. These subcommittees will not only aid in the completion of the update, but they will assist the NCPC in achieving the overall objectives outlined in the plan.</p> <p>Currently, there are core groups for the Early Learning and Parenting Subcommittee and Communications Subcommittee to build on and formalize their respective linkages to the NCPC.</p> <p>Members of the council volunteered themselves and identified other network members for the various subcommittees. From the members listed, a lead self-identified for each subcommittee. Leads are responsible for organizing meetings and reporting back to the NCPC.</p> <p>In addition to completing the survey, each subcommittee is charged with providing an orientation to the planning process for its members, identifying gaps in membership, and developing terms of reference to define its specific tasks and accountability.</p> <p>Subcommittees are asked to meet prior to the next NCPC meeting in preparation for providing a progress report on March 9.</p> <p>It was noted that a clear systematic strategy for regular communications needs to be developed by the Communications Subcommittee. Suggested strategies include regular communiqués to promote awareness of the Best Start vision, to engage the public and encourage active participation by a broader network of community members. Quality Child Care Niagara was cited as an excellent model for developing a Best Start communications strategy.</p> <p>With the organization of the subcommittees, the task group responsible for developing the community planning work plan was disbanded. The Agenda Coordinating Committee will assume responsibility for overseeing the update to the community plan and providing support to the BEC in organizing infrastructure support to the Niagara Children’s Planning Council. Membership currently includes the co-chairs, and Children’s Services (CMSM), MCYS and BEC representatives.</p>	<p>M. Thacker to forward survey results to NCPC.</p> <p>Subcommittee Membership Lists are attached.</p> <p>All subcommittee leads to organize inaugural meeting.</p> <p>Communications Subcommittee to examine Quality Child Care Niagara as a model for communications strategy.</p>	<p>By March 9, 2007.</p>

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	<p>There was discussion on structure and membership of the NCP. It was noted that it should be publicly acknowledged that the council is an open body and that members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. It is expected that necessary linkages will come to light as the subcommittees move forward with their work and pursue additional representation.</p> <p>It is imperative that the NCP also keep in mind that there are certain planning bodies, such as the Ontario Early Years Centre Advisory Committee, that should be acknowledged in order to share information and avoid duplication. Members noted that linkages with the Coalition to End Violence Against Women, Niagara's public libraries, and the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group need to be formalized. Additional representation from the medical community also needs to be considered. An integration committee might eventually evolve, that would include representation from all subcommittees.</p> <p>The Developmental Services Sector Forum and Children's Services Sector Forum should also be engaged. A parent engagement strategy will also need to be considered as the NCP moves forward, and should be considered a priority of the NCP and each of its subcommittees.</p> <p>The Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council regularly meets one week prior to the NCP. The French Language Network should be operational by April 1, 2007.</p> <p>The existing Early Years Niagara committees, especially the Transition to School Workgroup, Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group, and Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara should be included where appropriate. M. Andrewes and J. Reid will follow up with each committee.</p>	<p>M. Jarrell and D. Madar to represent the Coalition to End Violence Against Women for the time being.</p> <p>M. Andrewes to consult with the CEOs of Niagara's public libraries to determine an appropriate representative to participate as NCP member and promote active involvement by all libraries in community planning process.</p> <p>M. Andrewes to consult with Dr. Williams re: medical community representation.</p> <p>M. Andrewes and J. Reid to follow up with existing Early Years Niagara committees.</p>	
<p>5. REPORT: Ministry of Children & Youth Services Patti Moore</p>	<p>P. Moore reported that the ministry has announced 1.8 million for blind and low vision programming for children. Additional details will be provided as they are announced.</p>		
<p>6. New Business & Announcements</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld reported that a Community Literacy Forum is being planned for Thursday, March 8, 2007 from 12:00-3:30 PM at the Sheraton Fallsview. J. McNamara and J. Van Lankveld will be presenting. Round table discussion will take place on identifying needs in emergent literacy and next steps. All are invited to attend and should contact M. Thacker at mthacker@becon.org to register.</p>		

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	<p>P. Collins reported that the District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic School Boards have been examining alternate programming arrangements for full day every other day kindergarten. DSBN is interested in extending the pilot program and is currently considering implications, including discussions with parents and child care providers.</p> <p>M. Andrewes welcomed Angelo Di Ianni, Director, Niagara Catholic District School Board, to the meeting. Mr. Di Ianni noted that he expects that the NCDSB will reach a final decision on the full day kindergarten program in June.</p> <p>P. Collins and J. Crocco were thanked for recognizing the potential impact on the child care sector and were asked to keep the NCPC informed as to any developments in this area.</p> <p>J. Reid reported that the minutes and agendas of the NCPC are now posted in the Best Start section of the Early Years Niagara website.</p>		

NPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
March 9, 2007	Aboriginal Head Start Site 64 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie
April 13, 2007	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland
May 11, 2007	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland
June 8, 2007	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland