

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)
January 19, 2007, 9:00 – 11:30 AM
District School Board of Niagara, Grimsby Lincoln Room

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Paul Collins, John Crocco, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Elke El Farsi, Lucette Farr, Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Wendy Jones, Linda Langston, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Catherine Mindorff, Patti Moore, Sandra Noel (Guest), Judy Reid, Lynda Reinhart, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Wendy Sturgeon, Michelle Thacker, Jackie Van Lankveld, Tim Wright, Art Wing, Tracy Zachariah

Regrets: Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, Richard Francki, Bruce Henry, Geralda Jamieson, Odette Lamontagne, Daniel Lefebvre, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, John McNamara, Steve Novosedlik, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Kathy Thompson

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|--|---|--|----------|
| 1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS | Welcome and introductions were made. | | |
| 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES & BUSINESS ARISING | <p>The previous minutes are to be amended to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Hutchings and W. Sturgeon were absent • E. Dolan is part of the work plan task group <p>Moved by Linda Langston Seconded by Art Wing <i>That the NCPC notes of December 8, 2006 be adopted as amended. Carried.</i></p> <p>M. Andrewes reported that there is no longer a need to move the regular meeting date to the third Friday of the month, as monthly Ministry of Health meetings have been rescheduled. It was agreed by general consensus that the meetings would remain on the second Friday of each month. A schedule of meeting dates and locations will be circulated.</p> <p>Under item 9 of the November 10'06 minutes, W. Sturgeon inquired as to aboriginal representation in the workshop content for the Success by Six national early years conference. It was noted that the presentation is still in development but will be inclusive of all members of the NCPC.</p> | <p>Moved by Linda Langston Seconded by Art Wing <i>That the NCPC notes of December 8, 2006 be adopted as amended. Carried.</i></p> <p>M. Thacker to circulate meeting schedule.</p> | |
| 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | <p>The agenda was approved.</p> <p>B. Hutchings requested that membership be added to the next agenda of the NCPC as this item has been deferred.</p> | | |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>M. Andrewes noted that reports from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and CMSM will be standing items of the agenda.</p> | | |
| <p>4. Building on the Foundation – Moving Forward 2007 Best Start Community Plan Update</p> <p>(See attachments 1 & 2)</p> | <p>The work plan task group provided an overview of the draft outline for updating the Best Start community plan. All members of the council will have a part in building on this framework.</p> <p>It was also noted that the group should consider hiring a consultant to consolidate all the pieces of the update, once identified.</p> <p>Recommendations generated from the discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be inclusive of all members of the council, ensure that reference is made to ‘stakeholders’ in addition to ‘service providers’ • Include representation from groups dealing with domestic violence, community health centres and Brighter Futures. Move child welfare under the subsection ‘mental health’. • In developing hubs, consider expanding on Family Resource Centres and OEYCs as a starting point, as well as using neighbourhood maps in planning locations. Revisit specifics identified by the NCPC in the 2006 integrated plan. • Questions pertaining to each section of the update have been identified for the consideration of the council. The questions will be forwarded to members in the format of a survey. • Members were asked for input on the inventory of planning tables as circulated. The inventory will be circulated for review by the NCPC, in order that they may identify additional groups for inclusion in the inventory. In addition, members are asked to align themselves with a particular group or group(s); in a professional capacity or as volunteers. It is hoped that this will allow for working groups to be formed over the next year by individuals and organizations that are already engaged in that work. • It was recommended that a one-page summary of requirements for the update and what is needed to move forward be developed and forwarded to the NCPC. <p>S. Noel provided an update on the neighbourhood creation project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was undertaken to assist with assessing the impact Niagara’s neighbourhoods have on the healthy development of children, and planning in the public domain. Neighbourhood profiles implement the Early Development Instrument (EDI), inventory of programs and services for children 0-6 and their | <p>M. Thacker to forward survey to NCPC.</p> <p>NCPC to review inventory of planning bodies and submit recommendations and memberships/interests with completed survey.</p> <p>Work Plan Task Group to develop summary of requirements for update.</p> | <p>Friday, February 2’07</p> <p>Friday, February 2’07</p> |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|--|--|--|----------|
| | <p>families, as well as health and social data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following community consultation with 'champions' involved and connected with their community, 74 neighbourhoods were identified in the region. • The maps have already been used in developing Best Start sites and will be used for the community document on Niagara's children being developed by the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group. Neighbourhood level analysis will also be used in determining hub placement. • Maps will be updated with 2006 census data and ISCUS data. • Members are asked to contact S. Noel at Sandra.noel@regional.niagara.on.ca with any inquiries or comments regarding the project. | | |
| <p>5. REPORT: Ministry of Children & Youth Services Patti Moore</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. Moore reported that there have been a number of significant changes to the Day Care Nurseries Act, including legislative changes to financial eligibility for child care. • The French language network is moving to nine boards by April 1'07. It is hoped that this structural change will allow for greater local supports. • Some staffing changes have occurred since the last meeting, including a new Regional Director, Lorraine Graham Watson. | | |
| <p>6. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department Pat Heidebrecht</p> | <p>P. Heidebrecht reported that the report on provincial legislative changes to financial eligibility for child care was passed at the January 18'07 meeting of Regional Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a significant policy shift in the Day Care Nurseries Act that may led to an increased number of families identified as in need of financial assistance for child care. There may also be delays as the number of families served increase. • As Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders will be relocating to the region of Halton, Darlene Edgar and Rosemary Martin will be filling in until an external posting is opened. All members are invited to attend a farewell open house on January 26'07. • M. Andrewes volunteered to write a letter of thanks to D. Bartholomew-Saunders on behalf of the NCPC. | <p>M. Andrewes to write letter to D. Bartholomew-Saunders on behalf of NCPC.</p> | |
| <p>7. REPORT: Subcommittee on Parenting Programs Linda Langston</p> | <p>L. Langston reported on behalf of the Subcommittee on Parenting Programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee met with representatives from the Halton and York Barrie areas regarding the Triple P program on January 16'07. They have recommended that the subcommittee continue to explore a variety of parenting strategies in order to determine | | |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|---|---|--------|----------|
| | <p>which best meets the needs of the population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10K out of 25K has been received from the United Way of St. Catharines. To purchase training for the Triple P program will require from 30-40K for Niagara. • It was suggested that an application for funding could also be submitted to the Branscombe Family Foundation. | | |
| <p>8. New Business & Announcements</p> | <p>M. Andrewes reported that due to a change in portfolio, Cathy Jenkins of the Ministry of Education will no longer be attending Best Start meetings with exception of demo sites.</p> <p>J. Reid reported that the Transition to School Workgroup has developed the Off to School 2007 school-readiness calendar in both English and French. 8, 500 calendars will be distributed to all parents registering their children in kindergarten in Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The winner of the 2006 Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award Llama Llama Red Pajama, by Anna Dewdney, was announced before Regional Council on Thursday, January 18'07. 1, 500 votes were cast by families across Niagara. Over 200 books will be provided to all licensed child care centres, OEYC's, and pediatrician's offices. <p>Catherine Mindorff reported that the Niagara Integrated Social and Community Planning Committee is planning a meeting to address the need for integrated community planning for February 14'07 at the MacBain Community Centre in Niagara Falls. There are 25 spaces available to community member. All interested members are asked to contact Catherine Mindorff at catherinem@cogeco.ca for additional information.</p> <p>L. Langston announced that Niagara Child and Youth Services recently received provincial accreditation with Children's Mental Health Ontario; meeting 100% of standard requirements and 97% additional.</p> | | |

| NPC Meeting Schedule | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| DATE | LOCATION |
| February 9, 2007 | Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland |
| 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 |