

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

**June 8, 2007 9:00 – 11:30 AM**

**Niagara Catholic District School Board**

**Present:** Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Anne Biscaro, Paul Collins, Donna Dalglish (Guest), Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Lucette Farr, Tiffany Gartner, Christine Graham (for John Crocco), Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Linda Langston, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Chantelle Murray (for Wendy Sturgeon), Rona O'Banion, Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd, Lynda Reinhart, Judy Reid, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Kathy Thompson, Art Wing

**Regrets:** Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Jean-Luc Bernard, Bill Charron, Elke El Farsi, Richard Francki, Gerald Jamieson, Wendy Jones, Odette Lamontagne, John McNamara, Catherine Mindorff, Daniel Lefebvre, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Patti Moore, Steve Novosedlik, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Wendy Sturgeon, Jackie Van Lankveld, Tim Wright, Tracy Zachariah

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
<b>1. WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	M. Andrewes welcomed all in attendance.		
<b>2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	The agenda was approved.		
<b>3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES &amp; BUSINESS ARISING</b>	Moved by Margaret Jarrell Seconded by Lucette Farr <b><i>That the NCPC notes of May 11, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>	Moved by Margaret Jarrell Seconded by Lucette Farr <b><i>That the NCPC notes of May 11, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>	
<b>1. CORRESPONDENCE &amp; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	Upon their retirement and resignation from council, B. Ally, P. Collins and A. Wing were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to the early years community.  As a matter of correspondence, Dr. Williams reported on recent news reports regarding elevated lead levels in drinking water. It was noted that while there is a need for concern around lead in water and its potential to impact negatively a child's cognitive neurodevelopment, it is also necessary consider all of the elements that can impact a child's development. There is also a need to be cognizant of the impact that mandatory daily system flushing may have on child care centres and OEYCs.		
<b>5. REPORT: REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA – COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT RE: 2007-08 CHILD CARE PLAN</b>	P. Heidebrecht and K. O'Hagan-Todd provided the following update on behalf of Niagara Region Children's Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An overview of the 2007-08 child care plan was provided. While it will not be entirely integrated with the Niagara Best Start Network's Integrated Community Plan, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services as a second chapter.</li> </ul>		

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<p><b>Pat Heidebrecht &amp; Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion took place on the recruitment and retention piece of the plan. Additional detail may be added to address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niagara College resource teacher program currently has low enrollment. Replacement training, apprenticeships, and bursaries could be pursued to boost enrollment.</li> <li>• The annual intake for Niagara College's ECE program is 140; however, retention remains an issue.</li> <li>• Address possible incorporation of children's mental health into the curriculum, including autism support, in partnership with Niagara Child and Youth Services. Niagara College is currently looking at the special needs support aspect of its educational assistant's program, which will include autism.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In addition to the plan, updates were provided on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The addition and new child care centre at Nelles School in Grimsby will officially open on Monday, June 11, 2007 from 6:00-8:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.</li> <li>• Children's Services' Annual Report will be circulated (attached).</li> <li>• The recent Aboriginal Gathering Day held in Brantford was a success. In keeping with the message of encouraging cultural sensitivity, as referenced in the terms of reference for the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council, the NCPC should consider holding a similar awareness event.</li> </ul>	<p>M. Thacker to forward Children's Services' Annual Report.</p>	
<p><b>6. REPORT: ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRES IN NIAGARA RE: 2007-08 OEYC SERVICE PLAN (Attached)</b> Eleanor Dolan &amp; Donna Dalglish</p>	<p>D. Dalglish and E. Dolan presented an overview of the OEYC planning process and the highlights of the 07/08 OEYC Service Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inception of Best Start has provided the impetus for the OEYCs to begin planning in an integrated way. For the first time all four centres will be submitting a single plan.</li> <li>• Like Children's Services, it is the intention of the OEYCs to eventually integrate their plan with that of the Niagara Best Start Network. As a further step toward integration, joint training initiatives for OEYC staff are currently being planned.</li> <li>• In 2006-07, OEYCs served 40% of Niagara's children under the age of six. There are 33 sites in total, including satellites and mobile sites. These sites have been organized into four ridings, but are now moving towards a neighbourhood-based model.</li> <li>• Over the past five years strong partnerships have been forged and programs have been strengthened through regular evaluation.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7. REPORT: NIAGARA BEST START FRANCOPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b> Lucette Farr</p>	<p>L. Farr provided an update on behalf of the Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School boards have finalized plans for renovations to create new</li> </ul>		

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	child care spaces. The new playground space is already in place.		
<b>8. REPORT: Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council</b> Chantelle Muray for Tracy Zachariah & Wendy Sturgeon	C. Murray provided an update on behalf of the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is continued discussion on whether to provide a permanent site or a mobile hub service for the Aboriginal Hub.</li> </ul> K. O'Hagan Todd added that hubs were visited in Hamilton area by the Hub Development Subcommittee. There were some great ideas to address transportation and meet the critical mass in order to establish permanent hubs.		
<b>9. REPORT: BUSINESS EDUCATION COUNCIL</b> Judy Reid	J. Reid reported on behalf of the Business Education Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrea Hannen has been hired to write the Niagara Best Start Integrated Community Plan, currently in development. On behalf of the council, M. Andrewes and T. Gartner were thanked for their assistance with this task.</li> <li>• A Roots of Empathy breakfast is scheduled for June 20, 2007 from 7:30-9:30 AM at Club Italia. All members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to invite their contacts from the business community.</li> <li>• A Touch a Truck event may be planned for 2008. Community interest is also growing in the four annual Family Literacy events in Niagara, with attendance from over 6K parents and children in total. All members are welcome to participate on any of the planning committees.</li> </ul>		
<b>10. NIAGARA BEST START INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLAN 2007-08 UPDATE – OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION/REVISION &amp; ENDORSEMENT (Attached)</b> All	Tiffany Gartner provided the following update on the Niagara Best Start Integrated Community Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In total, 21 surveys were received from community stakeholders. The responses have been organized into an outline developed by A. Hannen and based on the Ministry's template,</li> <li>• T. Gartner highlighted this information using a PowerPoint presentation. Feedback from NCPC members in attendance resulted in minor revisions to the content outline, as presented. These changes will be incorporated in the further development of the plan.</li> <li>• It was also recommended that the key learnings for each section reflect a more positive perspective.</li> <li>• It should be noted that there is the intention to monitor child development through a community report in order to obtain a sense of how Niagara is making a difference for its youngest children. A systematic approach to parent engagement and education is also a goal.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A three year planning process should be recommended, with an update on outcomes for the year to be sent annually.</li> <li>• A list of potential hubs should be included to show progress in this area. Highlight the preference of the council of quality over quantity in terms of system expansion.</li> <li>• Due to tight timelines a system for sign off by fax will be utilized.</li> </ul> <p>The group was asked to prioritize the five goals originally established for the 2006 Community Plan. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of Hubs &amp; Formal Service Linkages</li> <li>• One Child, One Plan</li> <li>• Licensed Child Care in Schools</li> <li>• Earlier Identification &amp; Shorter Wait Times</li> <li>• Communication and Inclusiveness That Optimizes Development</li> </ul> <p>It was felt that the goals were difficult to prioritize because they run parallel to one another or lead to one another. It was noted; however, that child poverty is a prevalent issue that should be included as a priority of the council. It was also noted that the goal 'creation of hubs and formal service linkages' should be adjusted to reflect that the priority has evolved to 'recognition and expansion of hubs and formal service linkages'. Council has also adjusted the goal, 'licensed child care in schools' to be 'in or near schools' to reflect the need to be cognizant of child care service delivery and system stability.</p>	<p>2007-08 Integrated Community Plan – FINAL DRAFT to be distributed electronically to NCPD members with a request for 'sign off' by each member in time for submission to the Ministry of Children &amp; Youth Services by June 30, 2007.</p>	
<p><b>11. REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE</b> M. Andrewes</p>	<p>M. Andrewes led the discussion on the revised terms of reference. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The terms of reference have been updated to reflect the evolution of the council over the past year and the decision of the group to revise the mandate and vision.</li> <li>• Updates include: the addition of the BEC as infrastructure support; the addition of standing committees and working groups; the addition of postsecondary education as a core member; the removal of reference to permanent and non-permanent members.</li> <li>• In accordance with recent discussions at the NCPD table, Niagara Children's Planning Council will now be known as <b>Early Years Niagara Planning Council</b> and the EYN tagline on the existing logo has been updated to overwrite the word 'good' with 'best'. It was recommended that the original logo be maintained, as wording around Best Start initiative may change.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>12. NEXT MEETING DATES</b></p>	<p>It was agreed by general consensus that council will adjourn for the summer and reconvene in September according to the established schedule of the second Friday of the month.</p>	<p><b>Next Early Years Niagara Planning Council (EYNPC) is scheduled Friday, September 14, 2007, 9am.</b></p>	