

**Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCP)
June 9, 2006, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Niagara Region Community Services, Winifred Cropper Room**

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Angela Alfieri-Maolo (Guest), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Donna Cunningham, John Crocco, Lucette Farr, Helen Flynn (Guest), Pat Heidebrecht, Bruce Henry, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Wendy Jones, Linda Langston, Daniel Lefebvre, Judy Reid, Kathy Thompson, Michelle Thacker, Jackie Van Lankveld, Tara Wincott (Guest), Tim Wright

Regrets: Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, Paul Collins, Eleanor Dolan, Joan Fallis, Richard Francki, Geralda Jamieson, Odette Lamontagne, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, John McNamara, Patti Moore, Steve Novosedlik, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Wendy Sturgeon, Art Wing

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|---|--|--------|----------|
| 1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS | Welcome and introductions were made. | | |
| 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | The agenda was approved. | | |
| 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES – April 13, 2006 | Moved by Lucette Farr Seconded by Anne Biscaro That the NCP notes of May 12, 2006 be adopted as written. Carried. | | |
| 4. BUSINESS ARISING | There was no business arising from the previous minutes. | | |
| 5. CORRESPONDENCE 5.1 Memorandum – Ministry of Education re: Best Start Initiative, Ben Levin, Deputy Minister, May 26, 2006 | 5.1 MEMO – Ministry of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A memo from Deputy Minister Ben Levin was circulated. The memo outlines the Ministry of Education's stance on capital building costs for child care spaces in new schools under the Best Start initiative. | | |
| 6. Presentation: Literature Review/Assessment of Evidence-Based Parenting Programs (Attached) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Helen Flynn and Tara Wincott of the Niagara Region Public Health Department (NRPHD) presented an overview of parenting programs in Niagara, as well as research and parent feedback on parent education (attached). • A comparison chart on parenting programs offered in the region was circulated (attached). It was noted that although some of the existing parenting programs offered in Niagara are not currently considered evidence-based. This does not preclude that they are any less valuable to parents. • P. Heidebrecht added that the chart would be a great tool to use in communicating to parents the types of services that are | | |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|---|--|--------|----------|
| | <p>available to them at each stage of their child's development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Biscaro added that the Public Health Department is also looking at connecting to parents through the web; seeking to provide accurate listings of programs and resources in the community, as well as promoting the site to professionals. There is already substantial traffic on the RNPHD website on the services offered for parents. • Following the presentation, Linda Langston recommended that the NCPC consider examination of the Triple P program as part of an integrated and universal approach to early learning and care. Although the program is costly, it has been in development for the past 30 years and is firmly based in connecting parents to opportunities and support in the community, while promoting synergy among organizations. It is one of the only parenting programs that has been implemented and evaluated on a community wide basis. Niagara Child and Youth Services is hosting a visit by Dr. Alan Ralph, Consultant Clinical Psychologist for Triple P International, for their September 19'06 annual general meeting. • It was suggested that the NCPC should appoint a working group to develop a parenting strategy to engage parents, examine potential parenting programs and evaluate existing programs and resources to assess what can be feasibly be offered and sustained. The working group may also look into organizing a forum to be held in conjunction with the September annual general meeting for Niagara Child and Youth Services. <p>The following members volunteered to sit on the Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Langston & NCYS staff member • Adele Tanguay (or representative from Centre de Santé) • Brighter Futures Representative • Dr. Robin Williams • Anne Biscaro • Angela Alfieri-Maiolo • Children's Services Representative • Bruce Henry | | |
| <p>7. NETWORK REPORTS 7.1 Children's Services – P. Heidebrecht</p> | <p>7.1 Children's Services</p> <p>P. Heidebrecht provided an overview of the Early Learning and Child Care Plan update as forwarded to the NCPC and submitted to the ministry on June 1'06 as required (attached). Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new build for 49 spaces in Niagara Falls funded by the Ministry of Education in 2007. | | |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|---|---|--------|----------|
| <p data-bbox="92 716 407 802">7.2 Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee – D. Lefebvre</p> <p data-bbox="92 932 485 1018">7.3 Niagara Aboriginal Children’s Planning Circle – W. Jones</p> | <ul data-bbox="518 105 1348 561" style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to special needs has doubled following comparison with other communities. 42K is committed with 3K for case resolution planning • Administration costs have been reduced; but do not reflect true costs and are comparable to other communities. • Wage subsidy is prorated and specific to new Best Start spaces. Spaces must be operational in order to receive funding. This allows for commitment to this until 2008. • Wage enhancement is provided to all existing child care centres including Aboriginal and Francophone spaces; with up to \$300.00 per full time equivalent staff until 2008. • Continued reliance on National Child Benefit (NCB) to offset deficit of 1.6 M. • 60% of the system requires subsidy; it is hoped that Grimsby spaces will bring down numbers reliant on subsidized spaces. <p data-bbox="518 594 1348 683">M. Andrewes noted that the reference to the Niagara Children’s Planning Council on page 6 of the document, should read: <i>Niagara Best Start Network and Niagara Children’s Planning Council</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="518 716 1234 743">7.2 Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee</p> <ul data-bbox="518 748 1348 899" style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Lefebvre reported on behalf of the Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee. The community plan has been completed and translated into English, and was submitted to Children’s Services this week. Funding will initially be provided for 15 spaces, which is comparable to the rest of the province. <p data-bbox="518 932 1136 959">7.3 Niagara Aboriginal Children’s Planning Circle</p> <ul data-bbox="518 964 1348 1084" style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Jones reported on behalf of the Niagara Aboriginal Children’s Planning Circle. The group has been unable to schedule a meeting at this point, but will be addressing their terms of reference. A meeting will be arranged with Children’s Services. | | |
| <p data-bbox="92 1118 380 1174">8. WORKING GROUP REPORTS</p> <p data-bbox="92 1179 415 1234">8.1 Communications/ Advocacy – J. McNamara</p> | <p data-bbox="518 1118 1142 1146">8.1 Communications & Advocacy Working Group</p> <ul data-bbox="518 1151 1348 1451" style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Andrewes provided an update on the Communications & Advocacy Working Group on behalf of J. McNamara. The group has not formally met since the last meeting, but is continuing to move forward with communications planning, and meeting with the remaining area Members of Parliament as part of the advocacy strategy. Meetings are scheduled with John Maloney (June 9’06) and Dean Allison (June 28’06). • L. Langston added that NCYS has been meeting with provincial MPPs and FACS is also beginning to schedule meetings to voice their concerns. | | |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|--|---|--|---------------------|
| 8.2 Infrastructure Working Group – M. Jarrell | 8.2 Infrastructure Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the Infrastructure Working Group. The group has not met as the structure and organization will be addressed following finalization of the vision. This will be the final piece for this group to address. • M. Jarrell indicated that working group had considered the need for a steering committee (following establishment of the vision, structure, and organization) to serve as a liaison between the NCPC and BEC. • J. Reid reported that the contract between the BEC and Children's Services has been finalized and will be signed shortly. A draft work plan for EYN and Best Start was circulated. • J. Reid extended her thanks to the group for their support of Early Years Niagara noting that all community partners have honoured their three year commitment in making their second annual financial contribution. | | |
| 9. DIALOGUE ON MOVING FORWARD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March'06, the NCPC and EYN met to identify issues and common understandings in moving forward as one body. The primary concerns of the group included the need to establish a shared vision, identify the structure and organization of the group, and clarify roles and responsibilities. It is recommended that Jerry Mings be hired to assist the group in moving forward on these items, primarily to refine the vision of the Niagara Best Start Network and define the roles and responsibilities of the NCPC. It was agreed that the facilitator would be booked for the meeting on September 8'06. • L. Langston agreed that this could help the group in devising a basic strategic plan for the next two years. • T. Wright added that consideration must be given as to how the special needs population is addressed. • The group discussed the value in having recent presentations on projects and initiatives for children in Niagara. It was agreed that additional presentations would be scheduled on a regular basis. • In addition, members indicated an interest in site visits to explore best practices and opportunities for integrated services. It was agreed that the BEC would organize a tour of selected sites in early August. Recommended sites are to be forwarded to J. Reid. • It was decided that the group would break for the month of July, and resume meetings in August. | <p>BEC to organize tour of selected sites.</p> | <p>August 11'06</p> |

| Item | Discussion | Action | Timeline |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|
| <p>10. NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>10.1 Coordination of Literacy Activities in Niagara – J. Van Lankveld</p> | <p>10.1 Coordination of Literacy Activities in Niagara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Van Lankveld noted that literacy activities in Niagara have been growing over the past two years and consideration should be given to additional coordination and communication around literacy in Niagara. Under the direction of Best Start, Speech Services Niagara has expanded their mandate to include a literacy component. This has led to a partnership with Literacy Link Niagara to encourage early literacy. In view of the connection to Best Start and the opportunity to link resources, it is recommended that the NCPC consider supporting a community coalition or overarching strategy for literacy. It was agreed that Jackie Van Lankveld gather a group to develop recommendations for a literacy strategy to be brought back to the NCPC for consideration. J. Reid reported that the BEC Employer Appreciation Reception will be held on May 31'06. All are welcome to attend. M. Andrewes reported that she had attended the Council for Early Child Development's (CECD) Summer Institute for Early Child Development on June 8'06. The conference covered early learning and care program and policy issues. Toronto's First Duty program was also featured. | <p>Jackie Van Lankveld to bring literacy coordination proposal forward.</p> | <p>October 13'06.</p> |
| <p>11. ADJOURNMENT</p> | <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.</p> | | |

NCPC MEETING SCHEDULE

| DATE | | LOCATION |
|-----------|----|---|
| | | Corporate Learning Centre Inspiration Room 3340 Schmon Parkway (rear entrance) *unless otherwise indicated |
| August | 11 | Early Learning and Care Bus Tour – Site Visits |
| September | 8 | Corporate Learning Centre |
| October | 13 | Corporate Learning Centre |
| November | 10 | Corporate Learning Centre |
| December | 8 | Corporate Learning Centre |