

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)
March 9, 2007, 9:00 – 11:30 AM
Aboriginal Head Start Site – Fort Erie

Present: Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Elke El Farsi, Tiffany Gartner, Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Crystal LaForme (Guest), Linda Langston, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Jean McBrain, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Patti Moore, Rona O'Banion, Ted Palmer, Lynda Reinhart, Wendy Sturgeon, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Kathy Thompson, Becky Vanderwyk (Guest), Jackie Van Lankveld, Tim Wright, Tracy Zachariah, Geralda Jamieson

Regrets: Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Paul Collins, John Crocco, Bill Charron, Lucette Farr, Richard Francki, Bruce Henry, Margaret Jarrell, Wendy Jones, Odette Lamontagne, Catherine Mindorff, Daniel Lefebvre, John McNamara, Steve Novosedlik, Judy Reid, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Art Wing

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Dr. Williams welcomed all in attendance and introduced and thanked those representatives of the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council and others who were responsible for hosting the meeting.		
2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES & BUSINESS ARISING	Moved by Donna Cunningham Seconded by Anne Biscaro <i>That the NCPC notes of February 9, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	Moved by Donna Cunningham Seconded by Anne Biscaro <i>That the NCPC notes of February 9, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion on a 'Niagara Week' proposal.		
4. NIAGARA ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S PLANNING COUNCIL PRESENTATION (Attached) Danielle Doxtator, Jackie Poulin, Crystal Laforme, Geralda Jamieson, WendySturgeon, Tracy Zachariah	The following members of the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council provided an overview of their initiatives (see attached). Under the Rainbow Resource Centre – D. Doxtator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition support for new mothers; parent support programs • Seniors room for intergenerational sharing • Licensed capacity of 68; currently at capacity with waiting list • Challenges include staffing ECEs, transportation Aboriginal Head Start Program – C. LaForme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program is centered around nutrition, education, school-readiness, culture and language, social supports for families, and parental involvement. • Two licensed preschool classes are held per day, servicing 20 		

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	<p>children. Aim to add a full day class with addition of a playground area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school tutoring program and Akwego programs. • Native alternative high school program offered in partnership with DSBN and Fort Erie Secondary School, servicing 22 between the ages of 17-53. • Looking into implementation of program 'Sharing our Gifts'. Intergenerational; elders and older youth would be brought into the program to read and make crafts with children. • Programs are free of cost. Meals and transportation are provided. Transportation is available through a 15 person van owned by the centre. • Centres are open to all. <p>Niagara Chapter of Native Women – W. Sturgeon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owns and operates 96 homes and provides non-profit child care • Programs include school outreach and remedial and bereavement • A resource library is available • For more information on the NCNW visit www.ncnw.net <p>Niagara Region Native Centre – T. Zachariah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily provides services for the 0-6 population. • Aim to bridge gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal services. • Provides in-house referrals. Programs include Akwego, tutoring, skill development, health outreach and medical support. • Membership is open to all. • Abby House is scheduled to open on March 21'07. 		
<p>5. 2008 NIAGARA COMMUNITY REPORT ON CHILDREN 0-6 EARLY YEARS NIAGARA RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP (Attached)</p> <p>Tiffany Gartner, OEY DAC, Niagara Region Public Health Department</p>	<p>Tiffany Gartner, Ontario Early Years Data Analysis Coordinator, presented on the <i>2008 Niagara Community Report of Children 0-6</i> on behalf of the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group (EYNRAG).</p> <p>EYNRAG is currently developing a community report on the children of Niagara using the Niagara Children's Charter as a framework. The report is planned for release in 2008. The group plans to apply for funding through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and is requesting endorsement from the Niagara Children's Planning Council in the direction of EYNRAG in moving forward with this project and</p>		

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	<p>seeking funding to produce it.</p> <p>The purpose of a 2008 release is to use the most current census and EDI data, as well as to ensure that there is sufficient time for data collection from external agencies.</p> <p>P. Heidebrecht commended the committee is framing the report on the Niagara Children's Charter.</p> <p>It was recommended that the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group (EYNRAG) consider renaming themselves the 'Niagara Children's Planning Council Research Committee'. The recommendation will be brought back to the committee.</p> <p>Confirmation was requested on whether the aboriginal data collected would represent both on/off reserve. It was noted that the document should also be shared with others who are interested in collecting the same statistical information on children, such as the Niagara Community Foundation. These recommendations will be brought back to EYNRAG.</p> <p>Moved by Dori Madar Seconded by Margaret Andrewes <i>That the Niagara Children's Planning Council endorses the direction of the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group in developing a 2008 Niagara Community Report of Children 0-6 and supports their application for funding. Carried.</i></p>	<p>J. Reid to bring forward recommendation to EYNRAG to consider renaming to Niagara Children's Planning Council Research Committee.</p> <p>Moved by Dori Madar Seconded by Margaret Andrewes <i>That the Niagara Children's Planning Council endorses the direction of the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group in developing a 2008 Niagara Community Report of Children 0-6 and supports their application for funding. Carried.</i></p>	
<p>6. NIAGARA WEEK PROPOSAL Brian Hutchings</p>	<p>B. Hutchings reported that Niagara Week 2007 is scheduled for April 23-25'07 in Toronto.</p> <p>It is recommended that council consider developing a proposal around child poverty, a focus of the provincial budget. The proposal should be unique to Niagara and fact-based.</p> <p>The group considered the connection between child poverty and other issues relevant to Niagara, such as: children's mental health, nutrition, greening, recreation, or dental care. It was noted that a community garden or something similar to Bethlehem Place's Empty Bowls project could also be considered.</p> <p>A subcommittee to develop a proposal for Niagara Week was formed, including W. Sturgeon, P. Heidebrecht, T. Ferguson, M. Andrewes, A. Biscaro, T. Gartner, P. Moore, and B. Ally.</p>	<p>Subcommittee to develop proposal for Niagara Week.</p>	

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	<p>The proposal will be brought before Hillary Dawson with Strategy Corp. and must be accepted by Regional Council before moving forward.</p>		
<p>7. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEES</p> <p>7.1. Hub Development E. Dolan</p>	<p>E. Dolan reported on behalf of the Hub Development Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee reviewed the survey for updating the Integrated Community Plan. Results are being collated and will be forwarded. • The group discussed potential existing sites acting as hubs in Niagara. • An April meeting is planned. Terms of reference will be developed. <p>P. Heidebrecht added that a GIS map will be produced for the plan, and could be useful for future subcommittee meetings. Maps will be presented at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>T. Palmer added that maps can be accessed on the YourNiagara portal (yourniagara.ca).</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht to produce GIS map of sites services 0-6 population.</p>	
<p>7.2. Early Identification, Screening and Education J. Van Lankveld</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld reported on behalf of the Early Identification, Screening and Education Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group determined an overall vision and several outcomes for parents, professionals and the community. • Due to low numbers available for the meeting and concern about duplication, the survey has not yet to be completed. It was noted that members would be completing the survey from the perspective of the subcommittee. 		
<p>7.3. Communications J. McNamara</p>	<p>On behalf of J. McNamara, B. Ally reported that the Communications Subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting in the near future.</p>		
<p>7.4. Early Learning and Parenting B. Sockovie</p>	<p>B. Sockovie reported on behalf of the Early Learning and Parenting Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group has completed the survey. • An upcoming meeting is planned to have a full discussion on defining the role of the subcommittee to determine its terms of reference. 		

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<p>7.5. Agenda Coordinating</p>	<p>In order to ensure that all groups are given sufficient time to complete the survey, it was agreed that the deadline for submission would be extended to March 21'07.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a need to adjust child welfare in and move family counseling in the inventory of planning bodies. The agenda coordinating committee will consider this in the update of the plan.</p> <p>Pursuant to the February 9'07 recommendation of council to broaden membership to include libraries; the CEO's of all Niagara's Public Libraries were asked to appoint a representative to the NCPC table. Subsequently, R. O'Banion, CEO of the Wainfleet Public Library was designated the official representative of Niagara's Public Libraries. M. Andrewes confirmed that she and J. Van Lankveld will be meeting with Library CEO's on March 22 to provide an update on the Niagara Best Start integrated community planning activities and invite their participation. Also, J. Van Lankveld will provide an overview of the new organization and plans for the Emergent Literacy Program in Niagara through Speech Services Niagara.</p> <p>E. El Farse, of the Centre de Santé Communautaire, is currently working with French language Best Start services contacts in Niagara to complete the 2007-08 Niagara Best Start Integrated Community Plan Survey.</p>	<p>M. Thacker to notify all concerned of the extension of the deadline from March 15 to March 21 for responses to survey.</p> <p>Agenda Coordinating Committee to consider recommended adjustments to planning body diagram.</p>	
<p>8. REPORT: REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA – COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT P. Heidebrecht</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht reported that a meeting was held with child care sector and a SWOT analysis was completed. An additional meeting is scheduled with OEYCs to assist with plan update. Completed surveys will be submitted by Community Services.</p>		
<p>9. REPORT: MINISTRY OF CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES – HAMILTON/NIAGARA REGION P. Moore</p>	<p>P. Moore reported that the Ministry of Children & Youth Services is hosting a meeting for Best Start French Language Regional Network (FLRN) representatives at the end of March to discuss the Ministry's plan for restructuring FLRN's province-wide.</p> <p>A. Biscaro and L. Langston thanked the Ministry for providing 15K for the 18 month well-baby pilot project as well as the parenting strategy.</p>		

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<p>10. NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>T. McCormick Ferguson reported that the ECCDC is working with the St. Catharines Standard to produce a 20-25 page insert for circulation to 65K homes in Niagara. A subgroup will be meeting to discuss themes and ideas for articles. E. Dolan, B. Sockovie, J. Van Lankveld, J. McBrain, A. Biscaro/F. Burgi, K. Thompson, and R. O'Banion volunteered to assist.</p> <p>L. Langston reported that the first week of May is Children's Mental Health week. Margaret Trudeau will be speaking on number of issues in mental health at a 'Breakfast of Champions' in Hamilton. 50 tickets have been reserved for Niagara and have been distributed.</p> <p>T. Zachariah reported that a youth and elders session is scheduled for March 30, 31 at 9:00 AM at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Centre.</p> <p>D. Cunningham reported that J. Van Lankveld will be speaking on literacy and language acquisition before the St. Catharines Rotary Club, on Tuesday March 13 at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club.</p>		

NPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
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