

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)

May 11, 2007 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Niagara Catholic District School Board

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Angela Alfieri-Maiolo (for Anne Biscaro), Paul Collins, John Crocco, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Lucette Farr, Tiffany Gartner, Pat Heidebrecht, Margaret Jarrell, John McNamara, Patti Moore, Rona O'Banion, Ted Palmer, Lynda Reinhart, Barb Sockovie, Michelle Thacker, Pat Thacker, Jackie Van Lankveld, Nadine Wallace (Guest), Art Wing, Tim Wright

Regrets: Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Jean-Luc Bernard, Bill Charron, Elke El Farsi, Richard Francki, Brian Hutchings, Bruce Henry, Geralda Jamieson, Wendy Jones, Odette Lamontagne, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Catherine Mindorff, Linda Langston, Daniel Lefebvre, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Steve Novosedlik, Judy Reid, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Wendy Sturgeon, Tracy Zachariah

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	<p>Dr. Williams welcomed all in attendance.</p> <p>Nadine Wallace of the Niagara Regional Police was introduced to the group . N. Wallace provided an overview of the TALK program: Teams of Adults Listening to Kids. (http://www.talkniagara.com). The project was founded to address issues around youth victimization and bullying. Additional funding is required to continue with second phase.</p> <p>A forum on victimization and bullying was organized with Dr. Deborah Pepper in March. There were 65 decision makers in attendance. Each representative agency was asked to designate a lead to continue to move forward this initiative.</p>		
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	<p>The agenda was approved with the deferral of item 5 Reports & Discussion re update to Niagara's Integrated Community Plan, in order that they may follow the standing reports, and the addition of an early years update.</p>		
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES	<p>Moved by John Crocco Seconded by Rona O'Banion <i>That the NCPC notes of April 13, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></p>	<p>Moved by John Crocco Seconded by Rona O'Banion <i>That the NCPC notes of April 13, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></p>	
4. CORRESPONDENCE	<p>Dr. Williams shared B. Ally's letter of resignation from the NCPC. The council will regroup regarding membership in the coming months.</p>		
5. EARLY YEARS UPDATE (SEE ATTACHED) Dr. Williams	<p>Dr. Williams provided the group with an update of Early Years activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Early Years Study 2 was released on March 26'07. (http://www.councilecd.ca/cecd/home.nsf/pages/EYS2) 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Children: The Silenced Citizens,” has been released by CENA. The report deals with Canada’s actions regarding human rights international treaties, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recommendations include the appointment of an independent children’s commissioner. • Save the Children has released “Off Track and Out of Time,” a report on the status of committed countries in achieving the Millenium Development Goals as the halfway point nears. • UNICEF has released, “Child Poverty in Perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries,” a report card on the status of 21 countries on the domains of material wellbeing, health and safety, behavior and risks. Canada is rated at twelfth overall, due to higher scores in educational wellbeing, material wellbeing and health and safety. It is 17th on behaviour and risks and 1st in adolescent drug use. No country was in the top third across all domains. The Netherlands held the top ranking; and overall, northern European countries had a higher ranking. 		
<p>6. REPORT: BUSINESS EDUCATION COUNCIL</p> <p>T. Palmer</p>	<p>T. Palmer reported on behalf of the Business Education Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Small Business Club endorsed the Niagara Children’s Charter of Rights on May 3’07, during a fundraising event for children. • Three free Family Literacy Events have been held to date, with attendance of over 1K in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, and 2K in Fort Erie. The Welland Family Literacy Event is scheduled for May 26’07 at the Children’s Safety Village. The theme, “Llama Llama Red Pajama,” is based on the 2006 award winning title for the Debbie Zimmerman Early Years Niagara Literary Award. 		
<p>6.1 REPORT: REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA – COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT</p> <p>P. Heidebrecht</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht provided an update on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathryn O’ Hagan Todd has been hired as Manager of Children’s Services. 		
<p>6.2 REPORT: MINISTRY OF CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES – HAMILTON/NIAGARA REGION</p> <p>P. Moore</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update on behalf of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florence Ngenzebuhoro has been hired as a Program Supervisor in the Program Management Team for the Hamilton/Niagara Region and will be leading the development of the regional French Language Best Start Network. • The Aboriginal Subcommittees of the Brantford/Brant and Haldimand-Norfolk Best Start Committees are planning a gathering on Thursday, June 7th. All members who are interested 		

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	<p>in attending are to contact P. Moore or M. Thacker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus group is scheduled for parents for the Blind Low Vision initiative. Additional information will be made available in the next news digest. • Children’s Mental Health Centres in Hamilton, Niagara, Brant, Halton and Haldimand-Norfolk, recently organized, “The Courage to Tell,” a dinner with guest speaker Margaret Trudeau. Approximately 20 children with mental health issues were also in attendance. The event was very well received, and Linda Langston of Niagara Child and Youth Services provided a great deal of support in moving it forward. 		
<p>6.3 REPORT: FRENCH LANGUAGE BEST START NETWORK L. Farr for J. Blais-Breton</p>	<p>L. Farr provided an update on behalf of the French Language Best Start Network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hélène Monchion has been working with the French Language Best Start Network to provide input for the update. • The Conseil scolaire de district Catholique Centre-Sud is continuing to work with service providers in developing spaces at St-Antoine and Immaculée-Conception schools. 		
<p>6.4 REPORT: NIAGARA ABORIGINAL CHILDREN’S PLANNING COUNCIL W. Sturgeon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. O’Hagan Todd continues to meet with the Niagara Aboriginal Children’s Planning Council to facilitate their contribution to the update. • A tour of the Aboriginal Hub Centre in Hamilton has been organized for five representatives of the planning table. 		
<p>6.5 REPORT: DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA P. Collins</p>	<p>P. Collins reported on behalf of the District School Board of Niagara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grand opening of the new child care centre at Nelles Elementary School is scheduled for June 11’07 at 6:00 PM. An invitation will be forwarded to all members. • Funding sources are still being explored for implementation of the Roots of Empathy program across the school board. • DSBN is excited about the work that is being done to build on 2007-08 plan. 	<p>M. Thacker to forward invitation to Nelles Child Care Centre.</p>	
<p>7. REPORTS & DISCUSSION RE UPDATE TO NIAGARA’S INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLAN & NCPC STRUCTURE:</p> <p>REPORT: AGENDA PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported on behalf of the Agenda Coordinating Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The terms of reference have been reviewed and revisions are underway to those sections that require updating. • In reviewing the terms of reference, the group also considered that early years branding is gaining public recognition and that the term is easily identifiable to the target audience. • It is recommended that the NCPC consider renaming themselves to the Early Years Niagara Planning Council, in order to build on 		

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<p>M. Andrewes</p>	<p>community recognition while meeting the requirements of the ministry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agenda Planning Subcommittee will also be renamed the Agenda Coordinating & Accountability Subcommittee to better reflect the purpose of the group. • A Committee Handbook has been circulated to ease the task of organizing meetings for subcommittee leads. Any updates to the contact information provided should be forwarded to M. Thacker. 		
<p>7.1 REPORT: COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY J. McNamara</p>	<p>J. McNamara reported on behalf of the Communications & Advocacy Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last meeting, the subcommittee explored the concept of building on a model of integrated services used by the Toronto Best Start Network, as a web-based communications tool for the target audience. • The tool would essentially be an online information directory for parents, capturing the continuum of support that is available and connecting parents to these services. The development of the terms of reference and focus groups with the target audience, will inform some of the clusters of information. • Consideration will be given to how this information can be translated to hardcopy for those families without access to the Internet. • In agreement with the direction of the Agenda Coordinating Subcommittee, discussion also took place on how Best Start language represents the process behind planning a system for early learning and care and is understood in internal communications, whereas early years terminology and branding is familiar to the community and easily identified by the end user. • The committee will be exploring branding that builds on the existing Early Years Niagara logo. The existing tagline, "A Good life Needs a Good Start," could also be used. • OEB/Loud may be contacted to provide assistance in implementing a comprehensive communications strategy. <p>It was recommended that Information Niagara be consulted in developing the model.</p> <p>T. Palmer added that some of the information would also be available on the YourNiagara portal. GIS maps of several services, including child care, are also available on this site.</p> <p>P. Collins noted that it would be preferable to retain the word 'children'</p>		

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	<p>in the name chosen for the planning body and that the language of the existing EYN tagline could be stronger.</p> <p>It was noted that the word 'good' could be crossed out and replaced by 'best'.</p> <p>In developing communications materials it is also recommended that local literacy levels be taken into consideration.</p>		
<p>7.2 REPORT: HUB DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE M. Jarrell</p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the Hub Development Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tour of four hubs in the area has been scheduled for May 23'07. The hubs that have been chosen are not demonstration sites and have comparable budgets to that of the NCPC. • The Sparrow Lake Alliance recently held their annual meeting with the theme "Policy and Practice: Assessing the Integration of Services for Ontario's Children and Youth". 		
<p>7.3 REPORT: EARLY IDENTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE J. Van Lankveld</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld reported on behalf of the Early Identification Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee has met to revise outcomes drafted at the initial meeting. A work plan will be drafted during their next meeting. 		
<p>7.4 REPORT: EARLY LEARNING & PARENTING SUBCOMMITTEE B. Sockovie</p>	<p>B. Sockovie reported on behalf of the Early Learning and Parenting Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is need for additional clarification on the role of the subcommittee in order to avoid duplication. 		
<p>7.5 REPORT: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTEREST GROUP OF NIAGARA M. Thacker for T. McCormick Ferguson</p>	<p>M. Thacker reported on behalf of the Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara is currently planning their 3rd annual Poetry Celebration for students in grades 4-8. The celebration is intended to promote awareness of children's rights and the local Niagara Children's Charter of Rights. The 1st annual Poster Celebration for K-Grade 3 is also planned. 		
<p>7.6 REPORT: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTEREST GROUP OF NIAGARA M. Thacker for J. Reid</p>	<p>M. Thacker reported on behalf of the Transition to School Workgroup.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans are underway for Off to School 2008, a school-readiness calendar that is distributed to all parents upon registering their child for kindergarten. • The School-Readiness Subcommittee is continuing to move forward with a promotional piece to communicate determinants of 		

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	school-readiness to parents.		
<p>8. INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE M. Andrewes</p>	<p>M. Andrewes highlighted progress on the 2007-08 update to Niagara's Integrated Community Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed surveys have been received from the majority of partners. The BEC and Community Services have been working on moving forward with hiring a writer to pull together this content and write the update. • To date, an external consultant able to meet council's timelines deliverables, including integration of the child care component into the update, has not been found. • In support of the need to meet the tight timeline in completing the update and the importance of finding a writer who is familiar with the content, P. Heidebrecht advised that K. O'Hagan Todd, of Niagara Region Children's Services, was available to take the lead in this task. <p>Discussion took place on the importance of public perception of a neutral voice in writing the update. Consequently, it was agreed by general consensus that the BEC hire an external consultant to write the update and K. O'Hagan Todd, T. Gartner, and sub-committee leads would work with the writer in framing the content using the survey information and providing the supporting data required. It was recommended that Terry Shields, who is currently working on the OEYC plan, be consulted.</p> <p>Members were asked to contact BEC with the names of possible candidates for the position of external writer. P. Moore offered to examine flexibility in timelines in order to assist with this process.</p>		

NPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
June 8, 2007	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland