

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)
November 10, 2006, 9:00 – 11:30 PM
District School Board of Niagara, Grimsby Lincoln Room

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Angela Alfieri-Maiolo (Guest), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Paul Collins, Donna Cunningham, Eleanor Dolan, Lucette Farr, Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Wendy Jones, Linda Langston, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), John McNamara, Carol Minne (for John Crocco), Patti Moore, Judy Reid, Glory Ressler (for Tammy McCormick-Ferguson), Lynda Reinhart, Glory Ressler (for Tammy McCormick Ferguson), Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Wendy Sturgeon, Michelle Thacker, Diane Vanecko (Guest), Jackie Van Lankveld

Regrets: Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyn Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, John Crocco, Richard Francki, Bruce Henry, Geralda Jamieson, Cathy Jenkins, Odette Lamontagne, Daniel Lefebvre, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Steve Novosedlik, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Adèle Tanguay, Kathy Thompson, Tim Wright, Art Wing

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Welcome and introductions were made.		
2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES	<p>The previous minutes are to be amended to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That 120K referred to an enhancement to the base budget provided to meet Best Start targets in relation to literacy • That spaces in Grand Avenue and Nelles schools are <i>child care</i> spaces • That 15K new spaces were targeted across the province • That Wendy Jones was in attendance for the report from the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council <p>Moved by Wendy Sturgeon Seconded by Lucette Farr <i>That the NCPC notes of October 13, 2006 be adopted as amended. Carried.</i></p>		
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved with the addition of business arising.		
4. BUSINESS ARISING	<p>Wendy S. thanked M. Andrewes for forwarding information on the November 15 Best Start Forum, and noted as a matter of record that there appeared to be no aboriginal or parent representatives expected at the forum. It was noted that this item will be addressed during the report from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <p>As a follow up to the NCPC endorsement of the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Circle terms of reference, M. Andrewes reported that the Native Friendship Centre in St. Catharines hosted a brief meeting with all those signing off on the terms of reference.</p>		

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<p>4. PRESENTATION: “Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group – EYNRAG” (attached)</p> <p>Jackie Van Lankveld</p>	<p>J. Van Lankveld, Co-Chair of the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group presented an update on behalf of the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYNRAG is currently examining their membership, terms of reference and mandate, as well as finalizing a comprehensive work plan. The work plan includes communications sharing strategies through a Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) website, as well as a report on Niagara’s children that will be framed around the Niagara Children’s Charter of Rights. The report is targeted for release around National Child Day, November 20, 2008. • EYNRAG is asking for the support of the NCPC in the development of this report as a way of sharing information with the community. The group also hopes to have the completed Terms of Reference acknowledged by the NCPC by their next report to council. <p>P. Heidebrecht noted that the report would be a good way of providing accountability for endorsement of the charter.</p> <p>L. Langston added that Niagara Child and Youth Services is supportive of the report as an agency and will be happy to contribute data if sufficient time is provided to collect it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Ressler, Understanding the Early Years Coordinator, is also hosting a ‘Lunch and Learn’ on November 24, 2006 from 12:30-2:30 PM at Mary Ward. The session is being held to share the results of the Niagara Falls EDI. 		
<p>5. PRESENTATION: “Children’s Rights Interest Group of Niagara”</p> <p>Judy Reid</p>	<p>J. Reid reported on behalf of T. McCormick Ferguson, Chair of the Children’s Rights Interest Group of Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mandate of the Children’s Rights Interest Group of Niagara is to promote and monitor the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Niagara Children’s Charter of Rights. All organizations at the NCPC table are invited to endorse the Niagara Children’s Charter, if they have not already done so, and to receive a copy of the Niagara Children’s Charter plaque. Interested members are to contact J. Reid or M. Thacker. • The Children’s Rights Interest Group recently organized the second annual National Child Day Poetry Celebration to build awareness of children’s rights and National Child Day. 120 poems were submitted by seven schools for the first celebration, compared with 320 poems submitted by 15 schools under both English and French school boards submitted for this year’s celebration. All poems are available on the Public Health 	<p>All interested NCPC members are to contact J. Reid or M. Thacker to arrange for endorsement of the Niagara Children’s Charter.</p>	

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	<p>Department's website http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/living/health_wellness/healthyschools/National-Child-Day-Poems-2006.aspx.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected poems were presented by students before Regional Council on November 9. Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, led the presentation. To further promote National Child Day, 10 free family skating events are also being hosted by 8 municipalities in the month of November. Sarah Gosse of the Public Health Department did an excellent job in coordinating this year's activities. Children's Services has also provided support in contributing to the development of promotional bookmarks as part of this year's advocacy activities as well as in obtaining support for creating ribbons through the senior's community centre day program. <p>M. Andrewes thanked the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group and the Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara for providing this update.</p>		
<p>5. REPORT: 18 Month Well Baby Strategy Update</p> <p>Angela Alfieri-Maiolo Diane Vanecko</p>	<p>Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Manager, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Niagara Region Public Health Department provided an update on the 18 Month Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the 18 month visit is the last regular visit before age 5, it is a critical time to ensure that the child has healthy supports. Many physicians use the 18 month visit to review healthy growth and development and address the concerns of parents. The 18 month strategy would allow for the addition of a literacy component to the visit. J. Van Lankveld is on the provincial implementation committee, and is providing support and expertise in building literacy awareness as an intentional approach. The visit also includes building relationships and supports for parents, recognizing the role they play in providing a nurturing environment. There is also consideration being given to timely access to care, improving family wait times, and identifying children early so that they can be connected with services and community resources in order to have the best possible outcome. The Public Health Department's Healthy Babies Healthy Children program already connects to the 18 month strategy. Additional programs can also be enhanced by incorporating the strategy. The Public Health Department is exploring funding opportunities for 21K to support a pilot project in Niagara Falls. The project would provide for a nurse to be placed in the physician's office for one half day per week to track the Rourke screening tool. The 		

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	<p>pilot will be an opportunity to demonstrate how one practice can connect to the community and build on the role and impact that the primary caregiver can have on the family and community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Van Lankveld added that the provincial implementation committee has moved this forward in the last month, purchasing the rights to the Nipissing Developmental Screen. Niagara is very far ahead in this proposal. The committee will also be considering how to simplify the process for physicians so that there is not the barrier of an added time-commitment for them. • Chatham-Kent and Hamilton Best Start Networks are submitting an application to the ministry; however implementation of the 18 month strategy is a requirement of the Best Start demonstration sites. • The implementation committee is also exploring cost-saving strategies and methods to track families and their experiences when arriving at the agency they were referred to. <p>It is hoped that the Niagara Children's Planning Council will make a motion to support the work undertaken and planning required to achieve this vision.</p> <p>It was moved by Linda Langston Seconded by Dori Madar That the Niagara Children's Planning Council endorses and supports the initiative of the Public Health Department in moving forward the 18 month well baby strategy in Niagara and the work being undertaken at the provincial implementation table. Carried.</p>		
<p>6. REPORT: NCPC Parenting Sub-Committee</p> <p>Linda Langston</p>	<p>L. Langston thanked the council for their support of the grant request to develop a parenting strategy to define the gaps in existing parenting programs and identify what programs could have the best impact on the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As 12 letters of support are required for both proposals and all letters were submitted for the United Way of St. Catharines, permission is needed to change the addressee to that of the United Way of Niagara Falls. • The parenting subcommittee has been in touch with groups who have implemented the Triple P program to discuss some of their barriers. • Funding opportunities may also be explored through an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant for 2-3 years. • A universal parenting strategy will also be a good fit with the 18 month well baby strategy and EYNRAG document on Niagara's children. 		

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<p>7. REPORT: Ministry of Child & Youth Services – Hamilton/ Niagara Region</p> <p>Patti Moore</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update from the Ministry of Child & Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The update to the Community Integrated Plan will require the NCPC to revisit what has been achieved since the plan was developed, with a focus on areas of integration, hub development, and community engagement. The focus of the update is very specific, and may serve as a useful tool in considering strategies for integration beyond child care expansion. • The Best Start Forum on November 15 is intended to set the direction for the next stage of Best Start. Representation at the forum was clearly directed toward recognizing the lead role that Best Start Network Chairs play, as well as that of school boards. Demonstration communities will be present at the November 15 Best Start forum including representation from Aboriginal and Francophone groups, as well as Toronto First Duty. • Infrastructure funding is anticipated for 2007-08. • The Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Circle terms of reference have been shared with Brant Haldimand Norfolk as a template. • Paul Johnson, the Hamilton Best Start Network Chair and Grace Mater, Project Manager of Best Start for the City of Hamilton are looking forward to attending the December 8'06 NCPC meeting to provide some input on the Hamilton Best Start demonstration site. 		
<p>8. Niagara Best Start Network & Children's Planning Council Terms of Reference- Revised MANDATE</p> <p>Margaret Andrewes Margaret Jarrell Dori Madar</p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the subgroup reviewing the NCPC mandate. It is hoped that the wording for the revised mandate will be finalized by the next meeting.</p>	<p>Subgroup to draft revised mandate for NCPC terms of reference.</p>	
<p>9. Infrastructure & Operational Support</p> <p>Pat Heidebrecht Judy Reid</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht and J. Reid provided an update on infrastructure and operational support for Best Start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original membership of Early Years Niagara (EYN) has made a three year financial commitment; to honour that commitment, invoices for 2007 will be sent in December. • Best Start deliverables are not covered by this funding and a separate account is maintained. Best Start funding will be used by end of March as it relates to staffing supports, with the exception of some products and the launch of the Community 	<p>BEC to forward invoices to EYN partners for 2007.</p>	

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	<p>Integrated Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget has been circulated and reflects that Best Start funds are on track. The following update was provided on Early Years activities: Dr. Williams led an article in the Canadian Association of Principals' quarterly journal highlighting the Ontario Early Years Centre of Niagara Falls and children's garden at Mary Ward School. The Business Education Council's abstract for the Success by Six National Conference has been accepted. The presentation is titled, "Building Community Capacity through Collaborative & Unique Partnerships" and will be presented as a panel discussion. The Circle of Literacy project was launched in partnership with Literacy Link Niagara, through funding from Project Read. It is a 5 week project to promote collaboration through use of an online bulletin board. 33 people attended the launch, including school boards, Niagara College, Brock University, and the Ministry of Child and Youth Services. 		
10. New Business	<p>Regional offices have moved to Regional Headquarters, at 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold. The new telephone number is 905-984-6900.</p> <p>M. Andrewes and Wendy S. attended, "Transforming Niagara through Culture," an information session on how arts and culture can transform cities and the power of collaborating across sectors.</p>		

NCPD MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE		LOCATION
December	8	District School Board of Niagara
January	12	District School Board of Niagara
February	9	LOCATION TBA
April	13	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road - Welland
May	11	Niagara Catholic District School Board
June	8	Niagara Catholic District School Board

