

**Early Years Niagara Planning Council Meeting (EYNPC)**  
**October 12, 2007 9:00 – 12:00 PM**  
**Niagara Catholic District School Board**

- Present:** Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Anne Biscaro, Liz Carr (Guest), Donna Cunningham, Donna Dalgleish (Guest), Eleanor Dolan, Tiffany Gartner, Christine Graham (for John Crocco), Margaret Jarrell, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Jean McBrain (Guest), Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Patti Moore, Kathryn O'Hagan-Todd, Ted Palmer (for Judy Reid), Janice Quinn (Guest), Lynda Reinhart, Michelle Thacker, Diane Vanecko (for Jackie Van Lankveld), Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Kaarina Vogin, Tim Wright, Tracy Zachariah
- Regrets:** Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, John Crocco, Elke El Farsi, Richard Francki, Pat Heidebrecht, Brian Hutchings, Odette Lamontagne, Catherine Mindorff, Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Linda Langston, Daniel Lefebvre, Judy Reid, Zineb Sabbane-Allouche (for Daniel Lefebvre), Barb Sockovie, Jackie Van Lankveld

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Dr. Williams welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made.		
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved.		
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES & BUSINESS ARISING	<i>The EYNPC notes of September 14, 2007 were adopted as written.</i>	<i>The EYNPC notes of September 14, 2007 were adopted as written.</i>	
4. PRESENTATION: INTRODUCTION TO HUB DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIES FOR MOVING FORWARD (attached)  Hub Development Committee M. Jarrell, Chair	The EYNPC Hub Development Committee provided a presentation on hub development and strategies for moving forward.  Highlights of the discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to consider the role of specialized services and expanding membership on the Hub Development Committee</li> <li>• The number of hubs will be expanded as the necessary linkages are formed and criteria are finalized.</li> <li>• When building on the criteria, consideration will be given to existing resources and the need to be flexible, while maintaining the vision of providing seamless services from the parent perspective.</li> <li>• The video of a parent at a local Ontario Early Years Centre could be a useful promotional tool for the business community. The group discussed expanding the video to include a broader range of perspectives, i.e. children and grandparents.</li> <li>• Next steps include identification of specific actions and timelines for work plan objectives. The committee will also be seeking support from the EYNPC in developing strategies for community/parent engagement.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>The Hub Development Committee was thanked for the tremendous effort that went into putting together the presentation and developing a work plan; and was commended for their progress in moving toward the goal of hub development and system integration.</p>		
<p><b>5. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEES &amp; WORKING GROUPS</b>  <b>5.1. Early Identification Committee</b>   D. Vanecko for J. Van Lankveld, Chair</p>	<p>D. Vanecko provided an update on behalf of the Early Identification Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee has renamed themselves the <i>Education and Screening Committee for the Purposes of Early Identification</i> in order to represent their mission more accurately.</li> <li>• There has been preliminary discussion on terms of reference.</li> <li>• Next steps include examination of milestone markers currently used and discussion on the establishment of a universal set of indicators to provide consistent messaging to parents.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5.2. Communications Committee</b>   M. Andrewes for J. McNamara, Chair</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported on behalf of the Communications Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. Gartner and M. Thacker met with communications students at Brock University. The students would like to assist the EYNPC in the development of a promotional piece.</li> <li>• In keeping with the priorities identified by the Communications Committee and considering the timelines of the students, it was recommended that they redevelop the existing Early Years Niagara brochure to communicate the vision, goals, and strategies as defined in the integrated community plan, including hub development; and/or establishing a web presence on the Best Start/Early Years Niagara website to communicate the Network's vision, goals, and strategies.</li> <li>• A. Alfieri-Maiolo and M. Thacker are continuing to work on development of Early Years Parent Directory. A small working group may be established.</li> </ul>	<p>Establish working group to address development of Early Years Parent Directory.</p>	
<p><b>5.3. Agenda Coordinating &amp; Accountability</b>   M. Andrewes</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported on behalf of the Agenda Coordinating &amp; Accountability Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive Summary of the 2007-08 Integrated Community Plan is now available on the Early Years Niagara website.</li> <li>• There is a need to discuss infrastructure support and how the structure of the EYNPC and the role of the BEC are evolving.</li> </ul> <p>A. Biscaro provided the group with the inventory of planning bodies and the schematic for the Niagara Best Start Network that was brought forward in April 2007. In addition, a list of the current committee membership was circulated. All members were asked to review the documents and submit any changes or suggestions to A.</p>	<p>All members to review inventory of planning bodies, schematic, and list of committee members and forward corrections/suggestions to A. Biscaro or M. Thacker.</p>	

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	<p>Biscaro or M. Thacker.</p> <p>The group will need to consider whether the current structure will need to be modified, as well as identify priorities for infrastructure support. An update will be provided to the group at the next meeting.</p>		
<p><b>5.4 Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A planning meeting to establish the Regional French Language Best Start Network has been scheduled for October 24'07.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6. REPORT: Ministry of Children &amp; Youth Services – Hamilton/Niagara Region</b> Patti Moore, Program Supervisor</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is undergoing a transition period following the provincial election</li> <li>It is not anticipated that this will impact the momentum of Best Start, as it's embedded in the Ministry's organizational structure.</li> <li>Implementation of the new full day JK/SK strategy may positively or negatively impact the system; however, the full extent of its implementation is as of yet unclear.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the Agenda Coordinating and Accountability Committee will address this item at the next meeting. While there is the potential for the strategy to destabilize the child care system, there is also the possibility that it will enhance the system. It was added that how it affects families and children is what is of utmost importance.</p> <p>D. Cunningham added that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services recently announced a Qualifications Upgrade Strategy through the creation of a College of Early Childhood Educators. Details on this initiative will be circulated in the next news digest. P. Moore will also share the memo with local Ontario Early Years Centres.</p>	<p>EYNPC Agenda Coordinating and Accountability Committee to address announcement of full day JK/SK before making a recommendation to Council.</p> <p>M. Thacker to forward MCYS memo re Qualifications Upgrade Strategy to EYNPC.</p> <p>P. Moore to forward MCYS memo re Qualifications Upgrade Strategy to OEYCs.</p>	
<p><b>7. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department</b> Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>K. O'Hagan-Todd provided an update from Niagara Region Children's Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Start spaces at École LaMarsh opened on October 9'07. There are now 39 new spaces, 24 preschool and 15 toddler, with both before and after school programs.</li> <li>Grand Avenue spaces are on schedule and expected to open October 28'07. The District School Board of Niagara has been working diligently to enhance these spaces. A multipurpose room was not included in the final plans, but there is an Ontario Early Years Centre located on the neighbouring property that could be used.</li> <li>Wage enhancements through Best Start are in the process of</li> </ul>		

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	being finalized. This funding was announced in July 2007.		
<b>8. NEW BUSINESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M. Jarrell reported that future funding of AFSSN programs is unclear. Further discussion on this item is needed.</li> <li>• D. Cunningham announced that the Rotary Club of St. Catharines – Sunrise is hosting their Annual Charity Auction and Wine Tasting at 7:00 PM on Oct. 26'07 at Hernder Estate Wines. Admission is \$25.00, with proceeds from the event to benefit the Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara.</li> <li>• Niagara College and Brock University are partnering to hold two café symposiums: the first to be held at the end of January on the topic of autism and the second in the spring on childhood obesity.</li> <li>• 5K books have been donated to area child care centres through the Kiwanis Young Children Priority First project in partnership with ECCDC. Kiwanis was recognized for their volunteerism during this project by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Their next project will address early numeracy.</li> <li>• D. Dalgleish reported that the second annual Fit for the Future event is scheduled for February 16'08. The event will focus on childhood obesity and the role of family and community. Members are asked to contact Lisa Gallant of Healthy Living Niagara for additional information.</li> </ul>		

<b>EYNPC Meeting Schedule</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>November 9, 2007 9:00 AM-11:30 AM</b>	<b>District School Board of Niagara Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines</b>
<b>December 14, 2007 9:00-11:30 AM</b>	<b>Four Points Sheraton, Newman Room 3530 Schmon Parkway, Thorold</b>
January 11, 2008 9:00-11:30 AM	District School Board of Niagara Board Office, Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines