

Early Years Niagara Planning Council Meeting (EYNPC)
September 14, 2007 9:00 – 11:30 AM
District School Board of Niagara

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

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	M. Andrewes welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made.		
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	The agenda was approved.		
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES & BUSINESS ARISING	Moved by Linda Langston Seconded by Anne Biscaro <i>That the NCPC notes of June 8, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	Moved by Linda Langston Seconded by Anne Biscaro <i>That the NCPC notes of June 8, 2007 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>	
4. CORRESPONDENCE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	A thank you note from G. Ressler upon the completion of the Understanding the Early Years project for Niagara Falls was read.		
5. PRESENTATION: CHILD POVERTY REPORT (Attached) Pat Heidebrecht & Dr. Robin Williams	P. Heidebrecht provided an overview of the report on child poverty recently released by the Region "A legacy of poverty? Addressing Cycles of Poverty & the Impact of Child Health in Niagara Region." The complete report is available on the region's website at: http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/living/saeo/reports/pdf/PovertyReport.pdf Recommendations from the report include the need for fair wages, affordable child care, and housing. The report will be shared with the Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara in order to develop a strategy for raising awareness of the issue and to recommend any appropriate action. A presentation will be provided to the group if necessary.	BEC to share report with Children's Rights Interest Group of Niagara.	September 18'07

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	<p>M. Andrewes noted that the development of a comprehensive strategy to address child poverty is included as a goal for the 2007-08 Integrated Community Plan.</p>		
<p>6. REPORT: Niagara's 2007-08 Integrated Community Integrated Plan & Membership of the Council</p> <p>Margaret Andrewes</p>	<p>M. Andrewes reported that Niagara's Integrated Community Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in August. The document reflects a great effort and achievement by the early years community.</p> <p>P. Moore and P. Heidebrecht thanked the group for their effort in providing this update.</p> <p>An executive summary has also been developed and will be translated into French.</p> <p>The goals and strategies for moving forward the Best Start Vision in 2007-08 have been summarized and provided to all members. They include areas of hub development; child poverty; system integration; transparency and accountability to the public; building trust and strengthening working relationships.</p> <p>One of the recommendations is to examine the current Council structure by streamlining terminology and addressing overlap. This includes exploring a restructure or consolidation of some committees. Membership of the EYNPC will also be addressed.</p> <p>The Agenda Coordinating and Accountability Committee met on September 10'07 to identify themes for the next three meetings based on the objectives outlined in the plan. October will focus on Hub Development, November on Planning and Review of Progress, and work of the Best Start Expert Panels will be featured in December.</p> <p>A 2008-09 update to the Integrated Community Plan is anticipated; however, the Ministry of Children and Services has not yet confirmed the template. It was agreed that EYNPC would continue to move forward in their plans for the update as they move toward meeting 2007-08 objectives.</p>	<p>BEC to translate executive summary.</p>	
<p>7. REPORTS OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>7.1. Parenting Task Group</p>	<p>L. Langston provided an update on behalf of the EYNPC Parenting Program Task Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summer student was hired to review existing parenting programs and begin to identify gaps. • The group will develop a 2-3 year strategy to pilot in Niagara in 		

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<p data-bbox="138 175 489 261">7.2. Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee</p> <p data-bbox="138 298 453 415">DISCUSSION RE MEMO: Expansion of Regional French Language Networks</p> <p data-bbox="138 451 485 521">Florence Ngenzebuhoro, Program Supervisor, FLS, Ministry of Community and Social Services</p> <p data-bbox="138 548 432 570">Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Chair</p>	<p data-bbox="562 82 653 103">the fall.</p> <p data-bbox="516 175 1325 293">J. Blais-Breton and F. Ngenzebuhoro, Program Supervisor, French language services for the Ministry of Community and Social Services reported on behalf of the Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Committee:</p> <ul data-bbox="516 302 1339 1024" style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry has announced that the original structure of four French Language Best Start Networks for Ontario will be expanded to nine networks provincially with nine regional consultants. Niagara is now part of the Hamilton/Halton/Brant network and aligns with the territory covered by the French Language Health Network for this region. • The Niagara Best Start Francophone Advisory Group understands the importance of maintaining a group in Niagara to communicate directly with the EYNPC. F. Ngenzebuhoro will be assisting the francophone community in conveying their needs to the EYNPC. • An ad hoc planning group meeting will be held on October 24'07 in order develop a recruitment strategy for the regional French Language Network. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is requesting the names of one or two representatives from each of the local Best Start Networks to participate on this committee. The Francophone Advisory Committee has agreed to submit the names of Jocelyne Blais-Breton and Raymond Lafond. Both French language school boards will be represented by the planning body. • As of September 4'07, there is an increase to 79 daycare spaces for French language families, with expansion to 56 existing spaces and 23 new spaces for both the French Language Public and Catholic Boards. Appreciation was extended to the Region for helping to move these targets forward. 		
<p data-bbox="138 1092 464 1203">7.3 REPORT: Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council Tracy Zachariah</p>	<p data-bbox="516 1060 1314 1117">T. Zachariah reported on behalf of the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council</p> <ul data-bbox="516 1125 1335 1446" style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation is extended to the Niagara Region Public Health Department and Niagara Region Children's Services, in particular K. O'Hagan-Todd for helping to facilitate sign off of the 2007-08 Integrated Community Plan. • Several of the activities outlined in the work plan are underway, including cultural sensitivity training which will be presented to the Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council and EYNPC when completed. • The NACPC would like to convey concern about a lack of health services to Aboriginal sites. It was noted that there is a Healthy Babies, Healthy Children stream specifically designated for 		

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	<p>Aboriginal population and that the gap between this and other streams will be looked into.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been recent news reports of Canada's refusal to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. • It was decided that T. Zachariah and G. Ressler would obtain additional information on the rationale behind this decision and share their findings with the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group and make any appropriate recommendations for action to EYNPC. T. Zachariah will be invited to the next EYNRAG meeting. 	<p>T. Zachariah and G. Ressler to obtain additional information on UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and bring before EYNRAG.</p>	
<p>7.4 REPORT: Communications Committee Margaret Andrewes for John McNamara, Chair</p>	<p>M. Andrewes provided an update on behalf of the Communications Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee met on August 9'07. Due to scheduling conflicts, J. McNamara will be unable to attend future EYNPC meetings. The position of chair and additional membership for this committee will need to be examined. • Terms of reference have been drafted and will be reviewed at the next meeting. • The Best Start section of the Early Years Niagara website has been updated with the updated plan, the revised terms of reference and member list now available. Additional updates are being examined. 		
<p>7.5 Hub Development Committee Margaret Jarrell, Chair</p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the Hub Development Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hub Development Committee is continuing to work on the October 12'07 presentation on hub development and system integration and thanked T. Gartner for her help on this project. • It is hoped that the presentation will help all members to come to a common understanding of system integration and the elements of a hub. • The committee is beginning to see overlaps in objectives with other EYNPC Committees. • The proposed 'hub day' has been postponed for the time being. 		
<p>7.6 Early Identification Committee Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Program Manager, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Diane Vanecko for Jackie Van Lankveld, Chair</p>	<p>D. Vanecko reported on behalf of the Early Identification Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives originally set out by the committee are currently being examined. They will be narrowed down and form the basis of a work plan. • Terms of reference are also being developed. • JIPC and the EYNPC Hub Development Committees have already been identified as overlapping with the work of this committee. <p>A. Alfieri-Maiolo reported that a number of committees have identified</p>		

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	<p>the desire to compile a community directory for family programs in Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Van Lankveld and L. Langston have asked that the idea be brought forward for consideration by the EYNPC. Some of the initial data has already been collected through the Parenting Program Task Group. • Examples from Hamilton and Halton were circulated. Halton publishes a directory 3/year at a cost of 5-7K. Circulation is completed primarily through schools. • Costs could be saved by redirecting funds that are normally used to develop individual resource directories; purchasing software to help ease the process of collecting information; or partnering with a community that is already using the software. <p>The EYNPC Communications Committee will be asked to address this item before making a recommendation to Council.</p>	<p>EYNPC Communications Committee to discuss development of Community Directory before making a recommendation to the EYNPC.</p>	
<p>7.7 Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group Dr. Mary-Louise Vanderlee, Chair</p>	<p>M. Vanderlee reported on behalf of the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group (EYNRAG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYNRAG is currently working on the community report: <i>Children's Rights Enacted: A 2008 Report on how the Niagara Region is doing in supporting children 0-6 and their families.</i> It is based on the articles of the Niagara Children's Charter of Rights and aims to provide an assessment of how we are doing in Niagara in meeting those provisions and the needs of our children. • A call out for data to be included in the report will be issued to the EYNPC in the coming weeks. • The province has announced continued funding for another round of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) which will enable EYNRAG to look at the results over time. The committee is also looking at coordinating implementation of the EDI with a Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS) in partnership with DSBN and NCDSB. <p>G. Ressler added that the Understanding the Early Years Project (UEY) and EYNRAG are planning a forum on November 28'07 to share interdisciplinary local findings including the results of the last round of the EDI, to share plans, successes, and champions with families, caregivers, educators, and community. All members are welcome to attend. An evening forum is also planned for November 28'07 that will be geared to service providers.</p>		
<p>8. REPORT: Ministry of Children & Youth Services – Hamilton/Niagara Region</p>	<p>P. Moore provided an update from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of funds received to support child care spaces and 		

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Patti Moore, Program Supervisor	<p>broadly support child care pressures within Niagara was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no additional funds for new spaces at the present time. 		
<p>9. REPORT: Regional Municipality of Niagara – Community Services Department Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children’s Services</p>	<p>P. Heidebrecht provided an update from Niagara Region Children’s Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the regional budget is currently underway; including funds for Best Start. Among other things, the budget will look at equalizing the cost sharing 80-20 and wage subsidy. • Grand Avenue spaces are on schedule and will be completed by the third week of October. <p>With the announcement of full day JK/SK, consideration should be given to the potential policy shift and how this could shape services in Niagara. The EYNPC Agenda Coordinating and Accountability Committee will be asked to address this item.</p>	<p>EYNPC Agenda Coordinating and Accountability Committee to address announcement of full day JK/SK before making a recommendation to Council.</p>	
<p>10. REPORT: Business Education Council of Niagara Judy Reid, Manager, Labour Force Development, Early Years Niagara</p>	<p>J. Reid reported on behalf of the Business Education Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BEC Boardroom has been booked for the CECD Teleconference on the Early Development Instrument. The teleconference is scheduled for September 19’07 at 1:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend. • T. Gartner added that the Family Health Bereavement Room has also been booked at the Public Health Department. Dr. Robin Williams will be moderating • The Children’s Rights Interest Group is partnering with REACT the rights based anti-tobacco youth group to hold a youth forum around National Child Day. • 11 municipalities have agreed to host 13 free family skating events in recognition of National Child Day. The YMCA of Niagara and Boys and Girls Club of Niagara will also be providing free family swimming events at all sites. Dates and locations are posted in the events section of earlyyearsniagara.org. • 30 sets of the DZEYNLA have been circulated to voting sites set up in public libraries, Ontario Early Years Centres, and Regional Child Care Centres throughout the region. Voting is open until November 30, 2007. Distribution of last year’s award-winning title, <i>Llama Llama Red Pajama</i>, was expanded to include all pediatrician’s offices. Plaque-mounted copies of the Niagara Children’s Charter of Rights were also provided to all pediatricians. • The School-Readiness Committee (formerly the Transition to School Workgroup) is currently working on the 2008 school-readiness calendar. 		

NCPC Meeting Schedule	
DATE	LOCATION
October 12, 2007 9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Niagara Catholic District School Board 427 Rice Road, Welland
November 9, 2007 9:00-11:30 AM	District School Board of Niagara Board Office, Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines
December 14, 2007 9:00-11:30 AM	District School Board of Niagara Board Office, Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines
January 11, 2008 9:00-11:30 AM	District School Board of Niagara Board Office, Grimsby-Lincoln Room 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines