

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPCC)
April 13, 2006, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Grimsby-Lincoln Room, District School Board of Niagara - Education Centre

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Barbara Ally, Anne Biscaro, Donna Cunningham, John Crocco, Eleanor Dolan, Joan Fallis, Lucette Farr, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Daniel Lefebvre, Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, John McNamara, Patti Moore, Judy Reid, Michelle Thacker, Kathy Thompson (for Paul Collins), Jackie Van Lankveld, Art Wing, Tim Wright

Regrets: Jean-Luc Bernard, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Paul Collins, Bill Charron, Pat Heidebrecht, Bruce Henry, Richard Francki, Wendy French, Geralda Jamieson, Odette Lamontagne, Linda Langston, Steve Novosedlik, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Wendy Sturgeon

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. Welcome & Introductions	M. Andrewes welcomed everyone.		
2. Approval of Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting Notes of March 1, 2006	Moved by Eleanor Dolan Seconded by Tim Wright <i>That the NCPCC notes March 24, 2006 be adopted as written.</i> Carried.		
3. Business Arising 3.1 Executive Summary – Integrated Community Plan A. Biscaro	3.1 Executive Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Biscaro reported that version 8 of the Executive Summary of the Community Integrated Plan has been forwarded to the NCPCC for review. A summary of key metrics is also in progress. • The purpose of the summary is to communicate key messages regarding best start and early years and is not a document required by the ministry. It must be considered that this will be the main document that will be translated into French for the Community Integrated Plan. • The Planning Working Group will incorporate additional changes to version 8 of the summary before bringing it before the NCPCC. The Communications and Advocacy Working Group will also examine the document to summarize key messages into a one page document for use in future communications of the NCPCC. • Any members of the NCPCC who are interested in sitting on the Planning Subcommittee are to contact A. Biscaro (anne.biscaro@regional.niagara.on.ca) or M. Thacker 		

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	<p>(mthacker@becon.org). All members are welcome to participate in any of the NCPC Working Groups.</p>		
<p>4 Correspondence</p> <p>4.1 MINUTES Best Start Regional French Language Network, Central-South-West 02/08/06</p> <p>4.2 LETTER to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Windsor-Essex County Best Start Steering Group 04/05/06</p> <p>4.3 LETTER to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, NCPC 04/11/06</p>	<p>4.1 MINUTES Best Start Regional French Language Network, Central-South-West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of 02/08/06 for the Best Start Regional French Language Network were circulated. • Any comments and questions will be addressed at the next meeting of the NCPC. <p>4.2 LETTER to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Windsor-Essex County Best Start Steering Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper from the Windsor-Essex Best Start Steering Group in response to the federal government's policy on early learning and child care was circulated. <p>4.2 LETTER to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, NCPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advocacy letter drafted on behalf of the NCPC was reviewed. • It was noted that the intent and message should be more direct. Changes were noted and will be incorporated into the final letter. • The letter will be sent to Prime Minister Harper and hand delivered in a series of appointments with area MPs. 		
<p>5. Co-Chair & CMSM Reports re: Ministry of Children & Youth Services Best Start Information Sessions 04-11-06</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Bartholomew-Saunders, R. Williams, M. Andrewes, A. Biscaro, P. Thacker, J. Fallis, P. Moore, J. Bernard, and L. Child (Niagara Region, Children's Services) attended the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' information session on Best Start held this Tuesday, April 11'06. • D. Bartholomew-Saunders and M. Andrewes provided an overview of the current context, key priorities and next steps as outlined in the presentation slides from the session. • L. Livingston, Executive Director, Strategic Planning, provided the context for the session: to reach a common 		

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	<p>understanding of priorities, to highlight network activities across the province, and to answer questions regarding Best Start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Care Service Plan will be updated in accordance with integrated implementation planning as outlined in the Best Start Community Integrated Plan. The update must be completed in consultation with the NCPD and the regional French Language Best Start Network. In preparing the update, CMSMs have been encouraged to maximize spaces for those communities outline in the Child Care Service Plan, provided that the total number of spaces remains the same. Any population that remained in the plan for capital development in years two and three should be considered for inclusion in the existing 417 spaces. Creativity and flexibility should be utilized in a way that will not compromise the system and finances in any way. It is recommended that funding be used to sustain existing numbers and meet the needs of all populations. • There is concern at the commissioners level that there needs to be a legislative change in the way social assistance is calculated in relation to the 1, 200 provided by the federal government, the potential for claw back, and impact on income testing. The Ministry is looking into how funds will be distributed to this population. • The 18 Month Well-Baby Expert Panel is planning to release a report in the next few weeks and will be forming an Implementation Steering Committee. • The Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources is looking at strategies for promoting sustainability, remuneration, and retention. The quality of elements in regulated and informal child care has been examined and issues in human resources have been identified. Recommendations are expected in the fall. • K. Thompson noted that the panel has seen a change in language from 'program' to 'framework', and has conducted a thorough literature review with P. Dickenson. Support will be obtained from the province in order to develop a framework that will guide curriculum development. T. McCormick Ferguson added that the workgroup for the 		

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	<p>panel is continuing to work on strategies for recruitment, retention, and communications for early learning and child care professionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum number of spaces expected by September 2006, the proportion of allocation for those spaces, opportunity for flexibility, and outcomes relating to fee subsidy and wage enhancements will be provided at the next meeting. 		
<p>6. Communications/Advocacy Working Group Report – J. McNamara & M. Andrewes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. McNamara reported on behalf of the Communications/Advocacy Working Group. The group is considering possible strategies in response to the federal direction regarding child care. After reviewing the petition issued from the office of John Maloney, it was agreed that a nonpartisan postcard campaign will be utilized in order to provide a forum to voice the concerns of parents and caregivers in Niagara. It is felt that the NCPC must focus on moving forward with the work that is already underway while communicating its concerns for a system of early learning and care. This will be addressed in the development a communications plan, including a one page document based on key messages from the Executive Summary for the Community Integrated Plan. Scheduling is underway for meetings with local MPs, NCPC co-chairs and parent representatives. 		
<p>7. Infrastructure Working Group Report – M. Jarrell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Jarrell reported on behalf of the Infrastructure Working Group. The framework for the contract of support functions for the NCPC has been developed. A summary of the drafted infrastructure agreement was distributed. It is recommended that a liaison committee be formed to facilitate issues relating to fulfilling NCPC support requirements. All service agencies that are EYN partners and not already sitting at the NCPC table will be invited to join the NCPC in accordance with the decision made at the last meeting for Early Years Niagara and Best Start to become one body. In order to move forward with a common vision, the 		

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	<p>Communications/Advocacy Working Group will be asked to examine the existing vision and bring it before the NCP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consideration of issues identified in the facilitated session at the NCP meeting, it is recommended that the Communications & Advocacy Working Group be responsible for determining a process for developing a Common Vision and Purpose and the Infrastructure Working Group do the same for addressing Structure & Organization. In time, the Niagara Best Start Network Terms of Reference will be revised to represent the consensus of the NCP in these areas. As Best Start and Early Years Niagara are separately funded continued support is needed for Early Years Niagara to continue to move forward with planning and activities. Additional information or meetings will be provided by the BEC upon request. 		
<p>8. Other Business/ Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. Andrewes asked the group to consider possible ideas for program and professional development in order to facilitate participation from all members of the NCP. Suggestions have been made for presentations of the UEY EDI results, key metrics for the executive summary of the Community Integrated Plan, evidence-based parenting programs, and the Newcomers Health Committee. A. Wing reported that the District 7090 Annual Rotary Club Conference is planned for May 5-7'06. This year's focus is on youth and literacy. Dr. Jean Clinton will be presenting and a book will be provided to every new mother. J. Reid will provide a display on Early Years Niagara literacy activities. J. Reid noted that five presentations have been made to local Rotary Clubs to promote the importance of community involvement in early literacy initiatives. In addition, presentations have been made to all four school boards. All boards have now endorsed the Niagara Children's Charter of Rights. Any member who is interested in endorsing the charter should contact J. Reid (jreid@becon.org). Meetings will now be held once per month. Please 		

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
	review the below chart.		
9. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.		

NCPC Meeting Dates

DATE		LOCATION	DATE		LOCATION
		Corporate Learning Centre Inspiration Room 3340 Schmon Parkway (rear entrance) *unless otherwise indicated			Corporate Learning Centre Inspiration Room 3340 Schmon Parkway (rear entrance) *unless otherwise indicated
			July	14	Corporate Learning Centre
			August	11	Corporate Learning Centre
			September	8	Corporate Learning Centre
			October	13	Corporate Learning Centre
May	12	Corporate Learning Centre	November	10	Corporate Learning Centre
June	9	Winifred Cropper	December	8	Corporate Learning Centre