

Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)
February 17, 2006, 9:00 – 12 noon
Winifred Cropper, Community Services

Attendance: Barbara Ally, Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Bill Charron, John Crocco, Donna Cunningham, Joan Fallis, Lucette Farr, Richard Francki, Pat Heidebrecht, Bruce Henry, Brian Hutchings, Margaret Jarrell, Linda Langston, John McNamara, Patti Moore, Steve Novosedlik, Barb Sockovie (for Eleanor Dolan), Wendy Sturgeon, Michelle Thacker (recorder), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Jackie Van Lankveld

Guests: Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Kathryn O'Hagan Todd, Sandra Noel

Regrets: Anne Biscaro, Jean-Luc Bernard, Paul Collins, Geralda Jamieson, Daniel Lefebvre, Tammy McCormick Ferguson, Sarah Pennisi, Judy Reid, Tim Wright, Art Wing

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
1. Welcome & Introductions	M. Andrewes welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.		
2. Approval of Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting Notes of Jan. 13, 2006	Moved by Jocelyne Blais-Breton Seconded by Bruce Henry <i>That the NCPC notes of January 27, 2006 be adopted as written. Carried.</i>		
2. Business Arising 3.1 Integrated Community Plan – Ministry Follow-up Patti Moore 3.2 Integrated Community Plan – NCPC Follow-up Margaret Andrewes	3.1 Ministry Follow-up P. Moore reported that all four plans have been received by the ministry. Plans remain in progress; however, the ministry is confident that it all will be completed. Areas that will need additional focus include the francophone and aboriginal populations, as well as long range vision planning. Confirmation as to the direction of Best Start will be brought before the group in mid-March/April. 3.2 NCPC Follow-Up M. Andrewes informed the NCPC that development of the executive summary is underway. Andrea Hannen has provided		

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	<p>a rationale and initial draft for review by A. Biscaro, P. Heidebrecht, and M. Andrewes.</p> <p>The group is currently considering using the summary as the main tool with which to promote the plan, while releasing the complete plan on disc.</p> <p>The communications and planning working groups will be consulted before bringing a recommendation before the council.</p> <p>A report on the status of the full plan will be brought forward at the next meeting.</p> <p>J. Fallis added that the Ministry of Education will also be reviewing plans with continued examination in consideration of the school-first policy, children with special needs, and aboriginal and francophone populations.</p>		
<p>4 Correspondence</p> <p>4.1 Suzanne McPetrie</p> <p>4.2 Memorandum to Child Care Service Providers – Niagara Region Community Services</p> <p>4.3 Notice of Motion</p>	<p>4.1 Suzanne McPetrie Dr. Williams and M. Andrewes shared a letter of thanks from S. McPetrie.</p> <p>4.2 Memorandum P. Heidebrecht has forwarded a memo to child care service providers regarding the change in federal government and continued planning around Best Start.</p> <p>A briefing note has also been issued to Regional Chair, Peter Partington, emphasizing the importance of service planning at the local level and key priorities of the NBSN.</p> <p>4.3 Notice of Motion B. Hutchings reported that the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), in collaboration with the Niagara Region Community Services Department, are working in an advocacy capacity to ensure that the multi-lateral child care agreement is honoured.</p> <p>A number of resolutions from various municipalities and</p>		

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	<p>organizations have come forward to highlight concerns about the Government of Canada's current child care policy. Brenda Patterson, General Manager of Children's Services, City of Toronto, has worked with Councillor Davis and Mayor David Miller to prepare a Notice of Motion for Toronto city council to request that the federal and provincial governments preserve the national child care program. This Notice of Motion has been forwarded to all CMSM's in Ontario.</p> <p>It was asked that the group consider reviewing the notice of motion and endorse it.</p> <p>Continued discussion occurred around the imminent need for advocacy and possible strategies to be used in a region-wide campaign...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and survey council; signal to have a motion. Present before Regional and Municipal Councils upon completion of the executive summary of the plan. • Initiate correspondence and visits to local MPs and MPPs, that could focus on each riding, statistical data, employment in child care, and community needs, and partnerships with the business sector • Reinforce support of the ministry and their direction, aligning with the francophone strategy and focusing on the positive; the desire for a system that serves all children in Niagara • Immediate focus on a public awareness campaign based on the positives of the program and the desire of the community to participate, and making note of the role of the council as advocates acting on behalf of the community. Utilize local media channels while remaining cognizant of political tone and the message of parental choice. Forward media releases or fact sheets on a regular basis. Contact families through parent survey and Best Start wait list. • Connect to municipal and school-trustee elections and align with the Week of the Child • Address at the upcoming evening with Mary Gordon, planned for March 27, 2006. 		

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	<p>It was agreed by consensus that an advocacy working group would review the Notice of Motion (City of Toronto) in order that it may be tailored to Niagara and determine other strategies to move forward with an advocacy campaign to address the Government of Canada's current child care policy framework.</p> <p>The working group will be comprised of the following members: Brian Hutchings, Barbara Ally, Bruce Henry, Wendy Sturgeon, Anne Biscaro (or Dr. Williams), Dori Madar, Margaret Jarrell, Margaret Andrewes, Steve Novosedlik, working with the assistance of Trish Vidler Regional Niagara Community Services. The working group will report back at the next NCPC meeting (March 10) and, in the meantime, communicate with all members by email, as appropriate.</p> <p>In the interim, NCPC members were asked to notify the co-chairs of any advocacy opportunities in which they are engaged or see as an opportunity for the involvement of others members.</p> <p>M. Andrewes and M. Thacker will coordinate any necessary correspondence and/or meetings.</p>		
<p>5. Infrastructure Working Group Report</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Working Group has not had a formal meeting; however, discussions have been carried out between the BEC and Children's Services regarding timelines and challenges. The BEC will report to the committee regarding the proposed infrastructure support, including the budget process after March 15, 2006.</p> <p>Raymond Clark, has been contacted to facilitate a session to determine common understandings as Best Start and Early Years Niagara move forward. The cost of hiring the facilitator is \$225.00, plus expenses.</p> <p>Telephone interviews will be conducted with the NCPC, followed by a meeting with representation from both Best Start and Early Years Niagara after March 10'06.</p>		

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	<p>W. Sturgeon inquired as to criteria for hiring a facilitator for the council. The BEC will address this with the NCPC, in order to align with current policies of the BEC.</p> <p>Moved by Margaret Jarrell Seconded by Donna Cunningham <i>That the NCPC and EYN hire Raymond Clark to assist both groups in moving forward with Best Start. Carried.</i></p>		
<p>6. Team Presentation – Niagara’s Best Start Plan: The Early Learning & Child Care Plan 2005-2008</p>	<p>D. Bartholomew-Saunders, K. O’Hagan Todd, and S. Noel presented on the process for the development of the Early Learning and Child Care Plan, and demonstrated municipal mapping capabilities for the site selection process.</p> <p>The Early Learning & Child Care Plan for 2005-2008 serves as an update to the previous child care plan (2004-2007) with the incorporation of requirements for Best Start. The Integrated Community Plan expands on this plan to include details on infrastructure and capital, and outlines how spaces will be apportioned.</p> <p>Plans were developed through a collaborative effort by D. Bartholomew-Saunders, S. Noel, K. O’Hagan Todd, and S. McPetrie, In addition, the site selection panel, including J. Fallis and J. Blais-Breton, helped to identify neighbourhoods. Partnership with the school boards was also very important to the process.</p> <p>Once neighbourhoods are finalized, the group will examine current programs and services in the area, the environment, and the impact and correlation of mobility and income level.</p> <p>The number of children per site is determined by targets set by the ministry, examination of what is viable, followed by the service provider selection process. K. O’Hagan Todd is currently addressing training requirements and wage in consideration of ministry guidelines and criteria listed in the Early Learning and Child Care Plan.</p>		

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<p>7.3 18-Month Strategy</p> <p>7.4 Child Care Sector Response to Federal Government Child Care Policy</p> <p>7.5 An Evening with Mary Gordon</p> <p>7.6 Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Forum</p>	<p>secure the acquisition of the French language, the network's three French language school boards are already providing a full-time JK/SK child care program; the Best Start initiative will be developed from these programs and other services to meet the needs of the francophone population.</p> <p>Representation on the network is similar to that of the NCPC. S. Pennisi and J. Blais-Breton are the link to both catholic and public boards covered by the network. Next steps include a review of the network's plan by an appointed advisory group and site visits.</p> <p>J.Blais-Breton thanked P. Heidebrecht for assisting with the process of establishing the network. P.Heidebrecht added that both francophone and aboriginal communities need continued focus and support from the NCPC.</p> <p>7.3 18-Month Strategy The item was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>7.4 Child Care Sector Response B. Sockovie reported that the child care sector will be discussing the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care's response to the federal government's child care policy and will share the outcome with the NCPC.</p> <p>7.5 An Evening with Mary Gordon K.Thompson reported the event is scheduled for March 27'06 from 6:30-8:30 PM. An invitation will be forwarded to the NCPC once finalized.</p> <p>The advocacy group should contact K. Thompson to discuss how to incorporate the NCPC strategy into the agenda for the evening.</p> <p>7.6 Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Forum M. Andrewes reminded members of the upcoming UEY Forum on February 21, 2006 from 2:30-4:30 PM. Interested members are to contact ECCDC to register.</p>		

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8. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.		

NCPCC Meeting Dates

DATE		LOCATION Community Services Department 3340 Schmon Parkway	DATE		LOCATION Community Services Department 3340 Schmon Parkway
			July	14 28	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper
			August	11 25	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper
March	10 24	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper	September	8 22	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper
April	13 (Thursday) 28	To be determined Winifred Cropper	October	13 27	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper
May	12 26	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper	November	10 24	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper
June	9 23	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper	December	8 22	Winifred Cropper Winifred Cropper