

**Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting (NCPC)**  
**March 24, 2006, 9:00 – 12 noon**  
**Inspiration Room, Corporate Learning Centre**

Present: Margaret Andrewes (Co-Chair), Dr. R. Williams (Co-Chair), Barbara Ally, Jocelyne Blais-Breton, Anne Biscaro, Eleanor Dolan, Lucette Farr, Pat Heidebrecht, Bruce Henry, Margaret Jarrell, Linda Langston, Daniel Lefebvre, Dori Madar (for Bill Charron), Tammy McCormick-Ferguson, Patti Moore, Steve Novosedlik, Wendy Sturgeon, Judy Reid, Michelle Thacker Pat Thacker (for John Crocco), Jackie Van Lankveld, Tim Wright

Regrets: Jean-Luc Bernard, Paul Collins, John Crocco, Bill Charron, Donna Cunningham, Joan Fallis, Richard Francki, Wendy French, Brian Hutchings, Geralda Jamieson, Odette Lamontagne, John McNamara, Ted Palmer, Sarah Pennisi, Art Wing

Item	Discussion	Action	Timeline
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Dr. Williams welcomed everyone and provided a brief update on developments from this morning's budget announcement. The budget allows for substantial investments in education and health care, as well as 10 million in special needs funding that is not yet defined.		
<b>2. Approval of Niagara Children's Planning Council Meeting Notes of March 1, 2006</b>	Moved by Jocelyne Blais-Breton Seconded by Barbara Ally <b><i>That the NCPC notes March 1, 2006 be adopted as written. Carried.</i></b>		
<b>3. Business Arising</b>  <b>3.1 Executive Summary – Integrated Community Plan</b> <b>A. Biscaro</b>	<b>3.1 Executive Summary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Biscaro reported that the final draft of the executive summary of the Community Integrated Plan has been submitted. A copy will be forwarded to the NCPC for review prior to the next meeting.</li> <li>• S. Noel has developed a summary of key metrics and data relating to the health and well-being of children in Niagara as an appendix to the executive summary. It is recommended that the Early Years Niagara Research Advisory Group review the document in order to assess if it aligns with EDI results, Community Snapshot and preschool speech and language data. It was agreed that J. Van Lankveld and J. Reid would share the document with EYNRAG.</li> </ul>	Bring summary before EYNRAG for review.	April 7'06

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<p><b>4 Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Niagara Region Children's Services Dept., 2005/06 Best Start Child Care Site &amp; Operator Announcement – Pat Heidebrecht</b></p>	<p><b>4.1 MEMO 2005/06 Best Start Child Care Site &amp; Operator Announcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A committee report outlining new child care spaces has been released. Although negotiations are ongoing with the federal government, there is continued commitment to these spaces. Sites are currently under construction and anticipated to open by the April 3'06 deadline.</li> <li>• 65 spaces were anticipated; the number is now close to 70. Spaces at Grand Avenue and Nelles are moving forward for year two and will be ready to go to tender in June. Plans for Edith Cavell and Mary Ward have been delayed due to a lack of annualized operational funding.</li> <li>• A summary of spaces by municipality shows that targets will be exceeded once numbers for aboriginal and French language services are submitted. It is anticipated that definitive numbers will be available by the end of June. Spaces exceed targets at a current total of 355.</li> <li>• E. Dolan reported that all requests for submissions have been sent. There appears to be a lot of demand for a school-age component for spaces in Glendale and Canadian Martyrs schools.</li> <li>• P. Heidebrecht thanked the site selection panel for their assistance in meeting this deliverable.</li> <li>• Memos have also been forwarded to all licensed child care funding operators and service providers regarding wage-enhancement. A one-time wage enhancement cheque has been sent to service providers.</li> <li>• T. Ferguson added that PEI has increased child care fees province-wide by \$100.00/month as a result of the change in federal government. Cash flow to families has been built into the operational funding, transmitting funds from the federal government to service providers.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5. Advocacy Working Group Report – Barbara Ally</b></p>	<p>B. Ally reported on behalf of J. McNamara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Communications and Advocacy Working Groups met to further develop the advocacy strategy as presented by B.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>Hutchings at the last meeting. It is recommended that the NCPC consider the following plan of action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A postcard campaign to advocate for the benefits of good quality services for early learning and care, and a fact sheet highlighting the costs incurred by not investing in early learning opportunities</li> <li>○ Send letter to MPs and PM on behalf of the council.</li> <li>○ Develop a communications plan and timelines for awareness materials</li> <li>○ Publicly acknowledge the forward momentum and achievements of the NCPC, and involve parents in the process.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The revised plan will be available to the NCPC at the April 13'06 meeting.</li> <li>● Dr. Williams added that the group should consider methods for linking parents on waiting lists and those that are benefiting from the development of a system for early learning and care to the advocacy campaign. It was agreed that this could be furthered once spaces are open.</li> <li>● T. McCormick Ferguson noted that John Maloney has contacted her regarding a petition to parents. The petition will be forwarded through the ECCDC.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6. Infrastructure Working Group Report &amp; Introduction of Facilitator, Raymond Clark – Margaret Jarrell</b></p>	<p>M. Jarrell reported that the Infrastructure Working Group has met to discuss transfer of infrastructure support for the NCPC. A transfer of secretarial support is already underway, with identification of next steps and finalization of the agreement expected in April'06.</p>		
<p><b>7. Discussion re: Early Years Niagara &amp; Best Start – Raymond Clark</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● R. Clark facilitated the NCPC in an exercise to determine common understandings and key issues involved in developing an efficient working relationship between the NCPC and Early Years Niagara.</li> <li>● Shared understandings and a framework for moving forward were identified (attached).</li> <li>● It was agreed by general consensus that Early Years Niagara and Best Start would become one entity with a</li> </ul>		

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	<p>shared vision for the children of Niagara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NCPC must consider how these objectives will be achieved. A local facilitator may be needed to assist the group in developing a plan. It was agreed that the Infrastructure Working Group would take on the task of developing next steps for the NCPC.</li> </ul>	<p>Infrastructure Working Group to discuss next steps for the NCPC.</p>	
<p><b>8. Other Business/ Announcements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Reid reminded the group of the upcoming Roots of Empathy conference, scheduled for March 27'06. Almost 250 are registered for the event; however, there is still room for additional participants. Interested members are to contact K. Thompson.</li> <li>The Niagara Falls Family Literacy Event will be held on April 1, 2006 from 10:00-1:00 PM at the MacBain Community Centre in Niagara Falls.</li> <li>The Touch a Truck Event for children's literacy is scheduled for May 13'06 from 10:00-3:00 PM at Niagara College, Glendale Campus.</li> <li>M. Jarrell reported that AFSSN's Annual Gala and Silent Auction will be held on the evening of April 7, 2006.</li> <li>P. Moore provided an update on the release of the 2006 provincial budget. There is commitment to take on the 2006/2007 allocation, to be spread out over the next four years, and continue expansion of spaces. Earlier learning and child care funding will be included; however, regional budgeting is yet to be defined. 14K new spaces are anticipated in keeping with this commitment. No more capital funding is available and any additional funding will come out of the 2005/2006 allotment.</li> <li>A meeting with ministry staff and chairs will be held on April 11'06 in Toronto.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>9. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.</p>		

## NCPC Meeting Dates

DATE		LOCATION	DATE		LOCATION
		Corporate Learning Centre Inspiration Room 3340 Schmon Parkway (rear entrance) <b>*unless otherwise indicated</b>			Corporate Learning Centre Inspiration Room 3340 Schmon Parkway (rear entrance) <b>*unless otherwise indicated</b>
			July	14 28	Corporate Learning Centre Corporate Learning Centre
			August	11 25	Corporate Learning Centre Corporate Learning Centre
March	10 24	Winifred Cropper Corporate Learning Centre	September	8 22	Corporate Learning Centre Corporate Learning Centre
April	13 (Thursday) 28	<b>DSBN Board Office</b> <b>Grimsby Lincoln Room</b> Corporate Learning Centre	October	13 27	Corporate Learning Centre Corporate Learning Centre
May	12 26	Corporate Learning Centre <b>Winifred Cropper</b>	November	10 24	Corporate Learning Centre Corporate Learning Centre
June	9 23	<b>Winifred Cropper</b> Corporate Learning Centre	December	8 22	Corporate Learning Centre Corporate Learning Centre