

Niagara Children's
PLANNING COUNCIL



Niagara Children's Planning Council Best Start Child and Family Service System Committee

9:00am – 11:00am, May 27, 2014
Pathstone Mental Health (Formerly NCYS)
3340 Shmon Parkway (Unit 1)

Agenda

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| 1. Welcome | |
| 2. Approval of November BSCFSSC Meeting Minutes | All |
| 3. Update from Operators Group | Nancy |
| 4. Grantham and Fort Erie Update | Jackie/Kelly |
| 5. Innovation Fund Update: Parent Survey | Sandra |
| 6. BSCFSSC: Going Forward, Plans for Septemebr | All |
| 7. New Chairperson Opportunities | All |

Next meeting dates:

- Tuesday June 24, 2014 CANCELLED (but hold time)

All meetings are, unless otherwise identified from 9:00am to 11:00am at Pathstone Mental Health

Best Start Child and Family Service System Committee (BSCFSSC)

May 27, 2014 – Pathstone

Attendees: Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Kim Cole, Donna Dalglish, Lisa DeGasperis, Rachelle DiCrosta, Bonnie Filipchuk, Carolyn Fish, Renée Gaucher, Dorothy Harvey, Jen Smith, Jackie Van Lankveld, Kelly Wilcox, Zach Dadson (recorder)

Regrets: Tammy Bibeau, Anne Biscaro, Lizabeth Brant, Kendall Cappellazzo, Darlene Edgar, Nancy Lisi, Linda Morrice, Sandra Noel, Sandy Toth

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome	- January 28, 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without change.	
Operators Group Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Hub Operators Group completed a SWAT Analysis (see attached). - The committee will continue to develop communication strategies based on time, need etc. - There has been recognition that Parent Direct Niagara has been an excellent resource for service providers (who are able to update their own postings) and families in Niagara. - The Hub Operators Group discussed their strategy of using the Nipissing as a conversation starter with families and then making referrals as necessary. - As more information is communicated by the Ministry of Education the Hub Operators Group will place it into the four SWAT Analysis Categories (Strengths, Limitations/Disadvantages, Opportunities and Challenges). This will allow the group to cross-reference what is already established in each of these categories and how the new information impacts where they are ahead and where they are not at the “threshold”. 	
Grantham and Fort Erie Update	<p>Grantham Neighbourhood Family Centre (GNFC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programming at the GNFC has been extremely successful. Guest speakers, workshops and open houses have brought many families to the GNFC and testimonials regarding their experiences have been very positive. Providing dinners to families at each night’s program has been very well received and has been a draw for families’ attendance. - Programming has been based on surveys completed by neighbourhood families and continues to be refined based on expressed desire and popularity. - The GNFC will remain open for the 2014/2015 school year through a second successful Niagara Prosperity Initiative (NPI) application. - The program will expand in 2014/2015 to St. Alfred’s and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Schools. Programming will occur at Lincoln Centennial two times per week and once per week at both St. Alfred’s and Our Lady of Fatima (Monday through Thursday). - From a service provider perspective, the GNFC has proved to be a great opportunity to provide multiple services to families in one location. - The GNFC Committee looks forward to communication from the Ministry of Education regarding the future of Best Start Child and Family Centres in September 2014. - BSCFSSC recognized the hard work that J. Van Lankveld and the GNFC Committee have put into the GNFC this past year and thanked them for their effort. <p>Fort Erie Family Centre (FEFC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FEFC Committee is made up of Shirley Cordiner (Chair), Barb Van Der Heyden, Deb Ogilvy, Tracy Belcastro and K. Wilcox. - The FEFC is financially supported through a two-year NPI grant. - Programming occurs each Monday evening and has included parent workshops (i.e. Triple P seminars, car seat info sessions), a homework club and the development of a community garden at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families that participate in the centre come from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. - While the program was originally scheduled to shift to Crystal Beach Elementary School in September 2014 the FEFC will remain at Our Lady of Victory to continue to build a relationship with families in the community. 2014/2015 will include additional programming such as family barbeque nights to bring new families to the centre (specifically families whose children attend other schools in the community). - The committee plans to engage with parent councils in the community to help promote the centre and increase participation. - The FEFC has been an excellent opportunity for local agencies to work collaboratively in providing programs and services to families in one location. 	
SWAT Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BSCFSSC members were asked to reflect on the SWAT Analysis chart to reflect on Niagara's positioning and preparation for Ministry of Education announcements in September 2014. - Niagara is yet to hear whether these announcements will have an impact on current programs. 	
BSCFSSC Moving Forward in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BSCFSSC will wait for the September 2014 announcements from the Ministry of Education regarding the future of Best Start Child and Family Centres before scheduling their next meeting. - New committee co-chairs will be elected when BSCFSSC reconvenes after the ministry's announcements. - The Hub Operators Group will continue to meet and build relationships amongst service providers. - Announcements from the Ministry of Education will impact the topic selected for the PD day organized in the fall by the Hub Operators Group. Planning for this session will be made with these announcements in mind. 	L. DeGasperis will contact D. Edgar to inform her of today's discussion
Updates	<p>"Just in Time" Innovation Fund Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A final report has been submitted to the Ministry of Education. Once the ministry posts the final report on their website an executive summary will be shared with BSCFSSC and the Niagara Children's Planning Council. <p>Service Coordination Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project coordinator met with front line staff of each Joint Implementation Planning Committee (JIPC) member agency as well as families who use these agencies' services. A service coordination plan has been established and will be developed over the summer with a launch date of September 2014. <p>Additional Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Printed versions of How Does Learning Happen will be delivered to service providers soon. - A new Full Day Kindergarten report card is being established by the Ministry of Education. The report card will include new four new expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Belonging o Self-Regulation o Literacy and Numeracy Behaviour o Behaviour 	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infant Mental Health training with Dr. Chaya Kulkarni was very successful. A third session has been planned to provide attendees with an opportunity to further review and ask questions about the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. As a result of this three day training, an Infant Mental Health Pilot Advisory Committee has been planned based on Dr. Kulkarni's recommendation that there may be an opportunity to establish pilot sites to use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire in 	

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	<p>Niagara. The advisory committee will work with tables in the community that currently focus their work on child mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lynda Reinhart is retiring from her position as Executive Director of Port Cares (see announcement). - D. Harvey is looking to coordinate Dine and Shine events in Port Colborne geared towards families with school aged children who use augmented communication. - The Niagara Children's Centre's drop-in program for families (coordinated by a Recreational Therapist) has been extremely successful. The program hopes to work closer with Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYCs) to establish a larger presence in the community. - Tracey Cosco's role over the past year has seen her focus on internal work at the YMCA of Niagara. Her new role as Director of Training, Volunteers and OEYC will see her play a smaller strategic role with the OEYCs. Susan Robbins is the new OEYC St. Catharines Coordinator (see announcement). 	
Future Meeting Dates	A future meeting schedule will be established based on Ministry of Education announcements in September 2014.	

Best Start Child and Family Service System Committee – A Current Snapshot of our Position
from a Strengths, Limitations, Opportunities and Challenges Point of View

	Strengths What are we already doing well? What unique resources are we able to draw on? What do others see as strengths in Niagara?	Limitations/Disadvantages What could we improve? Where do we have fewer resources than others? What are others likely to see as our limitations or disadvantages?	Opportunities What opportunities are open to us presently? What trends could we take advantage of? How can you turn our strengths into further opportunities?	Challenges What challenges face us? What are others doing that might impact us? What challenges do our limitations and disadvantages place on us?
Collective Leadership	Shared professional development All family support programs are coming together under BSCFC's Co-delivery of workshops (public health, speech services Niagara emergent literacy consultant Shared community planning Shared space Partner with libraries Special events (touch a truck, literacy events) Literary award Willingness to work together An open collaborative approach to new initiatives Connection to child care Take on leadership roles co-chair Share the load	Confusion for new leaders coming to the table (too many sub committees)	Consolidate and eliminate operators group Shared ideology of how learning happens (play based pedagogy)	Limited resources (money and time) Turn -over of staff We are in a time of transition

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Seamless Service	Linkages – networks agencies and services	Resources We are not doing all the planning together as a community	Operators meet twice a year to do a mapping of service and plan for the year ahead Look at new resources (decide on priorities for pd) School team/parent to meet with family support service staff – home-school (awareness) Do parents know that they can invite educators from family support	

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Entry Points	Program newsletters Calendar events Parent direct website (need to update) Francophone services available in designated areas Welcoming atmosphere No cost Many neighbourhoods Flexible schedules –weekends, evenings, summer Branding family support people recognize	Different names can be confusing for parents More outreach Limiting funding –marketing and service availability Parents want more extended service hours	To plan and work together Ministry of Education is inviting communities across the province to share ideas Social media	Loss of autonomy Duplication of neighbourhood sites Resources are stretched

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Access Processes	Contact Niagara Children’s Services referral for resource consultant We support aboriginal, francophone communities We are inclusive of all people, everyone is welcome Universal programs inclusive of all populations Use of screening tools ie/ DPS – need to confirm	Limitations of French services Lack of French professional referral services Resources are limited (time and money) Wait times are too long	Resource consultants are available to all family support programs Protocol for Nipissing and DPS for frontline staff for implementation and next steps Investigation of what is being done in our community to increase awareness of appropriate referral pathways to avoid duplication of service (NCPC research tools group)	Limited resources



PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE AS WE CELEBRATE
LYNDA REINHART'S RETIREMENT

REFRESHMENTS & LIGHT SNACKS

JUNE 25, 2014 • 3:00-6:00PM

92 CHARLOTTE STREET

PORT COLBORNE

for further information call 905.834.3629 Ext 245



YMCA of Niagara

43 Church Street, Suite 104
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7E1
905 646 9622
ymcaofniagara.org

Memo

To: Our Community Partners
From: Tracey Cosco, Director of Training, Volunteers and OEYC, and
Lisa DeGasperi, VP Child/Youth and Employment/Newcomer Services
Date: 7/11/2014
Re: OEYC St. Catharines Coordinator Announcement

In light of Tracey Cosco's additional responsibilities within the YMCA, we are pleased to announce that Susan Robbins has accepted the position of OEYC St. Catharines Coordinator.

Susan has a 20 year history with the YMCA and is pleased to return to our Association following a management role at the Boys and Girls Club. Susan is an RECE with extensive leadership experience in licensed child care as well as child/youth programs and camp at the Fort Erie Branch. In these roles (within and outside the YMCA), Susan has fostered important relationships with a variety of community partners and Ministry contacts.

Susan's ability to direct and support a large staff team, her attention to program quality and budget, and her demonstrated commitment to children, families and community will serve her well in this new role.

Susan began her role Wednesday, June 18th and is looking forward to meeting with all of our colleagues and contributing to our collective work in the Niagara region. Susan reports directly to Tracey who will continue to play a strategic planning role within our OEYC.

Susan will be based at the Walker Family YMCA. She can be reached at (905)934-9622 ext. 227. Her email address is srobbins@ymcaofniagara.ca