

**Children are Learning Pillar Committee**  
**May 11, 2016 – Pathstone Mental Health (3340 Schmon Parkway)**

**Attendees:** Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Debbie Hamilton, Micki Horton, Laura Martin, Christina McNicoll, Laura Rasmussen, Susan Robbins, Amy Romagnoli, Kelly Wilcox, Karina Armstrong (recorder)  
**Regrets:** Lizabeth Brant, Kim Cole, Michelle Knapman, Stephanie McCorriston, Jennifer Smith

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- April 14, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without change.</li> </ul>	
<b>Calendar/Toolkit Project Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The calendar voting results were announced: 8 votes in favour of switching the calendar to a different project idea, and 5 in favour of keeping the calendar. It was noted that a few members abstained from voting.</li> <li>- K. Wilcox opened discussion up to the table to determine next steps. It was suggested to continue pushing some kind of product, but not something that has already been created. All members are to send ideas to <a href="mailto:karina.armstrong@becniagara.ca">karina.armstrong@becniagara.ca</a> to brainstorm a list of project ideas.</li> <li>- It was suggested to consult with Victoria Vitti whose work on “Advocacy through Art” is similar to what the Pillar hopes to achieve. She is open to collaborating and may be a potential partner in future. The table hopes she may give a presentation on expanding her project to Niagara in a future meeting. We can build on her experience for what we want to do, and how she rolls out her projects. L. Arial Bonilla will contact Victoria to provide the table with a summarized presentation and her intentions for future work, with the Pillar’s vision and goals in mind. Based on Victoria’s availability, the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting may be changed to accommodate her schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>All members are asked to send ideas to K. Armstrong to brainstorm a list of project ideas.</p> <p>L. Arial Bonilla will contact Victoria Vitti to provide the table with a presentation.</p>
<b>Work Plan Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The table recalled the SmartSAVER presentation from last meeting and discussed whether to move forward with supporting it as a project. At this time, the Pillar does not feel comfortable committing to it until the major resource project is underway.</li> <li>- The table considered scheduling a Knowledge Translation (KT) exercise. After speaking with Victoria Vitti, the group will see what ideas and options are possible, and then KT may be the next step to updating the work plan.</li> </ul>	
<b>New Co-Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Wilcox announced that she will step down as Co-Chair and would like members to consider who should join L. Rasmussen. Anyone interested in the co-chair position starting in September are asked to put their name forward. BEC will message the Pillar with the proposal for new chairs.</li> <li>- Christina McNicoll offered to be considered.</li> </ul>	<p>BEC will message the Pillar with the proposal for new chairs.</p>
<b>Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A. Romagnoli announced that the latest EDI data is coming soon and will be analyzed once received. Her plan is to analyze by neighborhood to be able to see where children are improving and where they need more support. She is excited to present the results upon completion, highlighting the subdomains specific to the Children are Learning Pillar.</li> <li>- M. Horton announced that Strive Niagara received accreditation. There is a new self-regulation room for the children and mothers, and 14 mothers have graduated from their program.</li> <li>- L. Rasmussen announced that the Children’s Services Community Consultation will be taking place on May 18<sup>th</sup> and will discuss naturalized playgrounds and infant spaces.</li> <li>- D. Hamilton announced that Speech Services Niagara’s Annual Literacy Conference will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at White Oakes, and a registration brochure will be coming soon. A grant for the summer literacy program will also be coming, and so Fort Erie area children will now have programming available. The average age of referrals have been dropping, meaning children are coming in for earlier intervention.</li> <li>- L. Arial Bonilla announced that ECCDC has been working behind scenes for Quality Child Care Niagara, after a pilot took place last year for the institute-style training under How Does Learning Happen. There will be 11 institutes offered this year and next year in 2-day sessions, and programs will be supported following training with community mentors. Table facilitators will provide an extra level of support that previously was not</li> </ul>	

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	<p>offered. The Provocation for Learning Kits are going through some positive changes. A travelling exhibit “Wonder of Learning” is coming to the Royal York in Toronto on July 9<sup>th</sup> and a bus is booked to bring people to visit it. There is a donation rather than a fee to see the exhibit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Wilcox announced that the Niagara College ECE program is being refined and will be better able to support international students in their academic integrity the next school year.</li> <li>- S. Robbins announced the closing of the YMCA’s mobile programs as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Funding has been stagnant for over 14 years, so the decision was made to close the mobile ones to ensure quality of service is maintained for the satellite sites and centres.</li> <li>- C. McNicoll announced that the workshop in partnership with ECCDC coming up, and that Susan has retired from Port Cares and an open house is planned for June 10<sup>th</sup> at the main centre in Port Colborne in her honour. The Smithville and Crystal Beach sites will close for the summer, but a new site will be opening at St. George Public School for the summer. Families have already been coming in on Tuesdays, so it looks like a very promising site for enrollment. A farmer will be coming to help create a garden to give back to the school. It will be a wonderful partnership. They are also facilitating “Love My Baby” with Public Health and enrollment is full.</li> <li>- L. Martin announced that summer reading is coming to libraries in the Niagara region. TD bank is the national sponsor for the reading club, and they have given wonderful materials. It is for the whole family now, allowing for younger children to begin their reading journey since there is a “pre-reader” component now with a log book for children which includes stickers and other fun materials. You can contact your local library if you want to partner with this program. Every library will run it differently. Niagara Falls is running it for the first time for free for everyone with the TD sponsorship. L. Martin will bring materials at next meeting to share.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b>Unless otherwise stated, all Children are Learning meetings will occur from 9:00am to 11:00am at Pathstone Mental Health.</b></p> <p>Thursday June 9, 2016</p>	