



# Children and Youth Planning Table All- Member Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2020

Held virtually over Zoom, attended by 135  
10:00am to 12:00pm

## Minutes

A recording of the meeting in its entirety can be viewed [here](#). This meeting was also extended to members of the other collaboratives within Waterloo Region (Immigration Partnership, Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council, Wellbeing Waterloo Region).

### Welcome

Barb Cardow and Debbie Engel, Co-Chairs of the Children and Youth Planning Table (CYPT), welcomed everyone and provided a territorial acknowledgement (the acknowledgement was created by the Wellbeing Waterloo Region [WWR] First Nations, Métis, Inuit Advisory and Advocacy Circle).

Using the chat feature, attendees began the meeting by answering the question “What are you feeling grateful for today?”

### #StrongerTogetherWR Reflection: Our Successes, Learnings, and Challenges

Waterloo Region coming together as a community to provide support for families, children, and youth in the pandemic has been incredible to see. One example is how quickly 24/7 shelters came together to ensure people experiencing homelessness would have the support and resources they need. As well, with the support of Smart Waterloo Region, school boards were able to connect families in need with internet access (thanks to a collaborative contribution from 4 local funders).

Using the chat feature, attendees mentioned other successes included adapting to make the best use of technology, working together collaboratively and effectively, and rapid mobilization of adapted services to continue supporting families during the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, virtual programming has been a success for organizations. Attendees also appreciate the overall success of increased community collaboration and closeness, both in the work place and in the neighbourhood.



# Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

In adapting to the changed circumstances, attendees have learned new ways of connecting with children, youth and families. For example, organizations have experienced increased collaboration with youth because they pursued different ways of connecting with them online, specifically through social media. As well, there have been several instances of creative collaborations with other organizations that members were hopeful would outlast the pandemic and create a new way going forward.

Challenges noted by attendees via the chat feature included having a work/life balance, especially while homeschooling children. Many noted that supporting children experiencing losses such as social supports or missing out on their graduation experience. As well, a few noted that the pandemic has amplified and magnified inequities in our community, which will still exist post-pandemic and will need to be addressed.

## CYPT Partners & System-level Supports for Children, Youth & Families through the Pandemic Response

CYPT's mission statement helps to ground and direct the pandemic response: **To collectively mobilize as one system for children and youth in Waterloo Region that relentlessly strives to maximize wellbeing throughout generations.**

As such, system level supports through the Pandemic response include:

1. [Family Compass Resources](#)
2. Community Support Control Groups, including the Pandemic Working Group for Child and Family Services, which provides emergency child care, among other supports
3. Shared Messaging, including: #StrongerTogetherWR, flattening the Domestic Violence Curve, and supporting the safety and well-being of kids through Family and Children's Services
4. Smart Waterloo Region, which is helping school boards and local funders to work together to ensure internet for all students to support e-learning
5. [Online Learning](#), including the Brain Story Series
6. Work with other collaboratives to capture the learnings and to lead to other meaningful ways of working more intentionally together

## Jennifer Moss: Post-Traumatic Growth and How to Build it

[Jennifer Moss](#) is international public speaker and the award-winning author of *Unlocking Happiness at Work*. She is a regular CBC Columnist, reporting on topics related to happiness and wellbeing. She writes for Harvard Business Review, Forbes and Huffington Post and sits on the United Nations Global Happiness Council.



# Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

At the close of her presentation, Jennifer encouraged attendees to follow up on the [Post-Traumatic Growth Homework](#), which includes two simple actions with complex benefits.

## Closing & Updates

Alison Pearson, Manager of the Children and Youth Planning Table, thanked Jennifer Moss for her presentation, as well as the Counselling Collaborative who were on stand-by to provide supports as needed to participants during the meeting. Thanks were also extended to those in attendance for their time and commitment to ensuring all children and youth in the Region are happy and healthy.