



Children and Family Services Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Emergency Child Care (ECC)	Continuing to expand spaces across the Region, especially with extension of school closures. Keeping an eye on demand and trying to keep a cushion so no location is filled to the max.
Child Welfare	No needs have risen to access volunteer caregivers of children who are positive and/or have guardians who have tested positive. For families that don't have access to internet, they've been provided devices and data to make it possible to reach them virtually.
Online Learning & Access to Wi-Fi	<p>Members have heard from families of students not having valid access Wi-Fi for online learning, ranging from complete lack of access to intermittent access.</p> <p>If families don't have access, encourage them to connect with the principal so they can be supported (applicable across all boards). School boards have sent in-person support to set up or deliver tech. Have also been advertising low-cost internet options. Haven't recommended using Wi-Fi via parking lots because it encourages congregating and increases vulnerability to cyber attacks. Wi-Fi support is accessed per student, not per family.</p> <p>ACTION: PWG can support school boards by continuing to inform families to reach out to their principal. Members also encouraged to retweet existing messaging put out by school boards. Alison to work with Margie (Communications Coordinator) on a tweet that school boards can approve for use by CYPT members.</p>



Children and Youth Planning Table

of Waterloo Region

	<p>KWMC have been donating laptops and Wi-Fi for one year to newcomer families to support them.</p> <p>Point raised that accessing Wi-Fi in parking lots may also be an issue relating to other household circumstances such as family size, living space, etc.</p> <p>Certain pockets of the community (i.e. Mennonite communities, students with special needs, etc.) are not using any technology for online learning. In these instances, school boards are providing paper packages or other kits based on student needs.</p>
Safe Isolation Site (SIS)	<p>SIS are available for people who are currently housed. This initiative is not eligible for people who are not currently housed. Organizations have received information on how an application can be submitted. Capacity has increased and there are available SIS sites.</p>
Member Updates/ Other	<p>Upcoming child and family groups through Carizon can be accessed here.</p> <p>Question raised role of PWG relating to vaccinations. Currently vaccinations are available to key priority populations. In future, there will be a need for key messaging to help those in the community make informed decisions and ease concerns. Also discussed the need to promote availability of interpreters at testing and vaccine sites.</p> <p>Members encouraged to access WorkWell resource. Discussed need to 'let go' of non-critical items so that staff are able to put into practice the need to slow down. Or reframing work as: "What can we do right now with our available resources?" As well, creating space for staff to share where they're at today on a scale (e.g. "I'm at a 4 today") to indicate when a staff member may need additional support and having intentional follow up if staff are indicating that they're lower on a scale for an extended period of time. Discussed the need to be purposeful with current work within pandemic.</p>
Next Steps	<p>Next meeting: February 4, 12pm to 1pm</p>