



Children and Family Services Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Emergency Child Care (ECC)	<p>No updates on ECC, as childcare centres are up and running.</p> <p>In answer to a question, it was noted that legislation has changed for organizations and, much like childcare centres, all workplaces are now required to screen staff and staff are required to stay home if a family member has tested positive or is waiting results.</p> <p>For more information, please review the below links:</p> <p>COVID-19 worker and employee screening tool has been updated and is available on the Ontario government website.</p> <p>COVID-19 customer and patron screening tool has been updated and is available on the Ontario government website.</p> <p>COVID-19 signage questions has been updated and is available on the Ministry's website.</p>
Child Welfare	<p>No homes have yet been used for children whose parents have tested positive. Family and Children's Services will be launching a social media campaign to thank their staff and to thank the families who stepped forward to be on stand-by as caregivers for children who might have been in need due to parental/guardian COVID illness.</p> <p>Kids in extended society care previously aged out at 18, but in the pandemic, policy has changed to allow for no aging out. This has ensured that no child ages from care until they're ready. This policy has been extended to September 2022. It will then be replaced as a permanent policy change by a readiness assessment as the go-forward tool. Young people are currently advising Ministry on said readiness assessment.</p>



Education	<p>No specific update.</p> <p>In answer to a question, clarification given that there is no transition survey to switch from online to in-person. If desiring to make this switch, the student would reach out to their principal, who would support them with the transition.</p> <p>Another question was raised regarding if planning for September 2021 has begun. In answer, clarification was given that planning for the next school year would begin with a request from parents to clarify they want online or in-person learning, and plan based on the results to ensure adequate staffing and the like. The school boards will be planning for both online and in-person leaning scenarios again come September.</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	<p>For more info on, and registration for, vaccination clinics - please click here.</p> <p>Today is opening day for the vaccination clinic at 345 Boardwalk. Have begun vaccinating eligible priority groups, outlined in the above link. Eligible community members need to pre-register if wishing to be vaccinated at a community site, as vaccination is by appointment only. The registration link can be found in the above link.</p> <p>Will be opening a second community clinic in Cambridge the week of March 8th. Location to be announced shortly. Plan is for both clinics to be open 7 days a week to distribute vaccines.</p> <p>Noted that there are different processes in place for current and future vaccine roll out options (i.e. mobile sites, vaccination through primary care providers). The above registration is for community site vaccination only.</p>
Member Updates/ Other	<p>Summer Programming:</p> <p>City of Waterloo > Registration for camps will open on March 24th. As of this time, are planning camps for up to a max of 10 per camp, including all camp staff and inclusion support workers. Also a max of 30 per facility. Also planning to make use third-party camp locations. Funds through fee assistance are still available via online application. Appointment can be made for in-person assistance with applying for fee assistance.</p> <p>City of Kitchener > Planning for more spots for camps and youth programming in comparison to last summer. Registration opens March 8th. Currently hiring camp counsellors, more information can be found here. Also have a fee assistance program. Last year saw decrease in youth involvement because drop-in was not possible due to pandemic restrictions. As a result, developing a youth outreach team that will be working upstream to connect with youth. Welcome ideas on how best to do this.</p>



Children and Youth Planning Table

of Waterloo Region

	<p>Both cities are planning summer programming based on the “red” zone restrictions outlined by the province.</p> <p>Further conversations will occur with group members to advise on hiring and camp practices that support the inclusion of diverse youth and youth furthest from opportunities, with an update to be brought to PWG.</p> <p>In answer to a question regarding priority criteria, answered provided that staff who run camps are lacking the capacity and ability to effectively prioritize. As a result, community partners are encouraged to get the information to priority populations to help get them registered early.</p> <p>Action: Please pass along above information re: summer programming to any that may benefit from it.</p>
Next Steps	Next meeting: March 18, 12pm to 1pm