



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Emergency Child Care (ECC)	ECC will end on June 29 th . Have served over 500 children.
Child Welfare	<p>Have some provincial material around talking to youth about vaccination. Are also talking to parents, with the hope of providing as much accurate information as possible.</p> <p>No other updates.</p>
Education	<p>WCDSB:</p> <p>Shifting from synchronous to asynchronous learning. Will create opportunities for children and youth to return to school to say goodbye to their teachers, clear out their lockets, etc. Will be hosting virtual events with the goal of ending the school year on a high note, with hope.</p> <p>Summer planning includes not only educational opportunities, but mental health supports. Also planning supports for transitioning back to in-person learning come September, specifically for students who will face the most difficulty re: transitioning such as those who have special needs or who have faced attendance challenges throughout the past year. In the process of hiring additional teachers to assist with the transition supports.</p> <p>Most students are electing to return in-person come September, but don't have further specifics on this.</p> <p>MonAvenir:</p> <p>Will continue with a virtual graduation, as there is no time to pivot and plan an in-person event. Summer programming is at capacity. Some parents have elected for remote learning come September, but they are few. Efforts have been made to reach out to those parents to consider in-person in light with the recent push for vaccination of school-age children.</p>



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	<p>Viamonde: Planning virtual graduations as well. Are also trending more toward in-person leaning come September.</p> <p>Noted to school boards that it might be beneficial for community partners to flag students that may not be on the school board radar who would benefit from summer and/or transition supports.</p> <p>Continued conversation re: community-level Trauma-Informed work and training – ACTION: Deferred to next meeting</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	<p>Supporting youth vaccination hesitancy (ROW) (Provided by Connie MacDonald and Adele Parkinson)</p> <p>All youth between ages 12-17 are to receive their first dose by June 27th, and all youth ages 12-25 are to have their second dose by August 22nd. The bulk of the youth will come through the mass immunization clinics, with the time blocked off specifically for them. Will also have 3 pop-up community clinics from June 14-18, which will be in the higher priority neighbourhoods. From June 23-26 (first dose) and August 6-18 (second dose), will have 3 school based clinics. School locations will based on areas with lower registration uptakes.</p> <p>In terms of outreach, letters have been translated into 15 languages and distributed through school channels. Also working with organizations to support youth not in the school system, and to connect with youth/families in priority neighbourhoods. Have special clinics for youth with special needs (i.e. quiet rooms). Hosting a Parent Info session next week, with an emphasis on vaccine hesitancy.</p> <p>Tacking vaccine hesitancy by informing parents, and empowering youth to make an educated decision. Have also discussed a Peer-to-Peer campaign, where information is provided by other youth and in a way that's comfortable for youth to process and in a space they're comfortable with. Reached out to youth who noted they wanted to stay involved with system-level work after completing the Youth Impact Survey with this opportunity (in exchange for volunteer hours.)</p> <p>Question raised how significant vaccine hesitancy is in 12 to 17-year-olds. Answer given that there is definite hesitancy with lower-income and racialized communities.</p>



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	<p>Question raised re: hesitancy around children with special needs. Answer given that there isn't much hesitancy, and rather a definite eagerness.</p> <p>To keep track of vaccine distribution by age, click here, and select "Demographics" on the far right. For questions, resources, or to provide ideas on youth vaccine hesitancy, please reach out to Connie and/or Adele.</p>
Summer Programming	<p>United Way Funding</p> <p>UW has a current campaign to support youth and children in being able to access summer programs and services. However, there's concern that there isn't enough programs and services for people to use.</p> <p>City of Kitchener > Available spaces in camps can be viewed here, but they are limited. Private camps tend to have more spaces.</p> <p>Kinbridge > Some spaces, but not a lot. Virtual programming still available. The challenge with camps opening up to 30 is that if restrictions are lowered again, children would need to be sent away.</p> <p>Question raised if there's a greater demand. The answer is yes, especially from families who can't afford private camps. In short, there is a greater need in the community, but a restricted capacity and ability to meet the need.</p> <p>ACTION: Barb to follow up with United Way to relay above update and address community needs.</p> <p>Additional summer content for Family Compass</p> <p>ACTION: Please contact Monika with updates for Family Compass summer content.</p>
Member Updates/ Other	<p>Immigration Partnership survey is live until June 21st. This survey is for immigrants, refugees, claimants, international students, temporary workers and their families to share their experiences of living in Waterloo Region.</p> <p>Hoping to hear from 1,500 residents. Currently around 600 mark. Results will be available by the fall, including disaggregated data.</p> <p>ACTION: Please promote widely. Information about the survey can be found here.</p>
Next Steps	<p>Next meeting: June 24th, 12pm to 1pm</p> <p>Will continue to meet every two weeks throughout the summer.</p>



Future Agenda Items

- Health and wellness of the workforce
- Supports needed for children/youth/families during pandemic recovery
- Development of community-wide Trauma Informed Work resource, with possible alignment with Brain Story work.