



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Emergency Child Care (ECC)	No updates.
Child Welfare	Still haven't needed to use a COVID-home yet, but it has remained helpful as a back-up plan and for the purpose of being proactive. Other jurisdictions have shown interest in this aspect of the pandemic plan.
Education	<p>Mon Avenir > Have postings for additional social workers through the summer, and the results from the online vs. in-person will be finalized in early June.</p> <p>Viamonde > Currently working on offering virtual summer camps for the month of July. Academic summer courses will take place in August. Have been promoting the Youth Impact Survey on social media and in schools. Between May 6th and Jun 2nd, there will be various virtual "Welcome to Kindergarten" activities for upcoming kindergarteners to learn about their school and what a typical day will look like for them.</p> <p>WRDSB > Have received feedback that previous communications to families hasn't been simple enough, so have more accessible communications that have been simplified with less text, 15 translations, and a voice-over option, which will be coming out next week. Working to finalize what summer supports will look like, specifically around mental health and providing teachers with meaningful opportunities to engage with their students.</p> <p>WCDSB > Summer learning opportunities are available on the website, with deadlines for enrollment. Welcome feedback on ideas/suggestions for additional ways to engage with those furthest from opportunities.</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	Rollout for vaccine continues to move forward, with the goal of increasing capacity at clinics now that the supply of vaccines will be steady and growing over the next little while. Registration criteria has been expanded,



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	<p>and children 12+ will be able to be put into the pre-registration queue later this week. However, this does not mean that they will be immediately vaccinated as prioritization of priority groups continues on the back-end of pre-registrations. The pre-registrations provide an opportunity to see how many of those eligible are willing to get a vaccine, which helps inform needs to address vaccine hesitancy.</p> <p>In answer to a question re: differences across regions in terms of who is vaccinated when, noted that vaccines are not distributed in equal proportions. As well, different regions have taken different approaches in terms of vaccine rollout strategies. In areas with smaller populations, it has worked to use a “first come, first serve” approach. Finally, different communities have different priorities. In Waterloo Region, there has been a strong emphasis on priority populations.</p> <p>Question raised on updates for vaccination trials for the under 12 population. Answer provided that trials are more to determine the proper dosage and less to determine effectiveness, but that there are no other updates.</p> <p>Question raised if in-school vaccinations are a possibility for the early fall. Andrea noted that this is currently in discussions, with final details still to be determined.</p>
Summer Programming	No updates.
Shared Messaging	<p>PWG reps & Communications Action Team met together and discussed recommendations for a shared messaging campaign. Suggested not using #StrongerTogetherWR (or any other existing campaign). Suggested a focus on stories, recognition of how tough these times are, and an emphasis on ‘what really matters’. Also advised a youth-specific campaign (if of interest to young people).</p> <p>Action: Work underway at CYPT Steering Committee to pull together the multiple shared messaging efforts into one (if possible). Plan is to bring an exercise to the June 8th CYPT all-member meeting to help finalize meaningful messaging for children/youth/families, and reconnecting with PWG members afterward.</p>
Learnings Through the Pandemic	Group discussed their reflections on what has been learned through the pandemic that was not already captured last summer.



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	<p>Reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to continue to take care of our own wellness and the wellness of staff, so that we're better able to support others.• Bringing in community stuff and sharing them with staff is helpful because a collective approach creates confidence.• Going forward, need to ensure to pay attention to things that may have been left to the wayside.• Currently experiencing a strong demand for in-person connection as services are provided, without the ability or capacity to meet the demand.• Anti-racist organizational changes and making decisions grounded in equity is difficult. It's hard to make decisions that put people before systems and processes. Doing these things and systems change remains a need, and is more important than ever from a well-being perspective.• The importance of belonging has surfaced in the majority of conversations.• Many people have experienced this pandemic as a trauma, so there's a need for trauma-informed practices going forward with an emphasis on belonging and relationships. Need to take intentioned actions as a community so as not to sacrifice those who have been harmed most in the pandemic. This includes those furthest from opportunity, newcomers, as well as women and children, who have been set back years and need to be helped to recover.
<p>Member Updates/ Other</p>	<p>Crime Prevention Council – THINK Campaign THINK Campaign is to remind all about online etiquette & bullying. Contest currently happening on Instagram focused on youth, with prizes involved. The deadline is Sunday.</p> <p>Action: Please promote the THINK Campaign on various social media channels. Deb shared an email with group that contains promotional materials.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Next meeting: May 27th, 12pm to 1pm</p>

Future Agenda Items

- Health and wellness of the workforce
- Trauma-informed training underway at WRDSB
- Supports needed for children/youth/families during pandemic recovery



**Children and Youth
Planning Table**
of Waterloo Region