



# Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

**Location:** Zoom  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021  
**Time:** 12:00pm to 1:00pm

## Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
<b>Emergency Child Care (ECC)</b>	No updates.
<b>Child Welfare</b>	<p>One trend related to impact of the pandemic is that families don't realize that Family and Children's Services is open and continuing to operate, so in cases of family violence, the first call is to the police and referrals come from police reports. Also, referrals decrease when children are not in school, as teachers and faculty provide a lot of referrals.</p> <p>School boards noted that communication re: availability of FACS is provided through social workers, mental health teams, and help lines.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Next time to discuss further trends related to pandemic impacts</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p><b><u>Trauma-Informed</u> Work and Training &amp; Opportunity to Broaden with Community Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted need to deliver information and training in different formats in order to meet people where they're at.</li><li>• Noted that from 2015 to now, the CYPT membership has had a 30-40% increased interest in trauma-informed training.</li><li>• Noted that trauma is not reserved only for so-called "extreme" instances, but also results from the unsafe environment created by every-day systemic and individual racism. Discussed need to address this in trauma-informed work.</li><li>• Discussed mobilizing CYPT's Continuous Professional Learning Committee to make the training accessible and available across the community<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ In order to best incorporate the day-to-day experiences of working with children, youth, and families in the rollout of trauma-informed trainings, discussed possibility of PWG members to connect with CPLC.</li></ul></li></ul>



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	<p><b>ACTION:</b> If interested in connecting with CPLC re: trauma-informed work, please reach out to <a href="#">Alison</a>.</p> <p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><b>Viamonde</b> &gt; Elementary school, École élémentaire L'Harmonie of Waterloo, in partnership with Indigenous Food Sovereignty Collective of Waterloo Region and members of the school's community and neighbourhood, have been working on the culture of the "Three Sisters". A garden space at the front of the school was offered to honor this tradition and to reinforce the school's relationships and collaboration with the Indigenous community of Waterloo Region. "Three Sisters" is an agricultural technique of the three main agricultural crops of various indigenous groups in North America: corn, beans and squash. The seeds used for this project are traditional seeds provided by Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>This garden will be used as an authentic teaching method come September 2021 and has also been a great way to improve mental health and wellbeing of those involved in this project. With its current 29 plots, it will also ensure food security for the community, including newcomers and Indigenous peoples living in the city.</p>
<b>Vaccination Roll Out</b>	<p>No new updates.</p> <p>In follow up to Adele's update from the previous meeting, a virtual vaccine information session was hosted for parents and youth. This session can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Summer Programming</b>	<p>Barb has a meeting scheduled next week re: United Way Youth Summer fund and if United Way has interested in supporting additional youth summer programs. Barb will have a more complete update at the next PWG meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Barb to share update at next meeting.</p>
<b>Shared Messaging</b>	<p>An <a href="#">open letter</a> in recognition of youth and parents in living through the pandemic has been drafted (as was attached as part of the agenda).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PWG loved the letter and the idea of sharing as a community letter.</li><li>• Noted need to have the letter reviewed from a literacy perspective to ensure that it's easily read and accessible.</li><li>• Noted that families would be encouraged to reach out to a general email that would be monitored throughout the summer.</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Also noted need for translation of the letter in order to make it as accessible as possible.</li></ul> <p>In response to a question on how the letter would reach families, answer given that the timing would coincide with report cards with messaging shared through school board websites and social media. Another idea shared was to distribute the letter on School Day. Noted that community partners can share the messaging in whatever way suits the families they're connected with (i.e. printouts in community centres).</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Alison to share the <a href="#">open letter</a> with the Working Group when ready and with the CYPT membership at large.</p> <p>Alison to arrange for literacy review and translations (Tara Bedard available to support re: translation exploration). <b>NOTE</b> – special thanks to Project Read for providing the literacy review in-kind, and to Conestoga College for covering the expenses of the translation of the letter into 6 languages.</p> <p>Working Group members to circulate the letter as they see fit, and school board partners to share specifically via school board websites, social media and School Day.</p> <p>Alison to monitor the CYPT Gmail account throughout summer and bring any input forward to the Working Group.</p>
<b>Member Updates/ Other</b>	Immigration Partnership <a href="#">survey</a> has been extended to this coming Sunday. Please share with clients, colleagues, friends, and other networks.
<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Next meeting:</b> July 8th, 12pm to 1pm  Will continue to meet every two weeks throughout the summer.

### 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.