



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Child Welfare	No updates.
Education	WRDSB: Not in attendance. WCDSB: No updates beyond recent ministry update. CS Viamonde: No updates.
Vaccination Roll Out	Vaccine Roll Out update is deferred, as Grace is on vacation. Pilot Antigen Testing Municipalities were approached re: popup voluntary antigen testing for children. City of Kitchener just started popup tests this week, with a less-than-hoped for uptake. This is not being advertised publicly. Priority Neighbourhood Vaccine Roll Out Have moved from site-specific locations to mobile buses with hopes of making it as accessible as possible for neighbourhoods with lower vaccine rates. Have coordinated with food distribution to further encourage vaccine uptake.
Cuddle Up and Read Info Session	Guest: Kathilee Porter, Early Learning Literacy Alliance (ELLA) Cuddle Up and Read is an initiative to address the reading and learning losses experienced during the pandemic in a simple, impactful message with solutions and actions that parents/caregivers can do anytime, anywhere. The goal is to ensure parents/caregivers are well supported with community resources and information to help offset the impacts of the pandemic. Please click here to access Cuddle Up and Read resources. Please click here to access the YouTube channel. Follow up actions to support the initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Put messages on social media, newsletters, etc.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel free to use any and all resources, and revise/change to fit your needs • Connect Cuddle Up & Read to programs and services in the community • Connect with Kathilee if you have new ideas or suggestions <p>What's coming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New series of affirmation videos featuring Dr. Clinton (Magic Moments) • Supports specifically for use in schools and childcare settings • Potential September community celebration event • Late October Virtual generator professional event <p>Question raised about the uptake from families with less supports available. Answer given that ELLA is working in partnership with several organizations (e.g. Cambridge Food Bank) that work with families furthest from opportunities, but also noted that the summer was dedicated to getting the Cuddle Up & Read program up-and-running, while the fall will be dedicated to more targeted outreach.</p> <p>Contact person for further questions on Cuddle Up & Read: Kathilee Porter; KathileePorter@elawr.org</p>
<p><u>Trauma-Informed Work and Training</u></p>	<p>Updates from July 29th Meeting with Continuous Professional Learning Committee and Barb Ward (WRDSB)</p> <p>CPLC has a strong interest in supporting the Trauma-Informed Work and making it available to the community. On July 29th, Barb presented her trauma-informed work as it fits with within WRDSB. A follow-up meeting has been set for August 27th from 11am to 12pm to determine how common language can be created and used across the community.</p>
<p>Summer Programming</p>	<p>City of Kitchener > Have not had any COVID-outbreaks in municipal camps. Are receiving great feedback from children and youth involved in camps.</p>
<p>Shared Messaging/ Supporting Families</p>	<p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new Open Letter responses from the community. Response from previous week posted below.
<p>Member Updates/Other</p>	<p>Debbie / Newcomer System Navigators Carizon receives funding to provide mental health supports for</p>



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	newcomers. Newcomers face many challenges in navigating a system in a foreign language, which is an additional obstacle to accessing needed mental health supports. To address this need, Carizon has hired Newcomer System Navigators. YMCA will also be involved and providing support.
Next Steps	Next meeting: August 19, 12pm to 1pm

Future Agenda Items

- Health and wellness of the workforce
- Supports needed for children/youth/families during pandemic recovery
- FACS trends related to pandemic impacts

Messages from the community

Hello,

I am a high school teacher working at _____ and my 3 young boys attend _____. My wife is a nurse.

My experience of trying to teach from home and then on top of that support my 3 boys learning at home was horrendous. Firstly, not being in the _____ environment really made me feel depressed as teaching and learning beside my students brings me so much joy. And then on top of that I was stuck at home with my boys that were not learning properly and were looking to me for guidance that I was not prepared to give. That made me feel even more depressed and alone. Normally we can call on friends and family but we were not able to do that during the lock downs.

I know that (school board) was trying to make the best decision for everyone but I can tell you that moving forward we need to find ways of keeping our children physically at school, even if that means more outdoor learning (rain or shine). The negative mental and emotional health of children and parents is more important, in my opinion, than the physical health of a few.