



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcoming Newcomer Families from Afghanistan	<p>Canadian Government is working to bring in 20,000 Afghan refugees through two programs – one for those who have assisted Canada and one for other vulnerable Afghans. Unsure yet how many refugees would settle in Waterloo Region. About 2,000 Afghans have already arrived and most are currently being quarantined in Toronto. Some have already completed their quarantine and are in the process of settling into their final destinations. Currently, about 100 refugees are in temporary housing in Waterloo Region. This includes 10 Afghan families, and refugees from other lands as well.</p> <p>This landing page notes what the needs are and how to support the settlement work that needs to be done. Currently, the structures in place are expected to be able to support the settlement work for Afghan refugees, but that may change in the future.</p> <p>Reception House has flagged a few concerns expressed by Afghan families. This includes but is not limited to integration into school, online safety especially if school work will be all virtual, and mental and emotional health. In answer to a question, clarified that online safety is different from online safety issues most parents might have, but rather because many Afghan refugees are under protective status.</p> <p>Discussed how with influx of Syrian refugees, there was some instances where refugees from other lands were less supported or outright excluded. Question raised how this can be avoided with the current influx of Afghan refugees. Noted the importance of consistent and ongoing inclusive messaging (i.e. “Afghan and other refugees”.)</p> <p>Next steps: Tara to continue to come to Pandemic Working Group with updates, and to use it as a resource as needed to</p>



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	<p>meet future settlement work needs. Tara will have more concrete direction in the near future.</p> <p>Action: Noted that it would be helpful for Immigration Partnership and Reception House to have a designated contact from each organization to reach out to for various newcomer/child and youth needs. Please review your organization's representatives as noted on the CYPT Partner page. If the contact for IP/RH is different than the CYPT Voting Member representations, please reach out to Alison to let her know your organization's best contact for IP/RH inquiries.</p>
Education	<p>MonAvenir > About 400 students throughout the board have opted to stay online vs. in person. No other updates.</p> <p>Viamonde > Back-to-school operational guidelines and other information can be found here. In Waterloo Region, masks are encouraged indoors for SK/JK, and mandatory for school buses. They are required indoors for all other school-aged children. Daily screening will also occur.</p> <p>WCDSB > Back-to-school operational guidelines and other information can be found here. Still working to confirm how double vaccinations will be tracked.</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	Deferred.
<u>Trauma-Informed Work and Training</u>	<p>Update</p> <p>Reps from PWG and Continuous Professional Learning Committee met on the 27th to scope collaborative work to take shape in the Fall with WRDSB (and other partners seeped in trauma-informed work). Early days goal will be to make trauma-informed resources centrally available (on CYPT website).</p>
Child Welfare	<p>No update.</p> <p>Noted that FACS is working to understand the implications for the Provincial direction re: mandatory vaccinations. Others noted their organizations are doing the same.</p>
Member Updates/Other	Updates



Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

Agenda Item	Notes
Next Steps	Next meeting: September 16, 12pm to 1pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Bank of Waterloo Region

Future Agenda Items

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