



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

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

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
COVID Variant Omicron & Potential 4th Wave	<p>If headed into a fourth wave, probable issues to address include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping watch for a possible increase in family violence• Ensuring mental health, safety, etc. services and resources are readily available for children and families<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Need to determine how to support an increase, as services are already maxed out• Will need to be innovative to determine the priorities and be able to support the community• Respite – there was a need pre-pandemic that's only been exasperated with the pandemic and many families are feeling overwhelmed and ready to give up <p>Many PWG members are already having conversations in their respective organizations and/or groups to problem-solve increased needs amid staff shortages. However, due to existing wait lists, it's difficult to know how to address the increase that would be caused by a fourth wave. Need more resources as a whole.</p> <p>Suggestion made to possibly make use of volunteer channels. As well, discussed need to allow staff to slow down/stop and take care of themselves.</p> <p>ACTION: PWG members to brainstorm ideas for early stage intervention processes that volunteers could follow up on in a crises. Will discuss at a future meeting. Karen to take the ideas to the Pandemic Control Group, with the goal of advocating for more resources.</p>
Vaccination Roll Out	<p>5 to 11-year-old vaccination clinics on-going. Sensory vaccination clinics are also available. Please click here to access information on these.</p> <p>ACTION: The information on sensory vaccination clinics are only available in English, so Alison to follow up with Public Health to</p>



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	determine if the resources will be available in other languages in the near future.
Education	<p>Mon Avenir & Viamonde > Information re: 5 to 11-year-olds has been sent out, including the information on sensory vaccination clinics.</p> <p>WRDSB > Will be messaging shortly that community partner organizations will be able to enter schools more readily as visitors. Are putting together a task force to help new Afghan students transition, similar to the work that was done for Syrian refugees.</p>
Staff Wellness	<p>Questions and/or items for Jim to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff shortages in all spaces • How do you hold the tension when you work in a helping profession and you're trying to help your staff slow down? • How does the workforce stay well while still addressing increasing needs? • Possible healthy boundaries for staff to set in order to take care of themselves. (Because doing this will also empower others to do the same) <p>If PWG members think of anything else, feel free to message Alison. As well, members will have the opportunity to ask Jim questions 'live' the day-of.</p>
Welcoming Newcomer Families from Afghanistan	<p>Launched task force. Over half of families that have arrived are in their permanent homes.</p> <p>Noted that many Afghan refugees are feeling like 'it's not what they expected'. Working to help them understand that the community is not always like this, but is just currently overwhelmed. Also noted that the Afghan families will soon begin reaching out to make use of available services and resources.</p>
Child Welfare	No updates.
Member Updates/Other	ACTION: To discuss the frequency of meetings at the next meeting, as more information re: fourth wave will then be available.
Next Steps	Next meeting: January 6, 2022



Future Agenda Items

- Supports needed for children/youth/families during pandemic recovery
- FACS trends related to pandemic impacts