



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
Vaccination Roll Out	<p>Waiting for more information from province re: 5-11 year old vaccination roll out. In the meantime, PHE is planning for the roll out so they're ready to go once approval is official. Many factors in play, so timing is uncertain.</p> <p>ACTION: Grace to reach out to PHE Director responsible for vaccine roll out planning to offer the support of PWG.</p> <p>No school has met the criteria needed for rapid testing, and currently waiting for more information re: PCR testing.</p> <p>Comment given that there is community hesitancy re: vaccinating children (more so than adults) and this highlights the importance of community leaders to educate and encourage vaccine uptake. It will be key to utilize existing relationships with community leaders.</p>
Education	<p>WCDSB > Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) has been active and meeting. Currently surveying all parent advisory counsels within schools for their thoughts and advice for parenting in this current stage of schooling/parenting. Hoping to have a virtual panel session before Christmas where parents can connect and ask questions about navigating this stage. WCDSB also has a new Mental Health Lead, Andrea Snyder. Experiencing staff shortages with teachers, ECEs, EAs, and more.</p> <p>WRDSB > Have shared Trauma Informed work with WCDSB and others. Working to build capacity for teachers and equipping them to engage in difficult conversations (so they don't take it home.) Experiencing staff shortages, but especially with EAs.</p> <p>Mon Avenir > Provided PHE with number of eligible students for COVID vaccine and a letter to parents with direction and guidelines for families that intend to travel abroad over the holidays (child has to</p>



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	<p>isolate for 14 days upon return.) Experiencing staff shortages throughout—teaching, daycare, and administrative jobs.</p> <p>Viamonde > Also experiencing significant staff shortages.</p>
<p>Welcoming Newcomer Families from Afghanistan</p>	<p>Newcomers arriving with a variety of statuses. The first thing they need to do when they arrive is finalize their status. Reception House working to show families what Waterloo Region has to offer to incite a long-term stay (as many Afghan families are arriving from a thriving, bustling city so they have a strong pull toward Toronto.) Complex needs faced by newcomers include finding suitable housing and addressing medical needs (including finding a primary caretaker.)</p> <p>ACTION: Tara put out request to cities PWG reps for an update on capacity restrictions in community centres now that province has lifted restricted in various spaces.</p>
<p>Child Welfare</p>	<p>Based on survey, about 50% of child-serving organizations have a vaccination policy. FACS does not have a mandatory vaccination policy and is instead offering day-of rapid antigen testing. The reason is because they have sought out staff from diverse communities that may have hesitancy to receive medical provisions from governments (e.g. Indigenous people who remember medical experiments conducted on residential school children.)</p>
<p>Staff Wellness</p>	<p>Various comments made around the PWG group noting staff shortages, and lowered capacity/increased anxiety of existing staff.</p> <p>Jim Moss (YMCA Work Well) will be attending the January 6 PWG meeting to discuss workforce wellbeing.</p> <p>ACTION: Will dedicate entire January 6th meeting to discuss Staff Wellness. As well, during December 2 meeting, will discuss potential questions/topics for Alison to take to Jim in anticipation for January meeting.</p>
<p>Member Updates/Other</p>	<p>CYPT Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CYPT Annual Forum – PWG members encouraged to register for sessions that appeal to them! - Kids Takeover – PWG members encouraged to participate if possible, and CYPT Backbone Staff happy to assist as needed.



Children and Youth Planning Table

of Waterloo Region

Agenda Item	Notes
Next Steps	Next meeting: December 2, 2021

Future Agenda Items

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