



# Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

**Location:** Zoom  
**Date:** Thursday, February 3, 2022  
**Time:** 12:00pm to 1:00pm

## Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
<a href="#"><u>Most Pressing Needs Assessment</u></a>	<p>Silviu Kondan, CYPT Social Planning Associate, presented the results from the second “Most Pressing Needs” survey among CYPT Voting Members. For future reference, the complete results will be posted on the CYPT website <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Most notable results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Across the board for organizational priorities, there is a very low decrease in pressure with any item. The priority with the most increase in pressure is short-term employment vacancies, followed by employee well-being.</li><li>• The priority with the most increase in pressure for children, youth, and families in the community is housing affordability/insecurity, followed by long wait times to access programs and/or services. In this category, there is also very low decrease in pressure across the board. Major focus continues to be on prolonged experiences of isolation and access to resources for parents/caregivers.</li></ul> <p>Discussed the possibility and the right timing of presenting the above data to Regional Council, with the note that specific calls to action would be recommended with the report—actions that will help the community heal from the pandemic and build a support system that moves collectively as a community. PWG members will continue to think about the best next approach, continuing the conversation at the next meeting.</p> <p>Also noted that addressing the impacts of hate and racism as a need for families in the community. Noted that in future conversations about addressing the impact of hate and racism, need to put in the forefront that these are not new issues, but rather issues amplified and exasperated by the pandemic.</p>
<a href="#"><u>Hate in Waterloo Region</u></a>	<p>Members noted that within the organizations, they’ve put out anti-hate and anti-racism statements and are continuing to have conversations resulting from there. Discussed the need as non-racialized leaders to use the position of privilege to speak out and provide support for racialized</p>



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	leaders, who don't have the same sense of safety. Noted the need to speak up in all spaces, so that our racialized colleagues don't always have to. As well, checking in with staff who experience these forms of discrimination and how this has affected their well-being. Noted that speaking out is on the tip of the iceberg and there's a lot of work to follow.
<b>Education</b>	No specific updates from any of the education boards.
<b>Vaccinations</b>	<p>School vaccine efforts – continuing to work with school boards to set up clinics during and after school hours to vaccinate 5 to 11-year-olds and also addressing needs of children not yet vaccinated. Also working with community organization to find the best locations to set up tailored and smaller clinics to address needs of those not yet vaccinated.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> If any organizations are willing to provide support in setting up these clinics, please reach out to <a href="#">Grace</a>.</p> <p>In answer to a question, Grace addressed the vaccination status of individuals living with homelessness. There is a lot of mistrust within that community, but Grace noted that many organizations are working to reach out and address the needs of the community.</p>
<b>Other Updates</b>	
<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Next meeting:</b> February 17, 2022

### **Future Agenda Items**

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