



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
<u>Most Pressing Needs Assessment</u>	<p>Review of March 3rd & 16th Data</p> <p><u>Organizational needs:</u></p> <p>Pressure items (increase & remains high):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employee well-being (e.g., experiences of burnout, energy depletion)• Longer-term employee vacancies and/or retention• Transparent information relating to COVID-19 (e.g., vaccination, restrictions, etc.) <p>The following areas have seen a <i>decrease</i> in pressure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to COVID-19 protective equipment and resources• Short-term vacancies (e.g., employee illness, requests for time off, temporary redeployments) <p><u>Community needs:</u></p> <p>Pressure items (increase & remains high):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feelings of prolonged isolation• Housing affordability• Transparent information relating to COVID-19 (e.g., restrictions, closures, access to vaccination and testing, etc.)• Local or individual impacts as a result of international and/or national events <p>The following areas have seen a <i>decrease</i> in pressure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transparent info relating to COVID-19 (vaccinations, restrictions, closures)• Access to COVID-19 testing and/or vaccinations



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	<p>Wendi Campbell (Food Bank Waterloo Region) re: food assistance needs emerging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have seen increases in food assistance needs, both in new households and in the frequency that families are accessing food assistance programs.• Currently in the process of collecting data re: food assistance needs (as March is historically a high month of need, due to March Break).• In the pandemic, a centralized food delivery system was established, specifically to help assist new moms who were afraid to take public transportation with their baby in the pandemic.• The understanding is that there are enough services in the community to address food assistance. <p>Best Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Noted that if clients are struggling to access the needed assistance, please reach out to Wendi or Clare Wagner (House of Friendship) so they're able to address the barriers.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Clients who are needing information on accessing food assistance can also be referred here. This page includes a phone number clients can call, a community food assistance interactive map, plus other resources.• Discussed the possibility of a survey which polls information on possible barriers to food accessibility. Noted that more comprehensive information would come from front-line staff or directly from the community (vs. internal staff being polled for the MPN survey). <p>Discussion Time at March 29th CYPT Voting Member Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed the option to continue this discussion in a food assistance needs-specific breakout room and flesh out food accessibility barriers, as well as possible solutions, including how the MPN could serve better in the future on this matter.
Education	No updates.
Public Health	No updates.



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Game of Life	May 14 th , 10am to 2pm – Event for youth, primarily in grades 9&10, being put on by the Rotary Club of Kitchener-Westmount. The purpose is for youth to have an opportunity to get together in person and learn more about financial literacy and budgeting. A number of vendors will be in assistances that will be representing various financial expenses, giving youth a “rapid dating” opportunity to learn about each. There will also be a keynote speaker, plus food and prizes. There is space for 50 youth. This will be targeted to FACS connections and partners, but if you have specific youth in mind who would benefit from this event, please reach out to Karen. If the event goes well, hoping to make it an annual or bi-annual event and gradually make it bigger.
Other Member Updates	<p>The City of Kitchener has launched 24/7 multi-language, interpretation services to support residents throughout our community. Please click here to read more about this program.</p> <p>Members discussed what their respective organizations are doing re: the lifting of mask mandates. For the time being, most organizations are leaving their PPE requirements in place and distancing as much as possible, with the exception of requiring clients to wear masks during home visits.</p>
Next Steps	Next meeting: March 31 st , and will discuss if a two-week frequency is still the best option.

Future Agenda Items

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