



Pandemic Working Group (PWG)

Location: Zoom
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022
Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Agenda & Notes

Agenda Item	Notes
<u>Most Pressing Needs Assessment</u>	<p>Review of April 20th 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)• Trauma-informed supports to offer clients/beneficiaries (e.g., dealing with anxiety, stress, apathy, etc.)• Short-term vacancies (e.g., employee illness, requests for time off, temporary redeployments)• Longer-term employee vacancies and/or retention <p>Areas with a decrease in pressure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program closures• Transparent information relating to COVID-19 (e.g., vaccination, restrictions, etc.)• Access to COVID-19 protective equipment and resources <p><u>Community Needs</u></p> <p>Pressure items (increase & remains high):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing affordability• Feelings of prolonged isolation (e.g., disconnected from community, schools, public spaces, etc.)• Resources and direct supports for parents and caregivers (e.g., access to child care, respite services)



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	<p>Areas with a decrease 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 <p><u>Summary of Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing insecurity is due to increased costs making housing unaffordable. Also, landlords discriminate and are less inclined to rent to teens, making the shift to adult independence difficult. • A large portion of those needing food assistance are under 18. The housing crises contributes to food insecurity, as most family income goes to rent. • Many families are still too scared to attend in-person programs. As well, more organizations are having staff test positive for COVID-19, further affecting programs. <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs are a historical issue, but cases and individual needs have become more complex. • Some agencies shared examples of working with service users who are homeless. • Discussed writing a collective letter to Prime Minister outlining what the data says. • To partner with Housing at Region of Waterloo to determine best next steps. • Also to flag data with OHT, as housing is one of the focus areas for the OHT.
<p>Future of the Working Group</p>	<p>Discussion re: possible shift in identity of Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WG creates relationships and connections that wouldn't exist otherwise and it's clear that ongoing issues require addressing. The pandemic is still ongoing; have not yet reached endemic status. There's a need for recovery on many different levels. • Discussed possibility of some shifts in which staff attend the PWG meetings (i.e. more front-line staff vs. leadership) even if the work isn't clearly defined. <p>ACTION: Decision made to continue meetings on a monthly basis, with thought being given to if there's staff at our organizations who'd best</p>



Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

Agenda Item	Notes
	serve at the meetings.
Education	No updates.
Public Health	No updates.
Other Member Updates	No updates.
Next Steps	Next two meetings will be May 19 th and June 16 th .

Future Agenda Items

- FACS trends related to pandemic impacts