

## Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Meeting

Tuesday December 7, 2021 • 9:30 a.m. • Via Zoom

**Present:** Jackie Kerry, Kim Cole, Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Tracey Murray, Pam McLean-Stubbs, Christina Clark, Melissa McLauchlan, Candice Penny

**Regrets:** Lindsay Milligan, Helene Randle, Sandra Della Porta, Micki Horton

Item	Discussion	Action	Who
<b>Minute Recorder</b>	• Julie Thompson, ECCDC		
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Intros</b>			
<b>2. Correspondence</b>	• None		
<b>3. Guest Presentation &amp; Discussion</b>	<p><b>Carol Phillips, Associate Dean, School of Community Services, Niagara College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In September some stakeholders reached out to me about the plight of child care centres in Niagara. In response, we have shared some job postings and I spoke to Kelly Wilcox about a Job Fair for fourth term students. It has been scheduled for Tuesday April 5, 2022. It will be held virtually from 9:30-11:30am and 1:30-3:30pm. I am hoping child care centres will participate. Carol also spoke about an upcoming application for funding they are applying to in the hope of changing the delivery of the ECE program in a condensed, modular way for the 2 year program. The funding would cover tuition and related expenses for students working in child care programs. We are at the beginning stages.</li> <li>• Lorrey is meeting with Carol on Thursday. ECCDC would be pleased to support this venture.</li> <li>• Kim asked how is it going to be shared with the community?</li> <li>• Jackie spoke about building the excitement – it will need to be shared with the community a few times. The more communication the better.</li> <li>• Kim – is this still confidential? When can we start talking about it?</li> <li>• Lorrey – there is an opportunity for a survey to go out so we could gather information for the proposal – i.e. number of interested trainees. Lorrey will discuss this with Carol.</li> </ul>	If anyone has any questions, Jackie will note them and send them to Carol.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Addendum to the minutes (December 10):</b> There will be an Information Session offered by Niagara College to the child care community on Thursday January 20 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and repeated again from 5:00 to 6:00 pm to provide operators with information regarding the Skills Development Fund opportunity for the modified ECE Program. A formal flyer will be prepared.</li> </ul> <p><b>Jodi Noble and Wendy Coxon, Niagara College</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be changes to the placements next term. Fourth term students' schedule will change in January/February. They will have classes for 14 weeks Mondays &amp; Tuesdays and 6 weeks in child care centres Wednesday to Friday, 6 hours/day. For the second half of term, they will be in kindergarten classes from Wednesday to Friday, 6 hours/day. Second term students – will have 11-week placements, Tuesday to Friday, in the morning or afternoon Starting third week of January to April. The January start group will include students who couldn't get placements in November.</li> <li>• Some programs aren't taking students yet. The need is high in Niagara Falls for available placements.</li> <li>• We are finding that Niagara College's programming looks different than in the centres. Our program planning is very specific because we are trying to "train the students' brains" to think a certain way, while experienced RECEs do the same task naturally. Jodi and Wendy are available to visit the student's centre and discuss how to support the program and student.</li> <li>• Kim – maybe there could be a Zoom meeting with centre directors and Niagara College to discuss?</li> <li>• Lorrey – offered to host and advertise a session</li> <li>• Jodi mentioned that if you're not receiving students, please connect with us</li> <li>• Jackie asked how Niagara College finds a list of placements? Maybe something could be sent out through ECCDC?</li> <li>• Lorrey agreed to do this</li> <li>• Jodi shared that Niagara College is closed December 23 and they return January 3.</li> <li>• Jodi and Wendy expressed their appreciation to the centres for accepting students.</li> </ul>		

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<b>4. Minutes Approval: October 5, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes were noted.</li> </ul>		
<b>5. Business Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jackie sent an email to Bob Conroy of the NRP to say hello and remind him of the database to gather floor plans of child care centres. She hasn't heard back from him yet and will send another email if necessary.</li> <li>NCCSE Member List: Julie sent an updated list. Jackie asked everybody to check their contact information to ensure it is correct. If there are any changes, please send to Julie and Jackie.</li> </ul>	Julie to remove Debra Harwood from contact list. Kim needs ext. 224 added to her phone number Jackie will send Julie Candice's change	
<b>6. Facebook Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	Candice will bring update to next meeting	
<b>7. Website Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	Lorrey will bring an update to next meeting	
<b>8. Round Table Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candice – moved into new space at the end of August and reopened in September. They are now able to offer infant/toddler care. The move was to within another space at the Community Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. A new addition was built. They went from being able to accommodate 39 children to 69. They are seeing growth in Virgil.</li> <li>Melissa – we have been approved to expand to 48 preschoolers in January. We need a new place to move to. The waitlist is huge and growing.</li> <li>Christina – we are going to be sharing a communiqué with the community about the closing of 1 centre. We had requested the school board hold one of our sites until September due to lack of staff (Empress in Welland). The school board refused and took over the site. We were able to relocate all the children to our other centres. All 6 centres are now at capacity.</li> <li>Jackie – we were hoping to open our new Niagara Falls location in October. The renovations are still not complete. We are crossing our fingers it will be completed soon.</li> </ul>		

Item	Discussion	Action	Who
<b>9. Potential events &amp; media opportunities</b>	• N/A		
<b>10. Next meetings</b>	• Tuesdays: February 1, 2022; April 12, 2022; and June 7, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom		