Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Meeting

Tuesday October 5, 2021 • 9:30 a.m. • Via Zoom

Present: Jackie Kerry, Kim Cole, Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Tracey Murray, Christina Clark, Micki Horton, Sandra Della Porta, Melissa McLauchlan

Regrets: Pam McLean-Stubbs, Lindsay Milligan, Helene Randle, Roxane Hendrie, Candice Penny

Item	Discussion	Action	Who
Welcome			
Minute Recorder	Julie Thompson, ECCDC		
1. Welcome			
2. Correspondence	• None		
3. Review and discussion re: the February 27th CCS Community Forum: Emergency Preparedness - Next steps	 Jackie reviewed the Emergency Preparedness presentation from the NRP, which also included information on the emergency backpacks. There was discussion about how to go forward with the plan to share information about the centres with NRP in case of emergency – floor plans, contact information, exit doors, etc., for their database First step – contact the officers involved, see if they can accept our information and let them know where we're at. 	Jackie will reach out to initiate contact with NRP	
4. AOE 2021 - Administrator Award?	 Julie shared that the Administrator Award won't be needed right away, as there is no in person session in November. There may be a virtual speaker in fall or an in person gathering in spring. 		
5. New Business	 Terms of Reference Should this be reviewed? It was last updated in 2019. Committee members agreed that it may be better to wait until 2022. There may be changes after the Pandemic ends to Sector. The Pan-Canadian child care plan may also change a lot of things. The Terms of Reference were briefly reviewed. 	Julie to send latest Terms of Reference to Jackie, along with committee list.	

ltem	Discussion	Action	Who
	 NCSE Workplan A new one is needed – to be added to agenda. 	Jackie to add to agenda	
	Website Stats Not this time 		
	 Not this time Kim's Recent Meeting with Niagara College regarding ECE Students and current staffing crisis Kim wrote Angela Hayes to have a conversation. She had a Zoom meeting with Carol Phillips to talk about what Niagara College can do to support the child care sector in Niagara. Last year Kim didn't receive any résumés from Niagara College grads. Kim asked about paid placements which are no longer allowed. They then discussed a Job Fair and what that could look like with all Niagara child care agencies involved. Kim was told that full-time job postings can be shared with Carol who will share with Niagara College ECE alumni. Part-time positions can be shared with Angela. Niagara College is looking at possibly holding a Job Fair in the first week of March, hopefully. There was some discussion about possible on the spot rolling interviews if students want that. Niagara College has done Job Fairs in the past with other programs. How do we share this information with all child care centres? There was discussion amongst NCCSE communities about the gap in information between the community and Niagara College. As well, there is a lack of information about Niagara job opportunities among Niagara College ECE students. Perhaps NCCSE can share information with Niagara College to make sure the Job Fair, NCCSE could share information about it with them afterwards. There was discussion around sending a survey on behalf of Niagara College to get feedback from centres around what they are looking for. Is it appropriate for NCCSE to reach out to Niagara College? Maybe we should check with Niagara Region to see if they're already working on something with them. 	Kim is willing to follow up as NCCSE liaison if we make that decision. Kim can follow up with Niagara	
	Perhaps she could provide a complete list of child care centres in Niagara? Kim thinks Niagara College would be open to suggestions for	College and indicate that she brought this to NCCSE.	

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	the Job Fair. Would other programs be interested in attending? There was a suggestion from a member of Executive for the Job Fair to have a small area with children, if possible. It's very informative to see possible candidates interact with children.		
6. Facebook Update	• None		
7. Round Table Updates	 Christina – Thursday October 7 at 4:00 p.m. is the official opening of our St. Catharines site. Darlene will be there, along with a couple of government representatives. There will be an outdoors ribbon cutting and we're giving out goodie bags with cookies. The new location is on Prince Charles Drive right off Lake Street. There is a brand new addition that is attached but has a separate entrance from the school. We need to get another staff member in order to increase enrollment. We'd also like to do some naturalization of the outdoor space. 		
	 Melissa – In September we had our 50th Anniversary. We donated a sensory garden to the library and had a planting ceremony. The founder of the preschool attended. We're looking at increasing capacity, right now we have a huge wait list. 		
	 Micki – We are finally able to open up second infant room. It's exciting having the moms and babies coming back. 		
	 Jackie – the YMCA entered into an agreement with Niagara Catholic District School Board to build in Niagara Falls. We're hoping to open in October with an infant/toddler preschool. There have been many construction delays. YMCA Walker Centre was put up for sale – there were 30 toddlers and 48 preschoolers there. The Centre closed September 17. All parents who needed care were given spots at Parnell or Grapeview. There were 14 full-time and part-time staff, half of which were transferred. Eight are waiting to go to the new centre. 		
8. Potential events & media opportunities	• N/A		
9. Should Niagara Child Care Sector move forward?	 Committee members agreed that there were enough items to move forward with future meeting/planning. Future agenda items – Workplan, Niagara College Job Fair 		

Item	Discussion	Action	Who
10.Next meeting	• Tuesday December 7, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom		