



LCCN Meeting

September 28, 2021 @ 9:30am via Zoom

Attendees (37): Barb Jackson, Diane Gordon, Amber Price, Jan Tomlinson, Kelly Smith, Heather Bywaters, Tamara Blaney, Charlene Grainger, Celine Bourbonnais- Macdonald, Lee-Anne Cross, Tina Sartori, Amanada Seabrook, Pakinam Ghaly, Donna Jean Godfrey, Pattie Kelsey, Kara Pihlak, Paul VanDyk, Janet Foster, Heather Turnball, Jean-Baptiste Ntakoma, Meaghan MacDonell, Brooke Babington, Jingyi Chen, Karen Heffernan, Joe Winsler, Kyra Pol, Lexy Rancourt, Mulberry Bush, Shelby Secoura, Cheryl Read, Breanna Piccolotto, Acron Accounting, Pauline Neable, Cristin Hildenbrand, Nicole Blanchette, Lisa Wilson, Tina McAllister, Jamie Monaghan

Land Acknowledgement:

<https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>

The National Residential School Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419

Atlosa Family Healing Services 24-Hour Crisis Line 1-800-605-7477

<https://fncaringsociety.com/welcome>

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

Student New Members: Jingyi Chen, Kyra Pol, & Brooke Babington who will be working with Celine Bourbonnais-MacDonald and the Intern group (Amber, Alicia, Lexy, & Zichen) on the current Early Years Policy Framework research.

1. Municipal and Provincial Updates

Paul Van Dyk:

City of London Update

One-time COVID GOG Funding:

We were very pleased to have shared the one-time COVID GOG news that agencies received notice about last week. You can expect that payment by the end of this week or at the latest, the following week.

Reconciliation of WEG:

As a result of the pressures and priorities brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the reconciliation of WEG for 2019 and 2020 is being completed at the same time. Agencies will receive notification of recovery/payment for each year within the next couple of weeks as well as receipt of 2020 and 2021 Admin Funding. Please stay tuned for additional details.



Indigenous Partner Updates

- There are spaces available in the Indigenous Cultural Safety training – online course that is self-directed over 8 weeks. This training is offered as a result of feedback we heard from Indigenous families re: finding safe spaces in their child care and early years experiences.
- Nshwaasnangong Child Care and Family Centre had a celebratory soft opening on September 16. Please follow their FB page for updates on family programming.
- The City of London will be closed in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Capacity

LONDON SITES ONLY		Middlesex		London & Middlesex	
Average capacity for July	49.72	Average capacity for July	69.22	Average capacity for July	59.47
Average capacity for August	53.28	Average capacity for August	62.41	Average capacity for August	57.84
Average capacity for September	71.90	Average capacity for September	77.17	Average capacity for September	74.54

Staffing

Martha Ludlow has return from maternity leave last week. We are very happy to have Martha back.

Fee Subsidy

Continuing to place all new family as they apply for Child Care Fee Subsidy. Please continue to use “O” for any for covid related absents

Middlesex County’s Updates:

Things in Middlesex County are moving along, centres are trying to figure out the new reality. Numbers are still low, mainly due to lack of staffing, which we’re sure most centres are struggling with.

A couple of b & a sites have not opened due to staffing and several of our school age programs not offering PA days which is huge struggle for families

1 nursery school not operating and 1 closed permanently at end of June



Lots of new applications coming in daily (a lot of referrals related to mental health). No subsidy waitlist however once new applications are approved there is no space at a center. Most centers have very long waitlists.



Joe Winsler:

Questions for Paul and Joe:

Pauline: We also have a high number of part time care?

In Middlesex, we have broken the stats down to Infant, Toddler, Preschool, B&A and Full time vs Part time. we can bring the stats to the next meeting.

*Increased birth date over summer

Jaime Monaghan: Still seeing a shortage of ECEs.

Celine: What we (Fanshawe ECL) are noticing is that some ECL students are working in the field to support Early Years but are struggling to juggle studies and ECE work.

Shelby Secoura: Yes we have students, we have offered a 3 hour lunch for class time and studies for these students who need to work but also are striving to get a ECE degree. If anyone is in similar situation let me know, Id love to go over strategies.

2. **Middlesex-London Health Unit- Early years Team Update-** Heather Bywaters and Jan Tomlinson

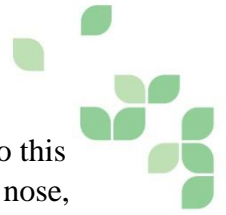
Jan Tomlinson:

Covid numbers are holding steady and is less than we expected. We are holding at a average of about 20 a day where we were previously at 50 cases per day. The measures are working keep up the good work! We have seen a rise in child cases but is not linked to school, we believe the spread is coming from social gatherings or sports. In childcare a few centres do have an outbreak, I am again stressing the vaccine for adults within childcare centres.

Some recurring themes/questions:

Rapid testing is meant for asymptomatic testing for unvaccinated, not for those with symptoms. If you have staff working through vaccination, they must still wait 14 days after last dose to stop testing. If you do have a staff that tests positive you must isolate the person and call the health unit.

Changes: Screening: runny noses have been removed from screening (If a child is feeling unwell with a runny nose or runny nose with extra symptoms, please keep them at home) Working on changing tool for childcare providers, this will support talk with families.



Feedback: Testing takes a while, there is now an increase in testing availability so this problem should be less. New swab for children with testing saliva and just in the nose, less invasive.

Eye protecting indoors and outdoors and wearing a mask.

Flu vaccines: Flu predicted to be strong this year, reminder to encourage flu vaccine for children 6 months and older (Children are prioritized to get flu vaccines)

Heather: Previous years the pharmacy could only give flu shots for children over 5. This age is now 2 years old for pharmacy flu shots.

Jamie Monaghan: What about children with slight cold like symptoms, they may have a light cough or runny noses or allergies. And will the child be charged for missed days.

Shelby: We continue to say we understand however we can't afford the risk of a symptomatic child. We work with the families to arrange payment. If its allergies its accommodated and some hospitals and doctors will provide allergy note. Stand strong.

Jan: Yes allergies is an alternative diagnosis, so if we know its allergies then they will be accommodated to stay in the centre, as long as there is no unwell feeling or numerous symptoms such as fever, barking cough, gastrointestinal issues.

3. **National Early Years Framework Prototype Update** – Céline Bourbonnais-MacDonald

For the research piece, we did a lot over the summer however are still seeking more participants. 5 childcare providers (3 more), 4 EY professionals (4 more), 1 parent (7 more), 0 Employers (8 more/ at least 4)

Trevor will be helping connect us to potential employer participants but if you have any individuals who can participate, please reach out.

I will also be applying for a new grant to cover the cost of the community Town Hall and focus groups moving forward. I will continue to update you and please any names you can send my way I would appreciate it greatly.

4. **Skills Advance Ontario (SAO) Project** – Meaghan MacDonell SAO Project Update

Cohort 1 concluded on September 17.

The 10-week training was a success. The facilitators spoke highly of the level of engagement and enthusiasm participants demonstrated and the level of personal and professional growth they witnessed.

Student satisfaction was also high:

- 90% of participants said they felt prepared or very prepared to meet employer needs.



80% of participants said they felt prepared or very prepared to take next steps to becoming an RECE.

- 100% of participants said they liked or really liked the ECE specific components of the training.

- 100% of participants said they would recommend the program to someone else.

11 successful candidates are now moving on to their professional work experience placements.

The project team would like to extend their thanks to those employers who are hosting participants for those work placement opportunities.

Cohort 2 is set to begin on October 4 and will be continuing with a virtual delivery format.

At present, there are 7 Anglophone participants registered and 4 Francophone.

Incumbent Training is slated to begin with their first cohort in January 2022.

This is a professional growth opportunity for those already working in the field with an emphasis on leadership and managerial skills such as board governance, policy writing, human resources, funding, etc.

This will be a great opportunity for organizations thinking about succession planning.

5. **Advocacy Subcommittee Update** – Kara Pihlak

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/wage-enhancement>

- https://www.childcareontario.org/sign_the_child_care_agreement

- I think what we have to reflect on is ECE a place we want to bring people in. I think advocacy is so important to ensure we are creating a field where we want to be in and bring others in.

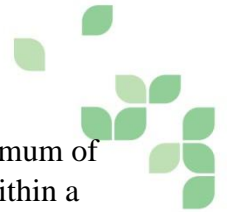
- Wages, Benefits, quality of life, vacation time are all important and we need to advocate for this.

- Our main goal at advocacy right now is retaining employers for the ongoing research and supporting the Town Hall.

- I was a guest speaker at Barb's ECE virtual class and was asking if wages and benefits are changing so the students want to pursue ECE but are aware of the wages and benefit problems, hopefully the national plan is signed on soon and aids ECE retention.

Nicole: London was always a great option to live in and now I'm thinking about how the London will attract more residents. The houses fees are too high. London is becoming a place where people can't afford to live in London on ECE wages, etc. I wonder what the City of London is doing to help these individuals.

6. **All Kids Belong Update** – Lee-Anne Cross



AKB is now visiting programs in-person on a regular basis. We can visit a maximum of two centres per day. There is no limit on how many classrooms can be visited within a centre, but we are trying to keep this to a minimum. We continue to try to visit outdoors, and to distance when possible.

Merrymount's vaccine policy is now in place. AKB staff have submitted their vaccination status information; they now have (or will have within the next few days) attestation letters signed by the Program Manager (Lee-Anne) that they can present to centres when they visit. The letter confirms that they have been fully vaccinated, or that they are unvaccinated and participating in rapid antigen testing in compliance with Ministry of Education standards. This is similar to our processes for police checks; we provide attestation rather than original copies of checks. Programs are welcome to call Lee-Anne with any questions or concerns.

We welcomed a new team member this summer; Michelle Enns has joined us, replacing Dianne Loft who retired in 2020. Michelle is an RECE with Resource Consultant certificate, and she's worked with us several times in the past on short-term contracts.

We have a one-year contract Resource Consultant position available in St Thomas-Elgin. This is posted on Strive and on the Merrymount website.

7. **Strive Update** – Amanda Seabrook

GIDIBENDAAGOZIMIN: INCLUSION CONFERENCE “We Belong”

Presented by Enji-Maajtaawaad Early Years Program, this conference is made possible by funding generously provided by Health Canada on behalf of Jordan's Principle. This two-day learning opportunity is ideal for education and early years professionals interested in learning more about inclusion and diversity with regards to Indigenous cultures and communities. Parents, guardians, and other caregivers also welcome!

WHEN: Tuesday October 19 and Wednesday October 20

TIME: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (registration and breakfast at 7:30 am)

WHERE: Four Points by Sheraton London, 1150 Wellington Road South

**Daily breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included in the cost of Registration.

Day 1 – Tuesday, October 19

Opening Ceremonies with Chief Jacqueline French, Courtney Riley, and Russell Peltier.

Keynote Address from Jennifer Nichole, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Jordan's Principle Supervisor.

Workshops facilitated by:

Nicole Hoover, Speech and Language Pathologist with Chatterbox Communication Services

Amber Burton, Occupational Therapist with Thames Valley Children's Centre

Lisa Corbeil, Physical Therapist with Thames Valley Children's Centre



With a special guest presentation and Hoop Dance performance from River Christie-White, founder of Hoops for Hope.

River, who has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, uses his talents in the traditional art of Hoop Dancing to spread awareness about Autism and the lack of support for Indigenous children and families with special needs. River will be selling and signing books and other items to raise funds for his organization.

Movement breaks facilitated by Terri Fisher from Water and Time Yoga.

Day 2 – Wednesday, October 20

Workshops facilitated by:

Tisha Summers, Registered Art Therapist with Heal Through Love Art Therapy

Julie Casey, Registered Social Worker and Developmental Service Worker with Nourishing Hearts Wellness Care Farm

Jacquelyn Keep, Registered Early Childhood Educator and Resource Consultant with Enji-Maajtaawaad Early Years Program

Movement breaks facilitated by Terri Fisher from Water and Time Yoga.

Closing Ceremonies with Russell Peltier and Courtney Riley.

Proof of vaccination against Covid19 (or a valid medical exemption) will be required upon entry.

A mask or appropriate face covering will be required at all times while indoors except while eating and drinking. Please respect social distancing whenever possible.

Friends/colleagues are encouraged to sit together.

Joining us from out of town? Stay at the Four Points at a discounted rate! To make your reservation, call 519-681-0600 or their toll free Reservation Centre at 1-888-236-2427 and use the code “INC” or “Chippewas of the Thames Inclusion Conference.”

October 19th and 20th

<https://striveswo.ca/events/gidibendaagozimin-inclusion-conference/>

FAMILY LITERACY CONFERENCE FOR PROFESSIONALS 2021

Brought to you by London’s Child and Youth Network

Join us for the 10th Family Literacy Conference for Professionals! Participants partake in inter-professional perspectives, reflective dialogue, and collaborative inquiry as we consider all facets of literacy in relation to overall well-being, children’s rights, and in building safe, inclusive, and vibrant communities and learning environments.

This year, the Family Literacy Conference is going virtual! Through four special evening presentations, we will explore the power of story and storytelling in our work with children, youth, and families. How do stories shape us, connect us, challenge us, inspire us? And how can we engage with story as a tool to lift up and empower young voices?

DAY 1 –

To kick things off on Tuesday, October 19, we invite you to share in, Gathering Magic for Yourself, Your Family, Your Community and Future Generations, facilitated by the gregarious and enigmatic, Richard Van Camp.

In this hilarious and empowering session, Richard will share stories and techniques on how to gather family and community medicines to help you with your sweet life.

DAY 2 –

For our second evening together on Monday, October 25, we are delighted to connect you with Summer Bressette. Summer is a community animator and organizer, educator, public speaker, storyteller, and Curator of Indigenous Programming for the London Arts Council. Summer will be joining us to share, Kinship and Land Based Storytelling. This session will explore the role of family, land, and language in Anishinaabe storytelling and the role that storytelling plays in shaping cultural identity.

<https://striveswo.ca/events/literacy-conference-for-professionals-night-two/>

DAY 3 –

Evening three invites acclaimed children's author, David A. Roberston, to share, Truth and Representation: Perceptions and the Pathway to Healing.

Historically, Indigenous representation in popular culture has had a disastrous effect on how Indigenous peoples are perceived and on Indigenous peoples self-perception. Over the last decade, how Indigenous peoples have been depicted throughout popular culture has improved, but there is still work to be done. What are the impacts of this negative representation on all segments of the population, both historically and from a contemporary perspective? And how do accurate representations change this country within the context of reconciliation, particularly through the use of our own voice and through literature?

Following his presentation, David will be joined by 12-year-old activist and bibliophile, Ainara Alleyne, for a special question and answer period.

<https://striveswo.ca/events/literacy-conference-for-professionals-night-three/>

DAY 4 –

To wrap up this year's Family Literacy Conference, we invite you to a special Community Gathering. Whether you attended one, none, or all of the previous offerings, this is an opportunity to connect in shared joy and reflection as we consider what we heard, felt, and experienced listening to Richard, Summer, David, and Ainara, and what the lasting impact of their words will be on our work with children.

Please come prepared to share your thoughts and discuss with fellow professionals how we can continue to engage with story as a way to lift up children's voices.

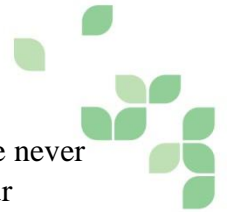
October 19, 25, 26, and November 2.

<https://striveswo.ca/events/family-literacy-conference-for-professionals-community-gathering/>

PAINT YOUR INNER VOICE: AN ECE & EARLY YEARS PROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION EVENT!

Facilitated By: Hailey Tallman MA Art Therapist

As Early Years Professionals, we give a lot of ourselves to encourage learning and growth in others, to empower them to thrive in this world... But we can't pour from an empty cup! This Early Childhood Educator and Early Years Professional Appreciation Day we invite you to participate in this special opportunity designed to help fill your cup!



The past 20 months have presented challenges to our field many of us could have never imagined. We have adapted, pushed on, pivoted, and advocated for safety, for our profession, and most of all, for the well-being of the families and children in our care. On ECE and Early Years Professional Appreciation Day 2021, let's care for each other and ourselves!

The purpose of Paint Your Inner Voice is to reconnect to our inner voice, rebuild self-trust, rediscover what we really want and need, and remember the power of community. Paint Your Inner Voice is like a paint night for the soul – or like mindfulness with paint: Participants stay with the process listening to your inner voice as it instructs you, moment by moment, which images and colours it wants to see revealed. Participants will then take part in reflective writing to explore the meaning found in their painting.

Finally, in safe, small, nonjudgmental breakout rooms participants will share what their inner voice revealed to them, and witness the other group members doing the same. Each participant will receive an Experience Bag containing all materials needed to participate in this Early Childhood Educator and Early Years Professional Appreciation Day Celebration!

Please Note: Experience Bags will be available for local (London, Middlesex, Elgin) pick-up ONLY.

Wednesday, October 20th

<https://striveswo.ca/events/paint-your-inner-voice-educator-early-years-professional-appreciation/>

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: OUTDOOR PLAY

Facilitated by: Ginny Yurich, founder of 1000 Hours Outside

As we continue to adapt to the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased reliance on technology to support our daily lives. The addition of more virtual learning has been particularly impactful, and has underlined how essential spending time outdoors, connecting with nature and engaging in physical activity is for children!

We are very fortunate to be joined by Ginny Yurich, founder of 1000 Hours Outside for this month's session! The objective of 1000 Hours Outside is simple: to encourage families to match the average amount of screen time a child will be immersed in annually (about 1,200 hours), with time spent in nature. For more information about this movement, please see the 1000 Hours Outside website.

Wednesday, September 29

<https://striveswo.ca/events/community-of-practice-outdoor-play/>

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: COOKS AND DIETARY PLANNERS

Facilitated by: Ginette Blake, Registered Dietitian at the MLHU

This session will be mostly sharing, so please come prepared to share your favourite fall recipes and cooking techniques!

Ginette will also talk to us a bit about Genetically Modified Foods (GMOs) and answer the following questions:

- What are GMOs?



· Are GMOs Regulated?

· Are GMOs Safe?

Wednesday, September 29

<https://striveswo.ca/events/copcooksanddietaryplanners/>

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: WHAT IS IT AND HOW CAN I HELP?

Facilitated By : Autism & Behavioural Services at Thames Valley Children's Centre
Join Autism & Behavioural Services at TVCC to gain a deeper understanding of the autism diagnosis process.

How can you support a family who has questions or concerns about autism?

Learn about the broad spectrum of autism, and how strategies suggested by Resource Consultants can make life easier for a child with autism.

Learn how to adapt your play and learning spaces to be set up for each child's success, regardless of whether they have autism.

This 90-minute virtual presentation is designed for Early Childhood Educators, or any early learning professionals.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

<https://striveswo.ca/events/autism-spectrum-disorder-what-is-it-and-how-can-i-help/>

STRIVE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING – OCTOBER 2021

The Strive Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month, alternating between evening and afternoons.

The Strive Committee engages in meaningful conversations, information sharing, networking and collaboration. All are welcome to join our community conversations.

Wednesday, October 13

1:00 – 2:00 PM

<https://striveswo.ca/events/strive-virtual-community-meeting-october-2021/>

THE INTERSECTION OF ECEC AND HOMELESSNESS

Join us for an important and engaging panel discussion exploring the intersection of the Early Childhood Education and Care sector and those experiencing homelessness in the London area.

Through this panel discussion, we will explore the factors contributing to poverty and homelessness in London. We will learn how these factors impact different demographics and what supports already exist. Most importantly, we will hear about what actions Early Years Professionals can take to reduce harm, and increase access to quality child care for all to ensure every family we serve has a sense of belonging, can actively contribute to our centres and communities, are engaged in their child's growth and development, and are free express themselves and their needs without fear.

We are privileged to host representatives from four different organizations supporting individuals, and/or families and children living in poverty and homelessness in London, Ontario for this panel discussion:

Amiel Houghton, Residential Manager of Programs and Services at Anova.





Andrea Jibb, Director of Community Planning at Atlohsa Family Healing Services.

Jaclyn Seeler, Program Manager, Street Level Women at Risk.

Dr. Andrea Sereda, Physician at the London InterCommunity Health Centre.

Thursday, November 4th

<https://striveswo.ca/events/panel-discussion-the-intersection-of-ecec-and-homelessness/>

8. Information Sharing

- Nicole: I was contacted by a company about having buckets and buckets of Lego and are offering them to anyone who is interested in free. Details are connected in the LCCN meeting email is you are interested.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2021 at 9:30 am via Zoom