



LICENSED CHILD CARE NETWORK MEETING (VIRTUAL)

May 31, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: NOTE THIS LIST IS NOT INCLUSIVE

Kara Pihlak, Adrienne Small, Jan Tomlinson, Barbara Jackson, Celine Bourbonnais-MacDonald, Shari Carter, Lisa Wilson, Strive SWO, Joe Winser, Kelly Smith, Pakinam Ghaly; Diane Gordon; Jean-Baptiste; Lee-Anne Cross; Cheryl Read; Maureen Kilworth Children's Centre; Heather Bywaters; Trevor Fowler; Adrienne Small; Tina McAllister; Pattie; Anne Rae; Charlene Grainger; Tamara Blaney; Sheri Nicol; Julie Keens; Tina - Montessori Academy of London; Karen; Cristin; Donna Jean Godfrey; Kimberly Mitchell; Bright Beginnings; Kim Mitchell; Nicole Blanchette, La ribambelle; Lacey Jackson; Kinderville; Diego Beltran; Barb Nowicki; Sontai Sem; Tiny Hoppers

Land acknowledgement

Indigenous Solidarity Day

- June 21, 2022 is the 26th annual Indigenous Solidarity Day in celebration of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Join us as we gather for this in-person event featuring Sunrise Ceremony, Singers, Dancers, Food, Vendors, Community Service Providers, and more.
- A community initiative brought to you by: Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Atlohsa Family Healing Services, City of London, Ontario - Municipal Government, N'Amerind (London) Friendship Centre, Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre.
- https://twitter.com/atlohsa/status/1529844420920614914?s=20&t=q3PmeyeuYgyNml-VP7_2cQ

1. MUNICIPAL & PROVINCIAL UPDATES – ANNE RAE, TREVOR FOWLER

May 9 Heartwork and so much more

- Approximately 950 educators and staff attended the live event on May 9, with 22 sites closing
- Another 450 planning to view the recording at a later time
- A reminder to please fill out the post evaluation survey if you participated, as it will help inform fall event

Fall Professional Learning Event

- Survey will be going out in the post CCEY Operators meeting email to ask preferred time and the top 2 learning priorities for this event
- Currently envisioning a larger celebration/banquet style event in person
- We will have a date set by the end of June so that we can promote it, inform families, and plan accordingly

Recruitment Steering Committee

- A Child Care and Early Years Workforce Recruitment Steering Committee has been established
- This group brings together key partners in the employment, education, social services, and the child care and early years sectors
- The purpose of this committee is to provide strategic guidance to develop and support a concrete plan that includes short-term and long-term recruitment strategies and action steps
- We are currently working with a labour market consultant to update the Labour Market Study to ensure current, relevant, and evidence-based analysis is available to inform and guide short to long term strategic priorities, objectives, and actions that support a strong, healthy child care and early years sector locally
- Ultimately the action steps that are supported by this committee will complement current and existing strategies to retain existing childcare and early years workforce, and grow number of qualified staff in the sector to ensure a more stable and high-quality early years and child care system

Promotion of the Sector

- Another key theme we heard last fall during the development of this Workforce Strategy was the need to continue our efforts to promote the sector and identify ways to increase educator appreciation
- We are currently working with members of the previous steering committee that created the successful *Unsung Heroes* Campaign to extend the campaign promotion and reach
- The committee is looking to:
 - Extend the campaign using different promotional mediums
 - Translate the voiceover to support Francophone recruitment efforts
 - Build in testimonials from the Indigenous community
 - Connect with secondary school guidance counsellors to promote the profession through tools to educate them and direct them and students to the website to find more information

Self-Care

- Another initiative in the Workforce Strategy is in response to feedback around improved working conditions and physical and mental health supports
- Using evidence based practices for healthy child care and early years workplaces, we will be developing and implementing a sector wide wellness program, including the tools to help leadership support educators in the workplace

- Throughout the summer, there will be opportunities to better understand the working conditions and supports required to ensure that what is developed resonates with the sector

Additional Professional Learning Opportunities

- Additional professional learning opportunities are being developed, in addition to the professional learning opportunities mentioned earlier tonight
- We are supporting Nshwaasnangong staff to participate in another cultural, land-based retreat for a 2 day event to take place this summer
- This retreat will focus on land-based learning, incorporating hands-on learning, Indigenous knowledges & languages and traditional teachings
- We are also supporting La Ribambelle and our Francophone educators with 2 professional learning days coming up in the fall and early 2023

May 26 CWLECC conversation

- Thanks again to the participants, there will be a follow-up email coming with the presentation and recording.
- The overall theme we heard was that the guidelines were overwhelming. Those guidelines are directed at service system managers – we are working to develop simple, comprehensive guidelines and an application process for operators.

No updates for Middlesex

2. MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT- EARLY YEARS TEAM UPDATE

- LAURA DUECK, HEATHER BYWATERS

- Heather Bywaters will be shifting away from her role. Tracey Ashley will be taking over for Heather. Laura will still be providing COVID updates.
- EarlyYearsOutreach@mlhu.on.ca

Overview

- # of new cases locally and provincially are declining
- # and severity of outbreaks are also declining
- The 6th wave is definitely on the decline
- BA.2 is still the dominant subvariant in the province
- Provincial COVID precautions are still in place for staff and children to follow: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/contact_mngmt/management_cases_contacts.pdf
- The province extended the mask mandate to June 11 when we will hear further direction (or the removal from highest risk settings)

Masking

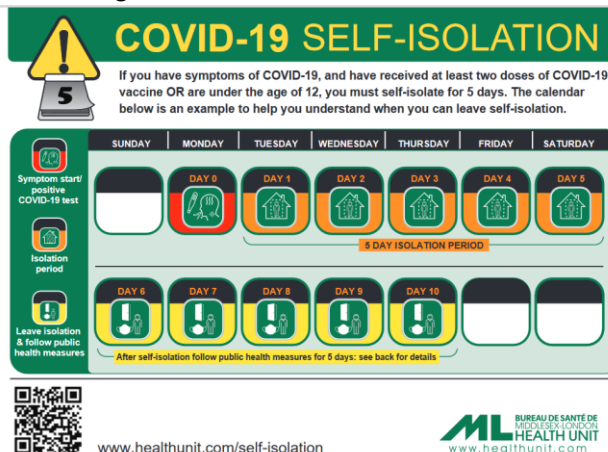
- Still recommended for indoor public settings (as much as you are able to)
- The importance of this may change as we move into the summer with better weather, more activities can be held outside and/or in well ventilated spaces, and reduced transmission in the community

COVID Screening Tool

- Daily confirmation of screening for children/staff is no longer required BUT everyone should still continue to self-screen every day before attending CC using provincial tool
- Centres are to follow the screening tool directions if the child becomes symptomatic during the day – all/most symptoms require the child to be sent home (and then follow guidance in the tool – for 24 hrs symptoms resolving or 5 days isolation
- If a symptomatic staff/child tests (rapid) and it is negative, cannot return until 2 negative RATs 24-48 hrs apart
- <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

New Self Isolation Calendar Tool on the MLHU website

- Supports questions related to how long to isolate if symptomatic
- Includes guidance for household members as well as non-household close contacts



COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, and have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine OR are under the age of 12, you must self-isolate for 5 days. The calendar below is an example to help you understand when you can leave self-isolation.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Symptom start/ positive COVID-19 test		DAY 0	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
Isolation period		5 DAY ISOLATION PERIOD					
Leave isolation & follow public health measures		DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9	DAY 10	

After self-isolation follow public health measures for 5 days. see back for details.

www.healthunit.com/self-isolation

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Vaccine

- Lowest rates are in the 5–11-year-old group
- A study was done in the province and reasons for this are parents thinking that children will get less ill, they already get other vaccines, typically flu shots are not offered to this age and have heard that COVID is similar to flu
- Still recommended for this age group in order to reduce risks of severe illness and hospitalization
- No vaccine yet for under 5 but Moderna has submitted a plan to Health Canada which is being reviewed for approval

Booster Shots

- Fourth dose/second booster = Over 60 yrs are eligible (ideally 5-6 months from previous dose but at least 3 months)
- Okay to get the booster now and again in fall when it will likely be available to more of the population as we move into an anticipated seasonal increase in cases again
- Other ages/groups not eligible as it is targeting those populations most at risk of serious illness/hospitalization not those at risk of transmission

Stakeholder newsletter and webinar

- **next one is on MONDAY June 13 and this will be the last one.** eNewsletters will be released on an as needed basis only (not weekly).
- This is part of the effort to return to pre-pandemic operations and services at the health unit

3. NATIONAL EARLY YEARS FRAMEWORK PROTOTYPE UPDATE

– CÉLINE BOURBONNAIS-MACDONALD

- Introduction of interns for Summer 2022:
 - Jadin Albert, working with Kirsti Cheese and the EY framework prototype research project;
 - Amanda Beattie, working with LCCN and the EY framework prototype research project;
 - Emily Foster; working with Céline on the EY framework prototype research;
 - and Jennifer Son, working with Céline on the EY framework prototype research
- Pilot for the focus group – week of June 6 with a small group of child care providers to help provide feedback on the facilitation and first draft of prototype
- Update on the status of the project: 6 pillars moving forward to the focus groups in June and late August; pillars include access, affordability, quality, responsiveness, inclusivity, and relationships. Possible solutions will also become part of the conversation for the focus groups. Lots of interaction and having the participants being involved and sharing their thoughts.
- Both London and Middlesex CMSMs are supportive and helping in establishing locations for the focus groups – a huge thank you for the collaboration!
- Thank you to Strive for helping with the social media support with email blasts and providing materials for the focus groups
- Jennifer Son and Emily Foster: shared the email blasts attached with agenda of this meeting; French version was shared by Amanda Beattie in an email. Please feel free to share the information with your networks.

4. SKILLS ADVANCE ONTARIO (SAO) PROJECT – MEAGHAN MACDONELL

Currently recruiting for the September cohort. English registration is about 50% while French is slow. Manon and the team are attending job fairs and trying to get the word out.

Please keep in mind the students will need placements so if you are interested in supporting, reach out to Meaghan and she will connect you.

5. ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE - KARA PIHLAK

Advocacy continues to meet alternating Thursday Mornings. Our most recent project was an Election guide, created in partnership with Strive. It is attached below.

Pillar Non Profit Network reached out to Advocacy for feedback on the Workforce Planning and Development Board's recent "Employer One Survey. This survey highlighted the Care Economy Workforce, and the needs and challenges of the sector. This survey will be released to the public soon. Please email Kara Pihlak at oakpark1@bellnet.ca if you have any question or comments.

<http://www.lccn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/LCCN-Election-2022.pdf>

If you would like to join us please reach out to Kara oakpark1@bellnet.ca

6. ALL KIDS BELONG UPDATE – LEE-ANNE CROSS

Resource Consultant services continue to be very busy; a few staff have needed to place new referrals on hold and to modify our services to before- and after- school care programs. We hope to return to our usual services within the next few weeks when transition to school is complete. We're taking a look at all of our processes to find any efficiencies that will enable more time to be in-person in the centres. We know that other special needs resource programs are facing similar challenges with workload.

Program Assistant contracts for summer programs will be sent this week. If you are running a program and need these supports and have not yet requested them, please let your Resource Consultant or Lee-Anne know as soon as possible. Resource Consultants will visit sites over the summer as needed, but will also offer weekly Zoom drop-in sessions where staff from all programs can meet with Resource Consultants to ask questions or seek out strategies; we'll send details soon.

"Coffee Time with AKB" continues on the second Tuesday of each month; please encourage your staff to join us. They are also welcome to access our online courses, which now include one that focuses on resources for school age programs and one on autism. We'll soon have one available that focuses on sensory challenges and activities.

7. STRIVE UPDATE – AMANDA SEABROOK

We are now the lead operator for the Resource Centre. Please excuse our mess as we are editing, and organizing the space. We are open! Sam and Brooklyn are the smiling (masked) faces you will see when visiting us. Stay tuned for an open house once we have transformed the space.

Professional Learning Update:

Community of Practice: Outdoor Play

June 1st, 6:30PM - 8:00PM

- This monthly opportunity invites early years professionals with a passion or interest in outdoor pedagogies to come together and collaboratively reflect on the opportunities and challenges unique to engaging with children in outdoor spaces.

- YMCA Western's outdoor play specialist Jenny Britt will lead us in a tour and share how their team thought about outdoor pedagogy in the context of naturalizing their playground.
- Join us in exploring the beautiful outdoor play spaces the Wortley Child Care Centre has to offer at 165 Elmwood Ave E., London
- <https://striveswo.ca/events/community-of-practice-outdoor-play-june2022/>

Visual Storytelling 101

Tuesday June 7th, 6:30PM – 8:00PM

- Will be in person at Childreach.
- A mask or appropriate face covering will be required as recommended by the current public health guidelines.
- Visuals can be a powerful tool for capturing stories, making meaning, and communicating with one another. If we think about our practices around pedagogical documentation and reflection as the stories we tell about children, about families, about ourselves, and the important work that we do, what opportunities may we be afforded by thinking more broadly about the mediums we use when engaging in these processes?
- If you have attended Winter Rethink over the past several years or more recently, if you took part in the Heartwork and so much more event on May 9, then you may already be familiar with graphic facilitator Emma Richard's amazing ability to listen and observe with intention and then translate that into a captivating visual artifact.
- In this session, Emma will lead us in developing a visual vocabulary, sketch noting basics, navigating a big blank page, and working with our inner critic. She will also share her process of witnessing and integrating what is seen, heard, and felt into our work.
- Together, we will consider how these skills may lend themselves to our professional practice and the ways we reflect on and document children's learning.
- There are no prerequisite artistic abilities required to participate. This opportunity will involve sharing stories, learning from one another, and practicing new skills in a playful environment.
- <https://striveswo.ca/events/visual-storytelling-101/>

Community of Practice: Be Well

Thursday June 9th, 6:30PM – 8:00PM

- This event was previously scheduled for May 26th but postponed due to weather
- In this CoP we will explore and reflect on all areas of self-care and personal wellness, including emotional, to the psychological, to the social, physical, and professional.
- We're talking all things hygge (hoo-gah).
- Derived from the Norwegian word meaning "well-being," is a word for enjoying the good things in life. A concept that encompasses comfort, coziness, and contentment. And there are a few things more hygge than spending quality time with great people.
- We will be gathering in-person at Gibbons Park in London, to spark meaningful conversation and nurture a feeling of hygge in each of us.
- <https://striveswo.ca/events/community-of-practice-be-well-may/>

Enduring Effects: Name Mispronunciation in Early Learning Experiences

Thursday June 16th, 7:00PM – 8:30PM

- This opportunity is facilitated by Nika Sok and Fanshawe College professor Tina Bonnett.
- Nika is a former Strive ECL intern who wrote the blog post, *What's in a Name?*, during her internship which inspired her capstone research project and now this professional learning opportunity. Nika will share her experience having her name mispronounced and changed in her early years and the myriad of ways this impacted her developing sense of self.
- Together we will consider the salient connect between our names and our families, cultures, and identities, and reflect on the implications for our professional practice.
- <https://striveswo.ca/events/enduring-effects/>

Métis 101

Tuesday July 5th, 6:30PM – 7:30PM

- We are really excited to have RECE and early learning and child care advisor from Métis Nation of Ontario, Melissa Bradley will join us as we deepen our understanding of the rich and distinct culture and heritage of Métis peoples.
- Melissa will be sharing an introductory overview of Métis history, culture, and way of life. As well as highlighting the various early learning and child care programs and services available for Métis communities and families and early years professionals.
- There will also be an opportunity for discussion and a Q&A
- This is a great opportunity to learn and grow our knowledge as we further our commitment to Truth & Reconciliation and fostering culturally safe early years environments.
- <https://striveswo.ca/events/metis-101/>

Courageous Conversations with families

Tuesday July 12th, 6:30PM – 8:00PM

- This opportunity will be facilitated by Dr Michael Ann Parr from Nipissing University
- We will be exploring the nature of engaging in courageous conversations with families and consider a model for communication that build social and communication capital and how building that capital through ongoing communication ultimately bolsters our ability to have the more difficult and challenging conversations when they do arise.
- Picture books will be highlighted as a natural and non-confrontational way to open communication channels and we will reflect upon communication patterns we would like to set aside, as well as relational ways of being we would like to commit to.
- This session will take a strength-based approach that begins where we are and builds upon the best of what we already do.
- <https://striveswo.ca/events/courageous-conversations-with-families/>

8. SCHOOL BOARD UPDATES – AMANDA BENTON AND HOLLY GERRITS

- In the fall, we will be posting out a call for a new operator for the new child care centre at the new schools. Information sessions will be held prior to the call for submissions.

- Around 4000 new kindergarten children starting in the fall.
- Dr. Jean Clinton created a 3-5 minute video welcoming the families.
- All our schools engaged in the 'Welcome to Kindergarten' event in-person, which allowed children and families to experience their classroom/school prior to September.

Right to Read Update:

- School board held a 2-day regional session that was in-person. The focus was on the 'Right to Read' executive summary.
- You can find the summary here: <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report>
- There are 158 recommendations being made to the Ministry of Education and faculties of education.
- 5 of those recommendations would need to be implemented in September. The school board have not received anything yet.

9. FANSHAWE COLLEGE UPDATE – JANET FOSTER

- No update

10. INFORMATION SHARING

Conversation around how many centres are masking indoors:

- Most centres are no longer mandating masking indoors and leave that as an option to parents and educators.
- Some centres are masking indoors but optional outdoors
- Parkwood continues to mandate masks indoors and outdoors due to their hospital setting.

Is there an English requirement to register at Fanshawe?

- Don't believe there is requirement, it is delivered in English so it would be a matter if they are comfortable receiving information that way.

Chat question: Does anyone have preschool space?

- LB - Huron Heights does in September
- Tiny hoppers does have a couple remaining spots for September
- University does, check St. Marg's

NO JUNE MEETING

As we don't meet in July or August, next meeting date is Tuesday, September 27, 2022.