

**Location and Logistics:**

Time: 1:00 noon to 3:00 pm  
 Waterloo Region District School Board Education Centre  
 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener  
 New Hamburg Room

**Objectives:**

- Review draft Vision, Mission, Values based on previous meeting input
- Ponder Early Literacy Alliance of Waterloo Region strengths and successes, gaps and challenges and the nature of the external environment within which we will be operating over the next five years
- Paint a picture of ELAWR internal capacity and an Environmental Scan (trends, opportunities and challenges external to ELAWR)
- Work will be augmented by input from a long list of Community Professionals we are hoping to engage in a subsequent focus group on May 5<sup>th</sup> to help round out our understanding of the Environmental Scan. Response to our invitation has been very encouraging

**Agenda:**

<b>Time:</b>	<b>Task:</b>	<b>Participants:</b>
1:00	Arrival, Informal networking	All
1:05	Welcome, Review meeting objectives	Kim and Gabriele
1:10	Feedback on Draft Vision, Mission, Values	Ingrid
1:30	Environmental Scan: * What is happening in the environment (Region, Province, in general, with respect to children’s services and early literacy) that ELAWR needs to pay attention to. Make sure you ask “So what?” to identify the implication for ELAWR * Report back – consolidate	table groups
2:10	*ELAWR internal capacity: strengths/successes and gaps *Report back – consolidate	table groups
2:55	Wrap Up, Next Steps, Questions	Ingrid and All

- “How Does Learning Happen?” document (process vs. content); play-based learning
- Disconnect with parents/families who may value content
- Focus on child-centred learning
- Affirming the value of everyday interactions and activities
- Special Needs Strategy, Mental Health Strategy, Children’s Planning Table: movement to collaboration
- Family structure (jobs, family unit, economic disparity)
- Screentime (digital divide, app gap)
- Healthy communities and well-being
- Interdisciplinary approach; blurring of sectors
- Diversity within the community: new Canadians; influx of First Nations, Metis and Inuit
- Technology: social media; digital divide
- Service providers: funding changes
- Accountability: measurement based on performance (often just the numbers); how do you measure success (e.g. number of library cards or number of program participants)?
- The Region is developing a new strategic plan... is early literacy in it?
- Community Foundation: Vital Signs mentioned early literacy?
- Low profile within children’s services sector (2012 or 2013 CPT survey)
- New Kindergarten Parent Survey results available early in 2016; EDI
- Technology: changes in language and the way that we write
- Impact of STEAM

- EQAO results: focus on math over literacy
- Changes in the way that we use language
- Brain development and epigenetics
- First 2000 days
- Increasing complexity of children seen with special needs (and possibly Autism)

Consider PESTLE: Political, Economic, Social, Technologic, Legal, Environment

Internal Scan:

Strengths/Successes

- membership diversity
  - Strong will to participate and do the work
  - Strong leadership and strong members, organization support for members to attend
  - In-kind contribution
  - Volunteerism
  - Strong networking
  - Proven success at events
  - Support by evidence-based research with impact on families/children
  - Presence at CPT
  - Promo materials

Gaps

- No model for succession planning

- No financial sustenance
- No measure for success
- Lack of orientation/plan for new members
- Lack of backbone support or underutilization of skills/talents
- Lack of reach to frontline service providers
- No plans yet for strategy, communications, advocacy
- No mechanism for members to help each other
- Not much outreach (presentations to City Councils)
- Not a lot of formal connections with other collaboratives yet
- Explore connections with other literacy collaboratives
- Members do not reflect the diversity of the community
- Consider a targeted approach