



FORUM-Meeting Notes

Date:	January 21, 2019	Location	WPL Harper
Time:	2-4:30 pm		
Present:	Chair	Machelle Denison	
	Recorder	Joanne Davis	
	Present	Lindsey Skeen, Dorothy Snyder, Janine Thoms, Kathilee Porter, Debbie Azim-Fleming, Cathy Scott, Beth King, Kim DeGasperis, Lindsay McCann, Kelly Kipfer, Laura Dick, Janine Thoms, Debbie Azim-Fleming, Colette Moffat	
Guests:			
Regrets:	Corinne Cameron, Lorri Sauve, Chris Beck, Annette Morton, Norma Williams		

Agenda item	Discussion	Action	Action Date
1.0	<p>Welcome and review agenda</p> <p>Machelle welcomed and all attending reviewed the agenda. Family Literacy Day and update on Rotary Clubs were added as additional agenda items.</p>		
2.0	<p>Roundtable updates</p> <p>Laura Dick, WPL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's READ-10th anniversary this year Feb 14 Kelly Kipfer leading visioning session TD funding is tenuous and group is looking for opportunities for other funders Other changes to the project will be explored in visioning session Will report back <p>Lindsay McCann-LHIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of action in "LHIN land" Working closely with Smart Cities group Make sure to share the work of ELAWR Team working on Health Equity Plan-relevant to early childhood literacy and wellness <p>Marci Nicolaisen-community advocate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Here as herself to participate in meetings <p>Tierney Hunter-community advocate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also here as herself to contribute 		

Debbie Azim-Fleming-ROW Public Health

- Working on Early Years messaging broadly
- Face to Face work
- Debbie shared the new magnet with ELAWR's Face to Face logo. It was well received by the group

Kelly Kipfer, WPL

- BabyPalooza-event for families Wednesday, February 27
- March break and spring programs coming

Machelle Denison-Strong Start

- Baby Connections-20 agencies running program
- Facilitator training coming up-check website or ask Colette
- Program delivered and managed by a collaborative
- Strong Start-kit deployment and training
- KidsAbility-managing communications
- Now have a contract person for communications and marketing and to work on finding sustainable funding
- Operations is stabilized
- Looking for funders for cost of kits

Kathy Scott-WRDSB

- Working on social language, teaching vocabulary
- Self-regulation is a big focus
- Delivering these programs

Lindsey Skeen-KPL

- Working on March Break programs
- Trying to focus on Early Years and have started a "Toddler Social Program"
- Also started "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative-
- This comes from the US
- Families can read any 1000 books
- Also milestone and incentive pieces are on the wall at the library
- Parents are excited
- Lindsey has also been leading the FLD initiative. We are grateful for that and understand this has been a huge job to backfill for Barb Janicek who had originally taken this on.

Beth King-YMCA-First 2000 Days Strategy

- Focus on app development using Co Health program through LHIN
- Working with ELAWR on Face to Face project to bring early literacy messaging into app

Dorothy Snyder-Our Place

- EarlyON parent drop in and other parenting supports
- New project on self-regulation and co regulation
- Excited for new Hallman funding for this

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sites for Stork Secrets- Our Place, Rogers Street, EarlyON and Stanley Park CC and expanding further into the community <p>Colette Moffat-Strong Start</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby Connections-Facilitator training March 28 • Also will be arranging one in the next 2-3 weeks as well • Letters Sounds and Words-in 7 school boards • Tomorrow a pilot will start in Hamilton with 9 school boards • Also 2 pilots are happening in the Upper Grand School Board • Volunteer Coach training sessions are coming up • Get Ready for School started last week • It is a program for children 3 or 4 who are attending school in the fall • 44 two-hour classes • 19 sites • New this session is St. Peters School in Cambridge • First time in a school rather than community centres • Also this session GRFS is in Linwood partnering with Region of Waterloo library • Hoping to engage Low German population there and in Elmira. • Look at neighbourhoods with high newcomer and low SES populations <p>Kim DesGasparis WCDSB Literacy Consultant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-3 looking at why children are struggling with literacy • Sharing best practices • Excited to be part of FLD • Attending Smart Waterloo events <p>Janine Thoms-ROW libraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Steam program is being offered in an afternoon session • Well attended • FLD-story time on Saturday • Looking for a person for a temp full time position for Family Literacy • “Seedy Saturdays” a success 		
3.0	<p>Big News Updates</p> <p>Julia Deans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding CEO of Canadian Children’s Literacy Foundation • Followed up with Kathilee Porter as they would like to use our Face to Face materials • Use our project as a pilot for their national campaign • Working on measurement and would like to share info. Looking at EDI <p>London-Child and Youth Network-Literacy Focus Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Start has joined this group • Kathilee Porter presented our P4L and Face to Face projects • They were excited as they also want to engage with prenatal and 		

	<p>new parents via the healthcare system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were blown away and Kathilee did a great job presenting our info and ELAWR • Very similar to us • Interested in sharing and keeping in contact • Looking forward to synergies <p>CYPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothy reported that the CYPT is in the final stage of endorsing the new Charter and also continuing in close alignment and co working with Smart Waterloo • Another stakeholder forum is coming up Feb 1 • New process going forward to get established as a voting member • Have been extremely active with Smart Waterloo application <p>Smart Waterloo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Laura Manning-she is very excited on progress. • Consulting EDI data and KPS and school board and some prototyping already being done using AI • We have heard more about youth as they are trying to engage them directly • They do have eyes on both youth and children • We still need to keep advocating for children • Our Smart Cities application is the only one that has a prototype to show and so they feel they are ahead of the other applicants • Even if we are not funded we will have work that will endure. The engagement of the tech sector is accelerating the proposal • Will forward email re new stakeholder lab on Feb 1 • The application is becoming well developed and fulsome • Strong partnerships will the school boards • What has been developed is very cohesive • Concerns were expressed about prototypes • They have expressed that we will be consulted as experts • Overlap is involved and Leads have expressed the help our project has been to her thinking • We need to remember the project is about data and measurement (not programming) and using tech or AI to address data • Members felt it was incumbent upon us to continue to reinforce the importance of Face to Face connections between parents and children and to moderate the use of technology <p>Wellbeing Waterloo Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “All in 2020” which is the campaign to end homelessness, is on its way • Sense of Belonging continues to evolve • There are a number of working groups and hubs. • The structure for WWR is outlined in a document provided by Lorie Fioze who is the Lead from the ROW. 	<p>Joanne to forward email with CYPT voting member new process</p> <p>Joanne will forward email invite</p> <p>Joanne will send WWR framework with the minutes.</p>	
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4.0	<p>Projects Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Clubs-Literacy is one of the pillars • The December issue of “The Rotarian” is dedicated to literacy • There is an interview with Dana Suskind, author of “The 30 Million Word Gap”. https://www.rotary.org/en/talking-children-helps-brain-development • Machele suggested we get on a speaking tour to Rotary clubs and tell them we are well down the path of “igniting a movement.” We could ask them to join. • Kathilee did an update on ELAWR’s projects. Her presentation is attached. 	Joanne send Kathilees presentation with the minutes	
5.0	<p>Igniting a Literacy Movement <i>Face to Face</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • members worked in groups to generate ideas in four areas of the Face to Face project’s work • Evaluation • Little book library • Milestones • Red flags <p>ELAWR Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group reviewed tasks in ELAWR’s workplan for the next six months and prioritized using an online tool called forcerank.it • The results will be tabulated to establish what is important to members and where they see themselves contributing 	Kelly K will produce report	
6.0	<p>Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What did we do today?</i> • <i>Members commented on what they liked about today</i> • Like the way we are incorporating health • Excited about healthcare providers excitement and that they came back asking for more • Liked hearing about sub initiatives • People liked Kelly’s new tool and creating teams • Great representation from orgs • Progress on project • Loved tool • Loved presentation on project • As an outsider this all makes sense and is working • As initiatives grow, there should be a push from social media side and creation of more posts • Loved extra connections made to various community initiatives • Medical report and EMR stamp and app • Will share with Baby Connections facilitators what is going on • Feeling clearer on ELAWR’s work particularly with many strands 		

	<p>that are coming together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling more connected to strands and working groups • Feeling more part of the team • This work today solidifies that we all have a piece in it • Appreciate purposeful intention of stakeholders around the table • All singing from same song book contributes to moving the needle • Make sure info is shared with EarlyON • Enjoyed hearing about what people are doing...love collaborating • Will share with team of programmers...message of Face to Face • Amazing that early lit messages are beginning to pervade community and all the places where families go • We are a long way from a few years ago...mostly ECE's now getting to families where it needs to be • Excited to read input from group work • Please let people know new resources • Excited about all the pieces and different orgs and perspectives • Excited about successes of Face to Face • Presentation was great • Good news around CYPT and WWR 		
7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm 		

Upcoming Meetings

FORUM (all 2-4:30 pm)

- **Thursday, March 21**
Location WPL-Harper
- **Monday, May 27**
Location TBA

LEADS (all @ Strong Start)

- **February 13 (11:30 am-1 pm)**
- **March 6 (11:30 am-1 pm)**
- **April 3 (12-1:30 pm)**
- **May 15 (12-1:30 pm)**
- **June 5 (12-1:30 pm)**