

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)
November 28, 2018 9:00 am- 11:30 a.m. Niagara Catholic District School Board

Present: Glen Walker (Chair), Lori Kleinsmith, Jeff Sinclair, Ricky Kwan, Jon Braithwaite, Tamara Coleman-Lawrie, Alyssa Zandwyk, Christopher Walsh (NPI Review Team), Megan Waddington, Marc Todd, Greg Shupe, Francesca Vergalrto, Michael Mondloch, Erin Walters, Lianne Wyatt (for Jen Trozzi), Brandon Agnew, Natalie Chaumont, Laura Ciccone, Barb Van Der Heyden, Jennifer De Angelis, Aidan Johnson, Mary Wiley, Pam Swick Janjac.

Regrets: Melenie Neamtz (Vice-Chair), Ashley Chiarello, Deborah Ogilvie, Candice Stewart (YMCA), Tammy Dumas (IN Communities/211)

Item	Discussion
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting minutes for Sept.19, 2018 were approved as written. • The agenda was approved as written
Coordinating Committee Report By Glen Walker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current bank account holds \$5,978.05 • Glen reminded all of the importance to renew membership with NPRN (TOR and Membership form were enclosed with them meeting agenda sent out. Enclosed again here!) The NPRN Membership list will be updated as information received. • A quick reminder as well to review the policy on the Use of the NPRN Logo and the Communication Policy. • Glen reminded members to the importance of each one bringing to the attention of the NPRN Coordinating Committee, any issues that may be coming up in their areas which may require attention from/ comment on/ or input from NPRN to the media. It is important that NPRN stay current and connected and the best way to do this is for everyone to ensure the communication. In order to respond in a prepared manner is to have the information.
Presentation: Living Wage – Lori Kleinsmith Housing Report – Jeff Sinclair	<p>Lori referred to the Living Wage Report and the Calculation of the Cost of Living, encouraging everyone to read the reports. Said “they are an easy read”. Lori asked Pam to enclose the reports with these meeting minutes and reminded they are on the Website as well. www.wipeoutpoverty.ca</p> <p>Lori also shared there will be news soon as to “new Certified Living Wage Employers”. Lori will keep us updated!</p> <p>Lori updated and explained the Wages and Work Task Group is working with the recently elected officials who had signed on the Living Wage pledge. These Councilors have been briefed by Ontario Living Wage and work is moving forward to have Niagara Region and some of the local municipalities become certified as Living Wage Employers.</p> <p>Lori shared the Cost of Living and Living Wage presentation (copy of Power Point will be shared with NPRN Members) and finished with “ongoing steps for NPRN”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need NPRN organizations to consider becoming Living Wage certified • Need widespread support from NPRN organizations to promote the Living Wage Certification opportunity to Niagara region employers – private, public, and not-for-profit • Need to continue education and advocacy on the biggest drivers of the cost of living expenses – in particular, transportation, child care, and housing. • <p>Mary Wiley raised the question of how Ontario Living Wage is funded. Lori said they are “ a network of employers, employees, NGOs, non-profits, researchers, and proponents of decent work standards for all Ontario workers”, with just one staff position and funding is accessed through the Atkinson Foundation’s Decent Work Grant Fund and the Kindred Credit Union. http://www.ontariolivingwage.ca</p>

	<p>Jeff Sinclair, Homelessness Action Plan Advisor, Community Services, Niagara Region.</p> <p>Jeff gave a history and update of the HHAP (Housing + Homelessness Action Plan) and referred to the “Home for All” Task Force. The following are specifically the areas being addressed by working groups:</p> <p>Housing First. Prevention. Housing Affordability Innovation. Service Hubs. No Wrong Door.</p> <p>Recent impact from the NPRN Housing Task Group on the work of the HHAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocated for greater focus on rent supports at the regional level • Identified need for greater clarity on communication about regional programs + program criteria • Both issues are to be addressed in the revised HHAP <p>Possible Engagement Opportunities for NPRN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niagara Regional Homelessness Services is committed to engage with the NPRN Task Group • As an independent community voice NPRN could provide comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -role of affordable housing in addressing local poverty - connection of jobs wages, income to housing demand - Revised HHAP (to be released in 2019) - Niagara Housing Statement (to be released in 2019) - Progress (or lack of progress) toward meeting local affordable housing needs - housing needs of priority populations with which you are familiar (newcomers, seniors, persons with disability etc.) • Advocacy (Municipal, Regional, Provincial, Federal) <p>Jeff will be the voice/link with the Region and will ensure NPRN is kept abreast of any media and issues moving out with regard to Housing and Homelessness.</p>
<p>Everyday Advocacy</p>	<p>Lori and Jeff lead the discussion and took questions/comments about both presentations. Discussion around re-convening the NPRN Housing Task Group and a sign-up sheet was circulated for interested individuals to leave their name and email and a meeting will be convened ASAP.</p> <p>NOTE: If there are any interested individuals who were not at the meeting on Wed. Nov. 28th and you wish you participate with the Housing Task Group, please contact info@wipeoutpoverty.ca</p> <p>An example of the importance of the Task Group was actually experienced during the meeting when Marc Todd referred to the announcement from the Provincial Government with regard to Housing (https://news.ontario.ca/mma/en/2018/11/ontarios-government-for-the-people-helping-create-more-housing.html)</p> <p>There will be a pipeline for communication to ensure NPRN is aware and can respond in a timely manner!</p> <p>NPRN Housing Task Group will meet in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Jeff suggesting NPRN can reach out to St. Catharines staff for their thoughts as they are moving forward with a Housing Action Plan and NPRN could provide some discussion.</p> <p>Discussion around what Niagara can be doing to help people in the immediate, who are currently struggling in Niagara. Brief reference to National Housing Strategy.</p>

Task Group Updates	<p>Affordable & Accessible Childcare – <i>Currently on hiatus. Report going to the Coordinating Committee.</i></p> <p>Anti-Stigma & Marketing – <i>Not at this time. Report going to the Coordinating Committee.</i> <i>For Marketing, Lori reported after the challenge she gave following the September meeting, the Goal of 3000 on Twitter was reached as we are now at 3001!! Currently at 1239 likes on Facebook. IMPORTANT to share with colleagues, family and friends and ask them to like and share!</i></p> <p>Business Engagement- No report. Melenie sends regrets. <i>Next meeting: Thursday, December 6, 2018 2-3:30 @ Niagara Folk Arts, St. Catharines</i></p> <p>Elections Committee – <i>No report. Ashley sends regrets. Elections Task Group as is, will be ceasing. The group is following up with newly elected officials and there will be a government relations Task Group. Will be presented at next Coordinating Committee meeting.</i></p> <p>Health Equity – <i>Meeting was held Tues. Nov. 27th Still waiting on announcements as to whether funding requests for project will be received. Will report to Coordinating Committee meeting</i></p> <p>Housing- <i>As per presentation today and Sign-up sheet being circulated. A meeting will be called asap for reconvening the Housing Task Group.</i></p> <p>Speakers Bureau – <i>There is review and update planned for the Coordinating Committee meeting.</i></p> <p>Wages & Work – <i>As per Presentation today. Next meeting Thursday, January 10, 2019 1-3 p.m.</i></p> <p>Youth Strategy – No report. <i>Deborah sends regrets. Next meeting: Friday, January 11, 2019 1-3 p.m. Niagara Catholic Education Centre</i></p>
Round-table	<p>Glen reaffirms NPRN will keep membership aware of any/all information so we can be collectively having an impact.</p> <p>REMINDER: Lori reminded everyone again how important it is for all members to be sure we invite all colleagues, friends and family to like and share on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/NiagaraPovertyReductionNetwork/ As well, NPRN needs ongoing engagement from members and a reminder to ensure if it is not currently the individual sitting at the Roundtable, perhaps someone else in our agency can bring a needed skill to the table and/or the Task Groups. We welcome this conversation with all who are interested.</p> <p>Lori announced a request from Paul Turner and the STEP Group in Welland, they are looking for interested individuals who'd like to join them as they continue to look at the affordable housing issue in Welland. If you are interested, (if you work or live in Welland), please be in touch with Lori and she will redirect to Paul.</p> <p>Tamara gave information on the Niagara Food Forum to be held Wednesday, January 16th, 2019 8:30 am-3:30 pm. @ the Meridian Community Centre. Tamara reminded this is a day ONLY for those delivering a Food Program and or Food Access.</p>

	<p>Natalie Chaumont announced the NPI (Niagara Prosperity Initiative) Information session will be Monday, February 4th, 2019 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton, Thorold. For further information, contact Natalie Chaumont and/or visit the website.</p> <p>http://niagaraprospertyinitiative.ca/</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Please mark your calendar for the next meeting date. All meetings are 9:00am - 11:30am at the Niagara Catholic District School Board (427 Rice Road, Welland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, January 23, 2019 • Wednesday, March 28, 2019 <p>Transportation assistance is available, contact Natalie.chaumont@unitedwayniagara.org for information.</p>