

West Elgin Early Years Advisory Committee Agenda

February 5, 2024 @ 2:00pm

Location: Dutton Library

Attendance: Shelley S, Cindy D, Vicki A, Brittany A, Kaitlyn S, Sarah W, Courtney K, Huyen L
Regrets-Kellie C

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of the Agenda-approved with an addition of- Parent relief program, Nobody's Perfect, Dental Screening and Parent rep. recruitment.
3. Approval of November 6th, 2023, Meeting Minutes-approved
4. Business Arising from the Minutes-nominations for chair and minute taker will happen at next meeting.
5. New Business – Parent relief program-previously hosted at WECHC a program Parent café but to start it back up again we will need more support for childcare. Vicki will go back to management at Dutton Library to see if we could use space at Library and if Vicki could help with care. Dutton Childcare will ask staff that are doing split shifts if they might be interested in volunteering. Brittany will ask at Southwestern Health if Jody might be interested in partnering or have any ideas. EarlyON have offered their space in Rodney for a program. Cindy from WECHC will investigate volunteers at the centre with possible interest in helping with this program.

Nobody's Perfect- looking into running with partnership between Southwestern Public Health, EarlyON and WECHC in April with 2 nights for 3 weeks. Asking SWPH to see if we can make it less targeted and allow all families to register as the stigma is more challenging in rural area where everyone knows each other making less people want to come out.

Dental Screening -Shelley is in contact about the bus coming 3-4 times to the west a year with afternoon and evening hours. Looking into where they will stop be it Dutton, Rodney, or West Lorne. Hopefully coming soon.

Parent rep. recruitment-Brittany from SWPH will ask around in the community. If we have no takers we will advertise on social media.

6. Committee Reports
 - 6.1 Elgin Children's Network-will meet next week working on networking and agency bridging.
 - 6.2 CAN Community Action Network-will meet next week with focus on Icelandic model of substance prevention and youth needs/gaps.
 - 6.3 Youth Programming-Kaitlyn Stoddart is the new WECHC youth advocate.
 - starting up a youth advisory council with 6 registered
 - current programming:
 - teen cooking boxes in partnership with Optimist Clubs 25 registered and 22 on the waiting list
 - volleyball (12 registered) and sitting volleyball (2 registered) in partnership with Dunwich Dutton municipality once a month
 - Youth book club at Elgin County Library with 6 registered

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Study session drop in @WECHC on Monday's weekly.

-Piloting the test kitchen with Harvest Hands

-Board game club starting in April at Elgin County Libraries

-worker bees with Salus Mutual Dutton food gardens have 7 registered

-ideas working on:- take home art kits, sports, summer Olympics camp days, girls' group, boys' group, and Black Lives Matter group

6.4 East Elgin Subcommittee Report-met in January all is the same, FASPA numbers are low.

6.5 Parenting Subcommittee-will remove from agenda as not meeting anymore.

7. Agency Reports

If you are not able to attend, please feel free to send a report via email to be shared at the meeting.

7.1 Dutton Childcare-St. Mary's Childcare in West Lorne is now open with the Family age grouping of 15 spots (open house and grand opening soon), school age is going well also.

-Aldborough School Day Care in Rodney has now been open for a year

-summer camps are open for members only

7.2 Dutton/West Lorne/Rodney Libraries-winter reading challenge has started.

-March break Let's dig into March has daily activities and Bob the Fossil guy will be visiting all the branches

-employment services are now hosted at the libraries

-lots of programs going on written in the winter programming guide-included are Zumbini, Grow with Baby, Kids corner, baby time, after school antics, take and make, adult book club, scrabble club, creative play, knitting and crocheting circle, computer coaching, family crafting, books, and baking, after the bell kids club, Thursday things

7.3 WECHC-child and youth therapist has been hired and starting end of February.

-teaching kitchen renos are happening so cooking programs are on hold except night Kitchen Kids and teen cooking box

-Zumbini happening with ages 0-3 years in the communities

-Dancepl3y for 3-5-year-olds is underway for 6 weeks on Thursday nights

-Parent and Baby gathering is once per month

-Prenatal starts in April

-Grow with Baby in Rodney, Dutton, and Glencoe

7.4 EarlyON -10 programs per week including Wallacetown, Dutton, Rodney, and West Lorne both indoor and outdoor.

-Little Chefs on Thursday night at EarlyON in Rodney

-Thursday evenings EarlyON is open late and 1 Saturday a month

-looking into using Scout Hall for new location

-community safe sign was just added before you get to the Aldborough Public School and now will need to work on getting a sidewalk to APS possibly looking into Active and Safe routes to School

-EarlyON Children's Festival dates June 19, July 17, and August 21 (West)

7.5 Southwestern Public Health Unit-Brittany A is the school nurse in this area.

-using the EOI data to assess priority schools currently at APS, St. Mary's, WESS not at DDPS

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-will come into school to do Healthy Relationships plus, substance abuse programs and cooking programs.

- 7.6 Thames Valley District School Board -APS, DDPS-not in attendance
- 7.7 London District Catholic School Board -St Mary's-not in attendance
- 7.8 YWCA-upcoming programs Home alone stay safe at Dutton Library and will offer Kids creative cuisine, babysitting course.
- 7.9 Tyke Talk/TVCC-not in attendance
- 7.10 F&CS-not in attendance
- 7.11 Parks and Recreation-West Lorne/Rodney-not in attendance
- 7.12 Dutton Parks and Recreation -not in attendance
- 7.13 St. Thomas Elgin Social Services-2023 surveys regarding childcare have been completed and consultations happened in St. Thomas, Aylmer, and Dutton with poor turnout.
 - January agency partners had consultation
 - next will work on direct services to help encourage more ECE's to join the field and stay in the field
 - also working on the voice of the child-toddler classroom and before and after school program which will lead to looking at Children's Charter for St. Thomas Elgin
- 7.14 Elgin Home Childcare -has 26 homes with 1 starting this week but still none in the West.
- 7.15 Tiny Tots-started a 2025/2026 waitlist
 - currently full and some of the names on the waiting list have come off
 - transition train typically happens in the months of May/June and Shelley will be sending out letters to the schools soon

Next meeting date: Monday May 6th

Time: 2:00

Location: West Elgin Community Health Centre-153 Main Street, West Lorne

Reminder: Shelley can email out to the group any programming and or events you would like shared to WEEYAC. Please send to ttcns78@gmail.com for distribution.