

AGENDA

SUBJECT:	Early Years Data Group
MEETING DATE:	September 23, 2020
MEETING TIME:	12:30 – 2:00
LOCATION:	Teams virtual meeting
CHAIR:	Irena Pozgaj-Jones, County of Simcoe
ATTENDANCE: (to be confirmed)	Christine Vanderbyl, Early ON Kholah Nisar, COS Graziano Vavala, SMCD SB Marsha Walker, SCDSB Stephanie Wolfe, SMDHU Sandy Clee, SCDSB Chris Samis, SCDSB Lesley Watts, Catulpa Kathy Manners, Coalition Nathalie Pelletier, La Clé
REGRETS:	Lora D’Ambrosio, COS; Leah Nicholson, SCDSB, Lisa Newton, SCDSB, Tanya Bedard, SMCD SB; Christine Hyde, SMCD SB

1. Introductions

2. Review agenda

3. Review notes from January meeting

- Lesley will connect the Pathway project team with Irena
- Irena will send out the Canadian Index of Wellbeing for Child and Youth slides from the presentation to Coalition.



UNICEF_Cdn Index
of Child Youth Welll

4. EDI Update - Kholah

- Has created a slide deck, which was presented at the last Best Start Network.
- Has also been uploaded to the county’s webpage:
www.Simcoe.ca/early-development-instrument
- Inclusion criteria for children has been updated; students need to be in the classroom for at least one month.
- Received C1-C3 data which now includes the new criteria.

5. Coalition Dashboard update – Kathy

- Will be housed on the Coalition website
- Have identified 3 goals: Basic needs are met, wellness is strong, supports are accessible.
- 4 domains: Health, Education, Safety, Community
- Getting some insights from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, who has a great community dashboard.
- Narrowing down to a couple of indicators for each domain.
- Have spoken with a number of Coalition working groups.
- Feedback included:
 - Would like to capture wait times
 - Education – include drop out rates
 - Housing numbers - SCATEH
 - Poverty reduction – suggestion to capture basic income
 - Mental Health and wellbeing –
 - Could also include a section by age, i.e., to focus by age group.
- Suggestion for Dashboard: have a list of all the resources/references on one page in addition to each indicator template
- Will keep the group posted with updates

6. Review Indicators Reference Handout - Kholah

- Kholah reviewed the handout.

7. Open discussion

- Does the group want to create an index together? Yes as community index support all levels to understand that development is complex – it is not only the education system that affects it
- Data between Early ON virtual programming and EDI domains – are the Early ONs supporting the development when they're being supported virtually.
- Is there another indicator that we should include as a possible candidate around mental health and wellbeing? i.e., suicide prevention, isolation,
- In the public school board surveys, the lack of connectivity between educators to student was one of the highest indicators.
- Current survey from the Centre of Excellence and Sick Kids – will have interesting data, once it's released.
- HU has some data from the Canadian Community Health Survey for Simcoe-Muskoka on general indicators of wellness. If years are combined together, can get to smaller areas of geography.
- The HU is also participating in a COVID specific study, target sample is 18+ adults, includes a component of the wellness of children in the house. Results should be available by January. The CCHS could serve as a baseline.

- Access to technology for parents with kids in the early years – challenge is that can't survey relevant the people because they don't have the technology. This creates an inequity.
- Also related is the flip side of setting limits on screen time, and understanding the impact of technology on development.
- The group discussed the original intent of the project scope, and that the COVID impact and technology are separate, thought relevant, variables. The group decided to keep the original scope for the Community Index, but include relevant information about COVID.
- How is the community index going to be used? Who is the audience, what are the uses, what would be the level of geographies,.
- Understanding the larger picture in communities, not just school catchment area. High-risk, socio-economic factors
- Evaluating the Early ON centres – are they affective? Making a difference in the early year's development. Are early year's experiences making a difference. This may be challenging to measure with a community index.
- The scope is to identify vulnerable communities, to help identify the areas for potential programming.
- **ACTION:** Draft a list of potential variables that might be useful for the group's needs. → Kholah, Steph, and Irena
- Key indicator should be around family income.
- An option is to keep the EDI variables separate from the census variables. Will confirm this as we move through finalizing the variables.
- Question was asked if the previous Community Indexes included Francophone and Indigenous? No, as the original purpose for the analysis did not include these population group, since Best Start and Early ON planning and analysis was happening separately for both community group. Moving forward, we will be sure to include data for these population groups.
- **ACTION:** Irena will review previous meeting minutes to data mine a list of reasons of how the updated community index (Early Years Index) could potentially be used.

8. Next meeting

- October 28 @ 1:30 – 3:00