

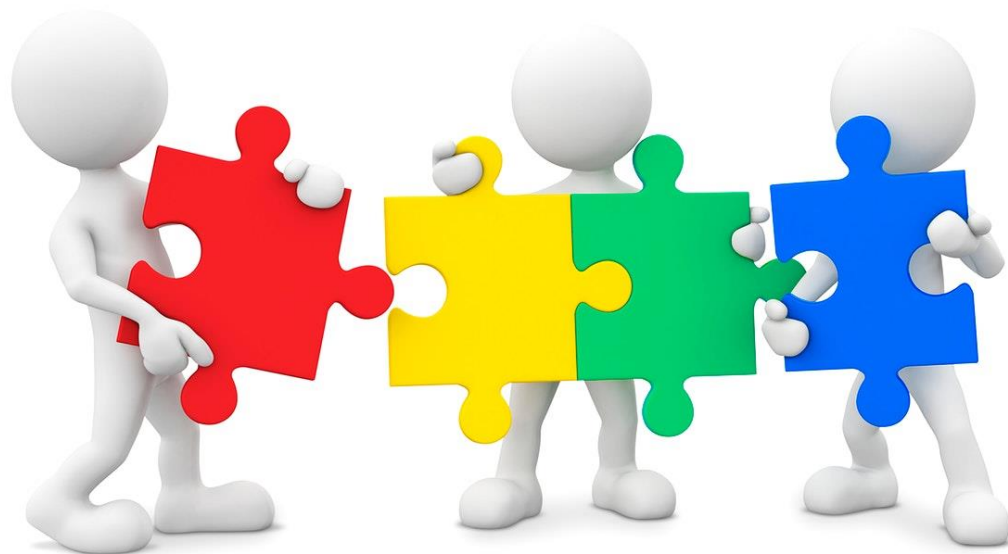


APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING INFANT AND EARLY YEARS MENTAL HEALTH

Hamilton's Infant and Early
Years Mental Health System
Support Committee

CONTEXT

- ▶ A community collaborative formed in 2016
- ▶ Co-ordinated and integrated cross-sector planning approach
- ▶ Evidence-based planning
- ▶ Membership is comprised of representatives from organizations with a systems perspective and decision-making capabilities



MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ **Affiliated Services For Children And Youth (ASCY)**
- ▶ **Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton**
- ▶ **Centre de Santé**
- ▶ **City of Hamilton, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Division**
- ▶ **City of Hamilton, Public Health Services**
- ▶ **Contact Hamilton**
- ▶ **Early Words Preschool Speech and Language Program, Central-south Infant Hearing and Blind-Low Vision Programs**



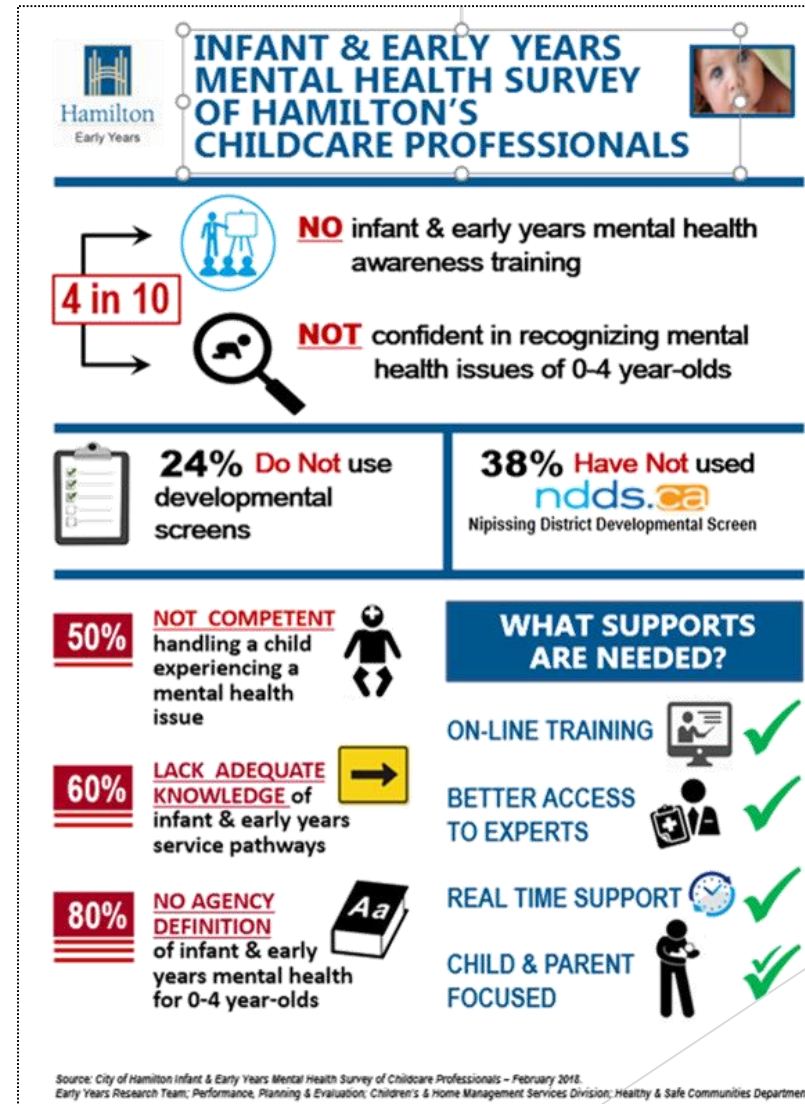
MEMBERSHIP (CONTINUED)

- ▶ Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- ▶ Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Child Care Centres (EarlyON)
- ▶ Lynwood Charlton Centre
- ▶ Mohawk College
- ▶ McMaster Children's Hospital
- ▶ Offord Centre for Child Studies
- ▶ Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg
- ▶ Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre
- ▶ Wesley (Newcomer and Children, Youth & Family Services)



BACKGROUND

- ▶ Hamilton EDI data indicated high vulnerability of young children in the area of emotional maturity
- ▶ In 2017, there was a city-wide survey of early learning and child care professionals to develop an understanding of their infant early years mental health knowledge and practice

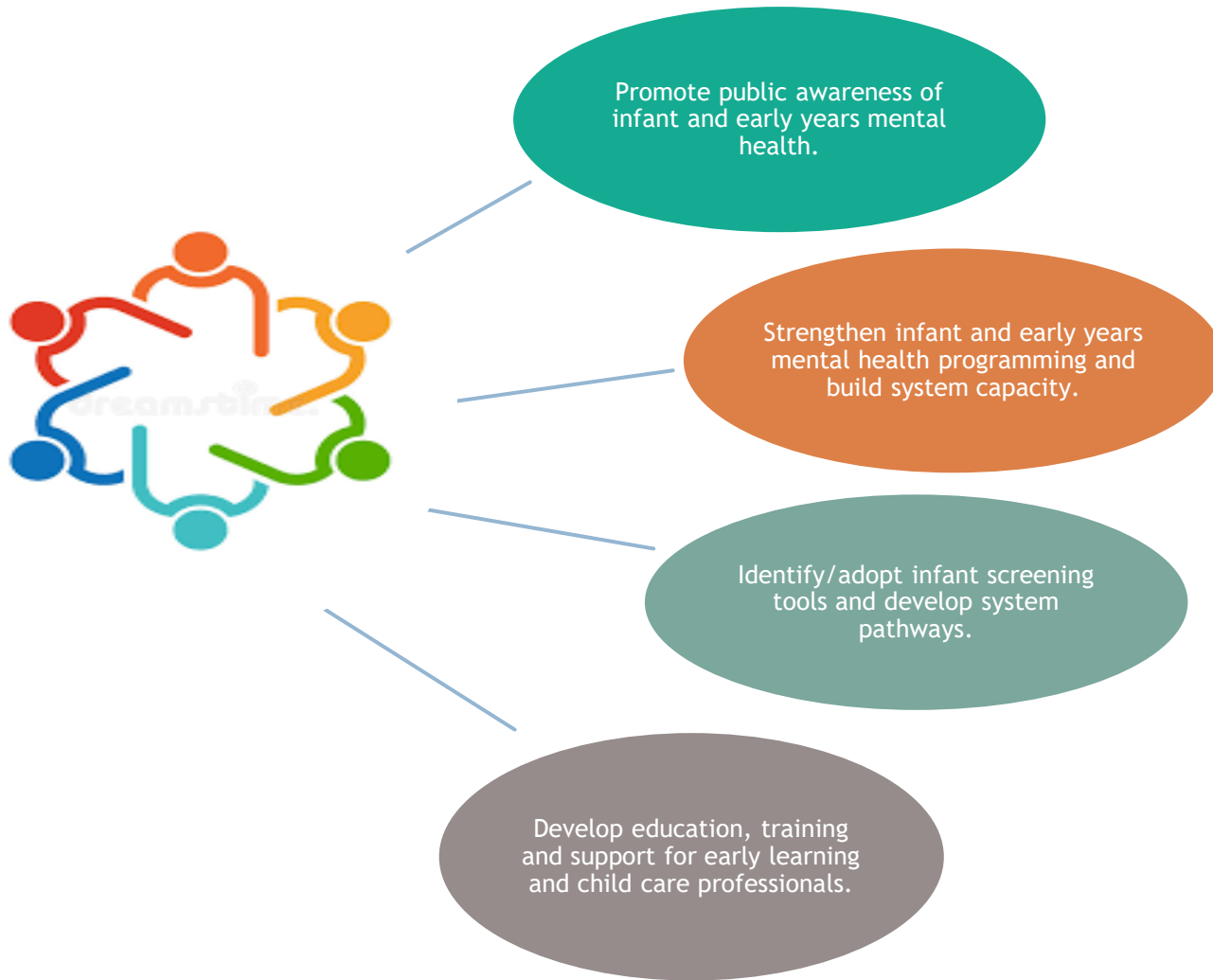


PROCESS



- ▶ Infant Mental Health Promotion conducted a 2-day planning session
- ▶ Strengths, gaps and opportunities were identified
- ▶ This led to the development of strategic priorities with short and long term goals

PURPOSE



- ▶ To facilitate an evidence-based, integrated and coordinated approach to cross-sector planning for infant and early years mental health services in the City of Hamilton

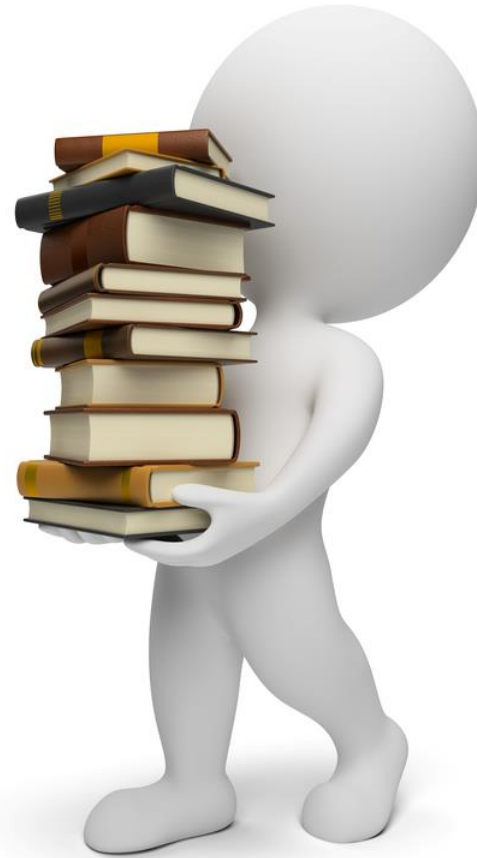
Progress Report 2018-2019



- ▶ Membership of the Committee was reviewed and expanded to ensure representation from all relevant community stakeholders
- ▶ Completed Infant and Early Years Community Report for the City of Hamilton in consultation with Infant Mental Health Promotion, Sick Kids
- ▶ Collaborated with Mohawk College to enhance the infant and early years mental health curriculum for Registered Early Childhood Educators
- ▶ Increased awareness of Infant and Early Years Mental Health within the early learning and childcare sector
- ▶ Community Collective Impact Commitment signed by partners

WHY INCLUDE RESEARCHERS ON THE COMMITTEE?

- ▶ Community-research collaborations are becoming increasingly common; they are often formed to address community health improvement and knowledge production



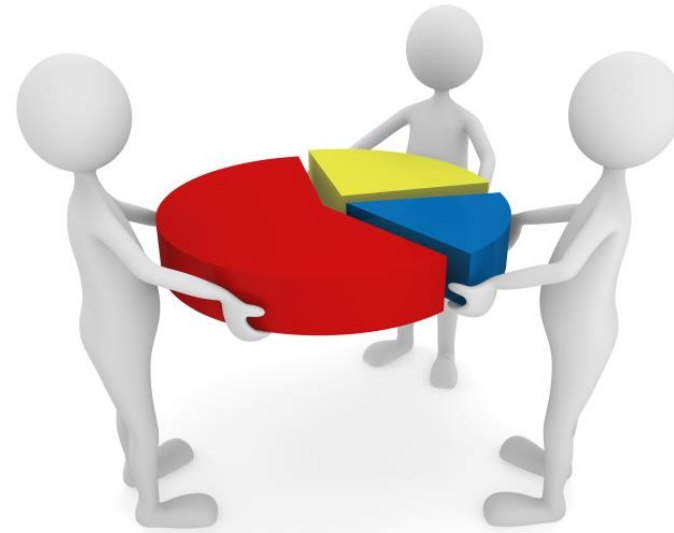
CONTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ Community leaders provide relevant knowledge, context and insight into agencies, populations, and communities
- ▶ Researchers provide expertise on scientific rigor and conduct of research
- ▶ Both groups have access to people with specific skill sets that may be beneficial
- ▶ Both groups have awareness of complementary (or overlapping) collaborations or projects in their agencies/institutions
- ▶ Both groups may have access to funding



BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY-RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- ▶ Increased relevance and feasibility of knowledge production and research
- ▶ Improved communication, cooperation, and trust between community leaders and researchers
- ▶ Increased ability to work with marginalized or 'hard-to-reach' populations
- ▶ Enhanced capacity to implement and sustain programs or interventions
- ▶ Pooling of scarce resources (knowledge, skills, funding)



FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY-RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- ▶ Trust and respect amongst partners
- ▶ Shared vision and goals
- ▶ Effective communication
- ▶ Well-structured meetings
- ▶ Reasonable time commitment
- ▶ Consistent partnership and equal contribution by partners



Early Childhood Education Diploma Program Pathways



- ▶ Early Childhood Education Diploma
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Diploma (Fast Track)
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Diploma (Intensive)
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Diploma (Continuing Education – Part Time Delivery)
- ▶ Child Development Practitioner Apprenticeship Program
- ▶ Child Development Practitioner Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
- ▶ Honours Human Behaviour with ECE Specialization (McMaster University & Mohawk College)
- ▶ **approximately 700 Students Per Year*

In 2017, the IEYMH Committee conducted a city-wide survey of early learning and child care professionals to better understand their infant & early years mental health knowledge and practice. One gap that was identified:

Gaps in infant and early years mental health training and/or support for early years operators, providers, supervisors and educators

▶ Short term goal:

Provide relevant education, training and supports for caregivers working with infants and children with mental health concerns

▶ Medium-Long term goal:

*Develop a comprehensive training and education strategy for the Hamilton Infant and Early Years Mental Health system**

COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE IMPACT COMMITMENT

Infant and Early Years Mental Health System Support Committee



- ▶ *Inform and/or update the Committee on their own projects, initiative and/or activities that align with Committee strategic priorities and objectives*

Link to Curriculum

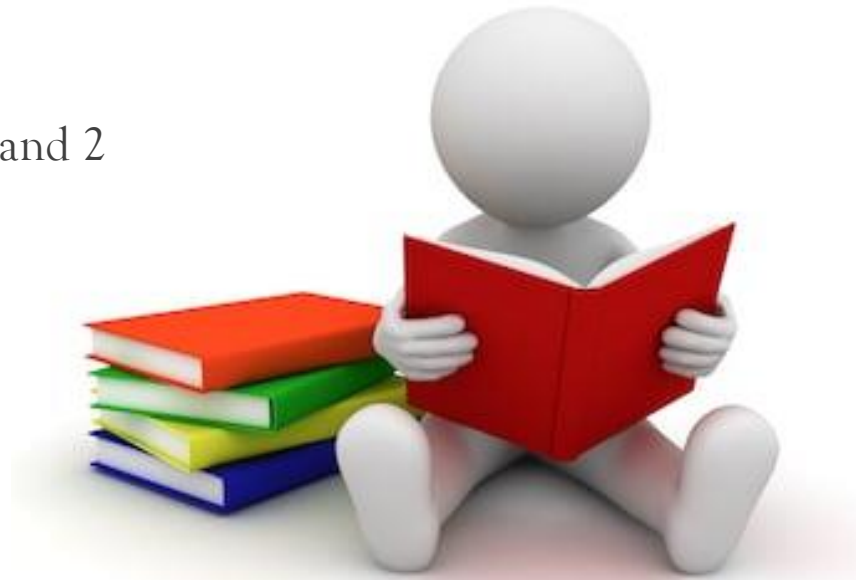
▶ Learning Outcome:

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

Create learning contexts to enable, build and maintain caring, responsive relationships in partnerships with children*, families* and communities that value and respect social, cultural and linguistic diversity* including Indigenous* peoples' worldviews and Francophone identity.*

▶ Courses:

- ▶ Child Development and Behaviour 1 and 2
- ▶ Inclusion in the ECE Classroom
- ▶ Family Dynamics
- ▶ Health, Safety and Nutrition
- ▶ Issues in ECE



Additionally...

- ▶ Students took part in our 2nd annual *Infant and Early Years Mental Health Institute* “*The Conversation Continues*”
- ▶ All students complete the online **Introduction to Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health** with presenter Chaya Kulkarni through Infant Mental Health Promotion, The Hospital for Sick Children, and perceive Professional Development points to add to their e-portfolio required for graduation.
- ▶ Offer a post grad certificate in *Infant and Children’s Mental Health*



Thank you



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