

Liaison Coordinator Report –February 2018

Submitted by Elizabeth Smith

Food Insecurity Workgroup - Mary Ellen Prange

- ODPH FIWG has partnered with the alpha/OPHA Health Equity Workgroup to submit a Call for Participation (abstract) to the North American Basic Income Congress which is taking place in Hamilton on May 24-27. Jane Shrestha will be representing ODPH. See attached.

Food Systems Workgroup – Bridget King

- Nothing to report

School Nutrition Workgroup

- Planning face to face meeting with interested members March 6 2018 to develop plan to update 2004 Call to Action/Key Messages. Meeting will be held at York Region offices.
- Work group co-chair Nancy Bevilacqua attended MEdu Healthy Schools working table meeting earlier this month (face to face meeting) and was able to provide input into PPM150 Policy Review planning:

Proposed Areas of P/PM 150 for Policy Review

1. Healthy food and beverage choices in schools need to be *informed, supported, usual and constant*—the healthiest choice is the easier choice to make when it is presented as the standard. A whole school approach, one that promotes and supports a healthy eating culture is ideal.

2. A shift from “compliance” to “commitment” is needed—a renewed focus on the school environment and well-being supports a shift to commitment to provide the healthiest options for children and students. Monitoring and compliance needs to be improved, while recognizing challenges, particularly when third-party vendors are involved and this role falls to the principal in many cases.

3. The nutrition standards need to be simplified—The nutrition standards are complicated and far too technical in nature.

4. A consistent way to assess mixed dishes—address loop holes, for pizza, for example. Notably, “compliant pizza lunches” (typically run by parent volunteers as a weekly fundraiser) and the “number of slices allowed” is one of the most frequent issues raised in correspondence received.

5. The nutrition standards need to be updated—some products that have been developed/gained popularity since the nutrition standards were developed need clarity (i.e., vitamin water, seaweed packs, avocado which does not fit in the “sell most” category).

6. Alignment between different “food in school” guidelines—i.e., MCYS Student Nutrition Program guidelines, MTCS After-school Programs, EDU Before-and-After School Programs guidelines. Stakeholders have indicated that it is confusing for children and students and their families that “healthy food” is defined differently depending on what context you are in.

7. The nutrition standards need to be culturally, economically and regionally comprehensive.

8. Healthy minds and bodies are important to students—through EDU’s well-being consultations, feedback included reference to the positive role that healthy eating at schools can play in supporting well-being.

9.Regular reflection -provide opportunities for discussions with stakeholders related to commitment and healthy choices that are supported, supported, usual and constant.

Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition - Danielle Labonte

- Nothing to report

Dietitians of Canada – Jennifer Buccino
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- Nothing to report (Jennifer is away to March 2)

alPHa Board of Directors - Tracy Allen-Koester

- Nothing to report (away to March 2)