



## **Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region**

### **Terms of Reference**

Date first approved: September 12, 2012

Last date reviewed and approved: June 15, 2021

#### **Strategic Direction**

The Alliance is strong, intentional, connected sustainable, and active in all parts of Waterloo Region.

#### **Background**

The exploration of a comprehensive approach to positive parenting in Waterloo Region was initiated by a recommendation from the *One Stop Planning of Services for Young Children and their Families through Multi-use Community Sites* (One Stop) research project conducted by Region of Waterloo Public Health. The One Stop project examined the co-location of services for families of children 0 to 6 years. Parents suggested that they would like to see more coordination between organizations that work with families, and service providers suggested that exploring a comprehensive approach may help to achieve this goal.

This recommendation led to the planning of a community-wide forum to discuss the interest and possibility of working together on a comprehensive approach to positive parenting in Waterloo Region. This forum took place on December 1, 2010. Following from the forum, participant feedback indicated the need to form a Positive Parenting Community Committee to discuss next steps to the forum and to plan a second forum to continue the dialogue. The age range for the second forum changed to prenatal to 18 years due to the requirements in the Ontario Public Health Standards governing the work on Region of Waterloo Public Health as well as feedback from the community at the first forum indicating the need to expand the age range to include youth-serving organizations in conversations about positive parenting. The Positive Parenting Community Committee (PPCC) began meeting in the spring of 2011.

Awarded the 2019/2020 Lyle S Hallman Lynda Silvester Award, this grant facilitated the restructuring of the PPCC organization to include a steering committee and targeted working groups, as well as effective communication strategies to support organizations who work with parents throughout the Waterloo region. As an outcome of this process, the PPCC membership expanded and the name changed to the Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region (PAWR).

#### **Our statement around Parenting**

The Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region emphasizes the importance of the relationship between parents\* and children that respects everyone as learners and fosters healthy development. \*biological, adoptive, kinship, foster and legal guardians

## **Vision**

Parenting is valued and is understood as essential to raising healthy, happy children and youth.

## **Mission**

The Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region links parenting knowledge and best practices with community partners who serve parents and caring adults.

## **We believe**

- Parenting matters.
- Parents are motivated to be the best they can be.
- Support makes a difference; we are all in this together.

## **What we do:**

The Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region exists to:

- Promote the importance of parenting.
- Engage community partners in discussions and planning activities for the development of a comprehensive approach to parenting in Waterloo Region.
- Implement/coordinate activities for the planning of a comprehensive approach to parenting in Waterloo Region.

## **How we do it:**

Knowledge: Identify best practices for parenting and curate models, tools, and resources for community agencies

Communication: Establish a clear understanding of parenting while integrating awareness of stigma and judgment

Capacity: Leverage strengths and capacities of community partners, members, and parents to better support parents and our community

Sustainability: Work to support the goals of the collaborative through in-kind and grant contributions

## **Membership**

Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region membership is open to all interested community members who support the Vision that “parenting is valued and is understood as essential to raising healthy, happy children and youth”.

Membership on the Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region will consist of parenting advocates and representatives from organizations in Waterloo Region who work with and advocate for parents, children and youth during the ages prenatal up to school exit (See *Appendix A* for current membership list).

Those who opt to join in self-determine their level of involvement (from active involvement [e.g., participating on a Working Group] to awareness [eg staying informed via [www.parentingalliance.ca](http://www.parentingalliance.ca)]). Level of involvement may ebb and flow with the evolution of the work.

## **Member Roles and Responsibilities**

Members of the Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region will:

- Gather relevant positive parenting information as necessary from their sector/other committees
- Report back relevant positive parenting information to their sector/other committees (See *Appendix B* for list of sectors)
- Be willing to speak to community groups/organizations about parenting
- Contribute to the work of the committee by;
  - Actively engaging in the development of the work plan including providing expertise and guidance related to the work plan
  - Participating on relevant work groups, including providing working group updates to the Parenting Alliance as needed
  - Adding resources relevant to parenting to the website: [www.parentingalliance.ca](http://www.parentingalliance.ca)
  - Commit to regularly attend and participate at meetings, engage in a working group and complete action items as relevant.
  - Review minutes, documents, and communications from meetings.
  - Inform the Children and Youth Planning Table of the work of PAWR

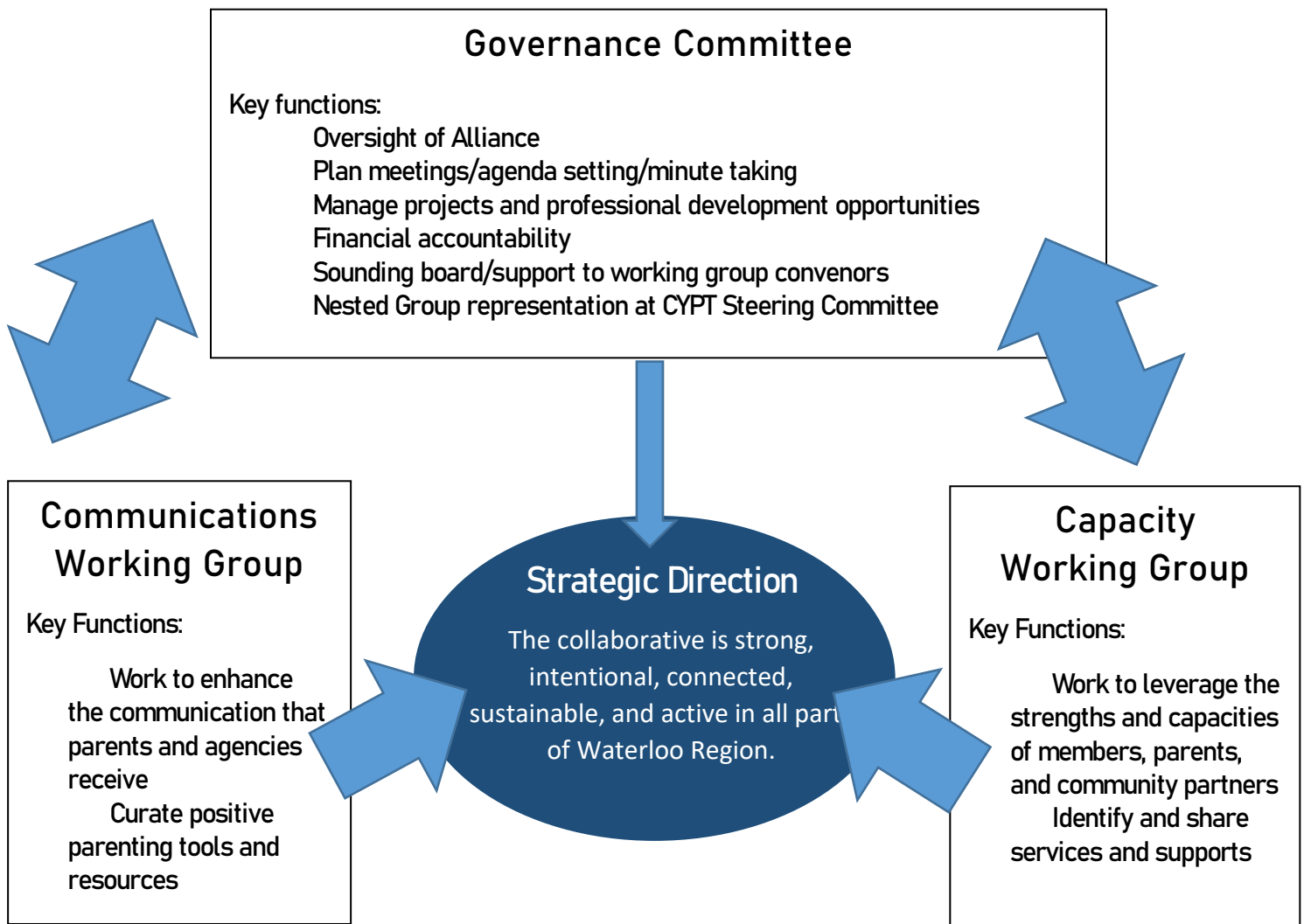
## **Input and Reporting Responsibility**

- Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region (PAWR):
  - Includes representatives of PAWR organizations
  - When held in person, meeting locations are rotated to facilitate access across Waterloo Region
  - Meets bi-monthly (six times per year)
- Governance Committee:
  - Accountable to members of the PAWR;
    - Ideally, one Governance Committee member convenes the Coalition.
    - Commitment: two-year term with one year as past convenor
  - Provides strategic direction for the work of the PAWR
  - Annually reviews Terms of Reference
  - Includes representation from working groups
  - Onboards potential PAWR members
  - Meets monthly (twelve times per year)
- Communications Working group
  - Accountable to the Governance Committee
    - Ideally, one Communications working group member convenes the working group; guides discussion takes notes and reports to Governance Committee
  - Provides input into communications activities as outlined in strategic direction
  - Meetings are embedded into PAWR bi-monthly meetings (six times per year)
- Capacity Building Working group
  - Accountable to the Governance Committee
    - Ideally, one Capacity Building working group member convenes the working group; guides discussion takes notes and reports to Governance Committee

- Provides input into capacity building activities as outlined in strategic direction
- Meetings are embedded into PAWR bi-monthly meetings (six times per year)

The Parenting Alliance of Waterloo Region is a Nested Group with the Children and Youth Planning Table (CYPT); and represented on the CYPT steering committee. Regular updates regarding the activities of the Parenting Alliance are provided to members of the CYPT.

### Alliance Structure



**Decision Making/Recommendations**

Decisions are made and recommendations generated through consensus whenever possible. When this is not possible, a majority vote will be taken. Members are expected to support decisions made by consensus or through voting.