

# Children's Services Planning Mtg. Oct 6, 2008

Hastings/Prince Edward

# Speaking notes:

- Children's Services Planning Committees throughout the South East Region have developed to fulfill a number of objectives. There have always been working groups/committees dedicated to children's services and over time the number of groups grew significantly and sometimes worked quite separately from one another. Many of the same staff were sitting at numerous working tables. We were all interested in...
  - developing a more streamlined process to achieve a number of children's services planning goals,
  - increasing opportunity to deliver service in collaborative ways, and
  - minimizing meeting fatigue in the process

- In the initial year the Regional office invested in a Coordination function that sought to bring individual groups together within our local planning areas in support of integrated service delivery across communities/zones. We were also interested in the opportunity to take advantage of resource that was available through the Best Start and Child Welfare's Community Capacity Building Initiatives.
- There was recognition that many children's services were/are funded within varied program sectors, health/education/youth justice for example and each planning table worked to be inclusive of the varied children's service providers. Local planning communities responded successfully and today we have 4 Children's Services Planning bodies throughout the South East that include representation from education, health, developmental services, early years programs, and other children's service sectors.
  - Hastings and Prince Edward
  - Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
  - Lanark
  - Leeds & Grenville

- The Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the South East Regional Office maintain a strong commitment to the Children's Planning Committee process and working with local and regional community stakeholders to identify needs, build capacity and provide services to children and youth and families. However, it is recognized that the funding challenges we have faced with respect to Community Capacity Building/Planning Dollars funding appear contrary to this commitment. None-the-less we continue to move forward...

## Next Steps:

- I believe that we need to build upon collaborative work particularly relevant to other government funded service sectors and perhaps the private sector as well.
- We need to develop processes that will ensure engagement of consumers/children/families such that their voices are heard relevant to future children's services planning
- We also need to continue to build upon the work of Children's Services Planning committees relevant to their role relevant to existing and potential funding sources - MCYS and LHIN's for example -(i.e. Lanark Children's Planning has developed connections through participating members with the Champlain LHIN and have been identified as communities of practice with opportunity for some influence when LHIN priorities are identified)

- **On the horizon I see...**
- A significant demand for children's services and supports that often exceed available resource
- Increased expectations relevant the use of evidence based data and information to identify service and support needs and to evaluate outcomes - *(Certainly this committee's recent engagement of CHEO's Center of Excellence relevant to evaluating the work and structure of the Children's Services Network will help to support these increased expectations).*
- A general economic environment that is unlikely to result in significant resource enhancements
  
- **The Challenge** - will be to identify how we can make the very best use of our combined resources making them available to children and families in our communities.
- Shared planning and responsibility will be key as our ability to work well together will be a critical component of the solutions that we find to the challenges that we are faced with.