

# *Every Kid in Our Communities .....*



## **Leeds Grenville Best Start Window of Focus Best Start Work plan 2010**

### **Introduction**

At a strategic planning meeting in September 2009 Leeds-Grenville Best Start Network Members identified evaluation of projects/programs and collaboration; engagement of school boards; responding to the Pascal Report and providing joint professional development activities for service providers as key areas of focus for the network. With the announcement of full day early learning network activities have focused on providing communication and clarification of legislation changes to our partners; consulting with school boards, child care, MCYS/MinEDU, and community regarding the selection of sites for ELP; participating in regional planning group meetings and providing feedback regarding implications of implementation for our communities.

### **Current Status of Work plan Strategies/ Activities**

- 1) Service Integration** – In order to reflect the notion of hubs as a way of working together to support children and families it was decided to change the name of the Hub Implementation Committee to Service Integration Committee. The committee continues to identify strategies for collaborative efforts to support the development of children ages 0 to 6 and to support the development of a common language and set of skills for service providers. These are summarized in work plan below. The committee has spent extensive time identifying and sharing the literature around developmental screening clinics, supporting and expanding Lunch and Learn sessions in three communities and identifying other opportunities for shared professional development. A key component has also been building awareness of services offered by other agencies. Lunch and Learn sessions are held quarterly with attendance averaging 12 to 15 community partners.  
Service integration and support for parents has also been enhanced through the Transitions to School protocol which was developed by agencies serving students with special needs and the school boards. The “Read to Every Kid” Project engaged schools, libraries, and community agencies in supporting families in reading to their children. Over 1100 families voted for their favorite book.
- 2) Implementation of Early Learning Program** – The Best Start Network worked with the CMSM to inform the decision of school boards around choosing full day early learning sites for Year 1 by providing relevant data and community feedback. The coordinator and co-chairs continue to participate in regularly scheduled ELP implementation meetings of the boards, CMSMs, and representatives of MCYS and Ministry of Education where there is an opportunity to have questions answered and provide feedback related to implementation. The BSN has developed a poster for parents and community members which outlines school options available for children entering school in September in Leeds-Grenville. A media statement was released supporting the government’s decision to implement ELP. With the support of MCYS funding Leeds-Grenville co-hosted with Lanark BSN a miniconference for stakeholders with presenters Charles Pascal, Jim Grievie, a representative from special needs programs and a representative from an ELP pilot site. Over 200 community partners attended the event; a DVD was produced which allows for broader participation in the event. The BSN continues to communicate relevant legislation to community partners and provides a forum for sending questions/concerns back to school board and ministry officials.  
Unique to our school district has been the decision to offer Ready 2/fo Learn programs in schools across both boards. These programs offer a teacher –lead Kindergarten program one day, and an ECE lead program (contracted from a provider) on the alternate. The BSN with CMSM has provided feedback to the boards on the possible impact to childcare and families in communities.

The BSN planner continues to dialogue with both school boards and child care to identify areas for common professional development (e.g. ELECT training). There is ongoing PD around use of the Red Flags Guide as a means of promoting consistent school readiness information to community partners. The Seamless Day Committee has disbanded with the identification of ELP sites, but the Tips Sheet which provides strategies for developing partnerships between childcare and schools will continue to be promoted with both sectors. It has been posted on the UCDSB portal and reminders have been presented regularly at service provider meetings. The DAC will survey ELP sites and childcares to determine use of the resource (late spring). A tri county special needs reference group which reports to Best Start Networks has been formed to determine issues and support school boards in terms of integrating students with special needs into full day programs, including Ready2to Learn. The committee has had three meetings to date and has prepared draft recommendations for consideration by the boards. Representatives from both English boards will attend meetings of the committee.

**3) Support for Development of Children from Birth to Age 6**

- ✓ **18 Month Strategy --** Leeds-Grenville BSN in partnership with Lanark BSN hosted a mini conference with Dr. Jean Clinton on the 18 month strategy/well baby visit. Over 110 community partners attended the event (including 6 doctors) 70 participants completed the feedback sheet with 69 indicating an interest in moving forward with a coordinated 18 month strategy in our communities. Cathy Millard from the Health Unit has agreed to take the lead with this project and a small workgroup has been formed to review provincial best practices and develop a plan for implementation.
- ✓ **Developmental Screening Clinics** (described under Service Integration section)
- ✓ **Use of Universal Screening Tool –** The Nipissing Developmental Screening is currently mailed to all 18 month and 3 year olds by the Health Unit. The tool will be used at screening clinics and is used by a number of community partners. At the present time there is no process for coordinating and recording the use of NDDS.

**4) Sharing of Data to Inform Planning and Programming**

- ✓ EDI data has been shared with school boards to inform ELP decisions, BSN, and Lead Table members. A focus group reviewed a planning tool which can be used at the community level to support planning and programming. 15 partners had the opportunity to participate in an OECD webinar which presented current research on using EDI data for planning. This tool will be shared with the broader planning tables and frontline staff. A workgroup of Lanark, Leeds-Grenville DACs and planners will draft a community EDI strategy for approval by BSN and Lead Table.

**5) Support for Parents/Parent Engagement**

- ✓ In addition to the initiatives outlined above the Triple P workgroup has identified support for parents of children entering ELP classes as a priority for the upcoming year. Childcare will also be approached to participate in TripleP training. The OEYCs have engaged in a focused effort to promote TripleP to families. A universal media strategy involving print and radio is ongoing.

**Strategies for Moving Forward**

The strategies described in the attached work plan for 2010 integrate collaborative approaches to increase support for families/parent engagement, data-driven community planning, developmental screening and education, implementation of ELP, and joint professional development opportunities. Each strategy includes an evaluation component. In addition Every Kid in our Communities will work with the Centre of Excellence to develop evaluation tools to assist with evaluation of projects and our collaborative efforts. The Service Integration Index will be used regularly as a tool for measuring our progress. Support for the implementation of Pascal's Report as it relates to Parent Resource Centres will be a key focus with strategies developed as we receive more information about the government's plans. Support for the childcare centres as they adapt to ELP will be ongoing. Our French language partners have been absent from the BSN over the past several months... a focused effort to engage a representative will be a priority.

| Strategies   | Activities   | Responsibility  | Timelines               | Evaluation  |
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| To Develop and Begin implementation of the 18 Month Strategy/enhanced well | a) Form a tri-county workgroup to review current best practices and begin an implementation plan.<br>Expand membership of workgroup as | Health Unit to take Lead with support of Lanark and Leeds-Grenville Best Start chairs/planners<br>An 18 Month Strategy Committee will | a) March/10 and ongoing | Use of service integration index to determine progress along Integration Network and Parent experience components |

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| <p>plans are finalized. Communicate with pilot sites through the provincial portal</p> <p>Consult KFLA 18 Month workgroup, pending possible guidelines from MCYS in Fall 2010</p> <p>b) Distribute Early Years Pathways Chart to BSN for review</p> <p>c) Community agency members use pathways chart in their work with parents</p> <p>c) Conduct needs assessment re: current use of Nipissing and Rourke</p> <p>d) Present implementation plan to BSN for approval</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for distribution of NDDS and Rourke</li> <li>• Strategies for engaging and supporting various sectors in implementation of 18 month strategy including physicians and nurse practitioners</li> <li>• Strategies to engage parents</li> </ul> <p>e) Begin to implement strategies included in plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy</li> <li>• Engagement of agencies, families, physicians</li> <li>• Promotion of screening tools</li> </ul> | <p>flow from the work of this group</p> <p>Best Start Planners will communicate with KFLA planner re: strategies</p> <p>b) Healthy Babies through planner</p> <p>c) 18 Month Strategy Committee</p> <p>d) 18 Month Strategy Committee</p> <p>e) 18 month cttee. to take lead with participation of BSN and other community partners</p> | <p>b) May/10</p> <p>d) November 2010</p> <p>e) Fall/Winter 2010/11</p> | <p>b) Level of use of Pathways Chart by agencies in work with families (survey of early year's partners)</p> <p>c) Surveys returned by broad range of partners</p> <p>d) Plan presented and approved</p> <p>e) Number of partners involved including physicians and nurse practitioners</p> <p># of physicians and nurse practitioners</p> <p>#of parents participating</p> <p>Feedback on process for referrals , use of Red Flags document etc.</p> <p>Outcomes for children (percentage of 18 month screened)</p> <p>Earlier referrals</p> |
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| <p>To pilot universal developmental screening clinics in each of the hubs in Leeds Grenville over a two year period beginning in Fall 2010</p> | <p>a) Workgroup of Service Integration Committee members formed to plan for developmental screening clinics (screening tools, marketing, organization)<br/> b) Review literature and best practices<br/> c) Letters written to all potential partners to determine level of participation (March 2010)<br/> d) Screening Clinics planned for 0 to 6 families in 5 locations (Kemptville, Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque, Portland)<br/> e) Gather feedback from parents and community agencies</p>  | <p>Service Integration Committee with support of community agencies who serve the early years.</p>  | <p>a) March/10<br/><br/> b) Winter/10</p>  | <p>a) Number of parents/families who attend in each community (this will form a baseline for future years)<br/> b) Surveys completed by parents at time of screening clinics will provide information on community where family lives, how they heard about clinic, level of satisfaction<br/> c) Number of families who seek referrals after screening clinics<br/> d) Use Service Integration Index to evaluate level of integration and parent experience.<br/> (participation of agencies)<br/> Impact on waiting lists</p> |
| <p>Joint Professional Development Opportunities</p>  | <p>a) Continue Lunch and Learn sessions in Gananoque, Kemptville, Prescott (Service Integration Cttee. members will monitor attendance)<br/> Expand Lunch and Learn sessions to Brockville and Portland<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop inventory of frontline staff based in Brockville</li> <li>• Offer quarterly Lunch and Learn sessions</li> </ul> Develop annual report on Lunch and Learn opportunities across Leeds-Grenville<br/> b) To improve communication regarding PD being planned by individual agencies with a goal of reducing overlap and identifying opportunities for joint PD<br/> c) to continue to offer mini conferences in conjunction with Lanark BSN<br/> d) To continue to build awareness of community members and families of services provided by various agencies:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Purchase a display board which can be used by agencies to display resources at</li> </ul> </p> | <p>BSN/SI Cttee:<br/> Lead Table<br/><br/> Coordinator<br/><br/> b) Subcommittees to feed through Best Start Network and share with Lead Table<br/><br/> c) chairs and planners<br/><br/> d) Planner to investigate cost,</p> | <p>Quarterly<br/><br/><br/> b) Plans submitted three times per year Sept, Jan, May<br/> c) twice/year as resources allow<br/><br/> ➤ Recommend</p> | <p>a) Attendance at sessions and number of agencies participating<br/> Inventory of topics and those who take on leadership roles<br/><br/><br/> b) Plans submitted<br/> Evidence of more joint planning for PD (tool = Service Integration Index Network Experience)<br/> c) Attendance and feedback from participants<br/> Network Experience level on Integration Index<br/><br/> ➤ Participation of agencies<br/> ➤ Increased awareness of</p>  |

|                                   | community events  | design  | datations to May SI meeting   | services shown in surveys of stakeholders/parents   |
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| Support for ELP Parents/Community | <p>a) Continue to provide feedback to Boards through participation in ELP Planning Committee Meetings</p> <p>b) Distribute poster outlining school programs for 4 and 5 year olds for Sept/10 and prepare similar poster for Year 2 implementation</p> <p>c) Special Needs reference group to continue to provide support to school boards regarding transition for students with special needs</p> <p>d) Continue to address opportunities for joint PD between teachers, ECE staff (e.g. childcare professional development days, Red Flags training)</p> <p>Develop a systematic training plan for Red Flags document</p> <p>e) continue to distribute information about ELP to community partners</p> | <p>BSN /CMSM/Education/MCYS/MinEDU</p> <p>b) Planner and community partners</p> <p>c) Special Needs Reference group with advice from BSN</p> <p>d) Planner with advice from BSN and Board contacts</p> <p>e) Planner/CMSM</p> | <p>a) Every 3 weeks or as required during implementation of ELP</p> <p>b) ongoing</p> <p>c) monthly mtgs. Initially à as needed during the course of implementation</p> <p>d) ongoing</p> <p>e) as required</p> | <p>a) level of participation at meetings</p> <p>b) Number of resources distributed Feedback from families/agencies</p> <p>c) Level of participation by Boards Level of satisfaction expressed by families/ agency partners</p> <p>d) Number of PD opportunities explored Number of participants from various Sectors</p> <p>e) materials distributed and discussed as agenda items at BSN meetings as required.</p> |
| Data-driven Community Planning    | <p>Develop a measurable outcome based community action plan around EDI involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDI awareness sessions (committee, BSN, Lead table and front line staff)</li> <li>• Use of tool for planning at agency, counties and municipal levels (involves neighbourhood planning using EDI and other data)</li> </ul>  | <p>DACs and planners from LLG to Lead and present draft plans to BSN for approval</p> <p>Subcommittee formed to provide community leadership</p>  | <p>Ongoing Training by October 2010</p>   | <p>Surveys to determine level of awareness of EDI among stakeholders</p> <p>And how data is used for collaborative planning</p> <p>Use Integration Index as tool to measure outcomes</p>  |
| Developmental Screening           | <p>Develop a comprehensive, universal distribution strategy for parents regarding the use of NDDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Determine who is using NDDS and how</li> <li>➤ Recommend what partners needs</li> </ul>  | <p>18 month strategy workgroup, Service Integration Committee and BSN members</p>   | <p>By November 2010</p>   | <p>Strategy developed and used by community partners</p> <p>Increased involvement of parents</p>  |

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|  |  |  |  |  | <b>to be engaged and define other opportunities for use of Nipissing (e.g. JK registration)</b> |  |  |  |  |
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