

Leeds and Grenville Community Justice Partners
Meeting -Thursday May 19, 2011

In Attendance:

Monica Heine – Crown Attorney’s Office
David North – TriCounty Addiction Services
Kim Knox – MCYS (Youth Probation Office)
Robyn Healy – RNJ Youth Services
Sue Poldervaart – RNJ Youth Services
Sandra Bloxham – TriCounty Addiction Services
Patrice Dwyer – Child & Youth Wellness Centre
Sheri McMullen – Foundations
Rhonda Grant – Gananoque Police
Bryonie Baxter – Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
Rachel Burns – RNJ Youth Services
Linda Raby – Employment and Education Centre
Marg Fancy – Every Kid In Our Community
Judy King – OPP Leeds County
Holly Howard – Connect Youth
Nicole Nixon – Connect Youth

Regrets:

Joanne Bedeck
Mark Heffernan
Sue Giff
Joan Boyd
Pam Gummer
Patti Bova
Lorayne Bradshaw
Sonya Jodoin
Sheri Hatherly-Reichel
Ev Dales

Agenda Items

1. Presentation – Connect Youth

Holly Howard and Nicole Nixon from Connect Youth in Prescott joined us for today’s meeting. Attached to today’s email you will find a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, along with some additional information regarding statistics and the homelessness task force.

2. Agency Updates

We have decided to incorporate round table agency updates at our monthly meetings. This will allow for individuals to informally share any successes/challenges, without feeling the need to be scheduled on the agenda. Today’s updates:

Attorney General (Monica) - Their office continues to attempt to do more with less. There is pressure to put an end to the designated youth Crown position, as there is only a few left in the province.

In regards to MAG funding for the Youth Justice Committee program run by RNJ Youth Services, the budget package has still not come through, and there is no news as to when it will be coming. Typically, the budget would be approved prior to, and received by April 1 of each year, however there have been significant delays that are impacting all Youth Justice Committees across the province. RNJ has received a letter stating that the agency will be receiving funding for the 2011/12 year, however no indication has been given as to how much money will be received.

Gananoque Police (Rhonda) – GPS has once again received funding for the YIPI (Youth In Policing Initiative) and will be hiring 12 students for the summer. For those who are not familiar with the program, YIPI provides students with the opportunity to work as town ambassadors, assist with special events, tourism promotion, etc. Brockville will be running the program again also this summer with 3 students, and Prescott with 2.

Leeds OPP (Judy) – Judy previously attended the Threat Assessment training, and will be attending the upcoming Train the Trainer session.

TriCounty Addiction Services (David) – A letter of intent was submitted for an addictions worker dedicated specifically to youth. They have not heard anything about the status of this submission.

Also, staff person Sarah Hammel has filled the health promotion role at their agency.

Every Kid In Our Communities – Their agency continues to offer training for the Triple P Parenting program on a regular basis. Training for the Teen level will be offered in the near future.

The transportation pilot project has been running in Gananoque, North Leeds, Merrickville/Wolford, etc. Trillium funding was received for this project. All of the transportation dispatching is now being done through the Employment and Education Centre. Verbal support for the project has been received from the United Counties. The next step is to seek a lead agency to take primary responsibility for the volunteer drivers, vehicles, etc. the hope is to soon expand the program so that it is available throughout all of the communities in Leeds/Grenville.

Employment and Education Centre – a Youth In Carpentry program is being offered at St. Lawrence College. This program is 8 weeks in length.

The EEC is also working in conjunction with Family & Children's Services to provide budget counseling for youth who are preparing to live independently.

The Summer Jobs program is running again this year. Information can be obtained by contacting Bill Bannan at 498-2111

Child & Youth Wellness Centre (Patrice) – Their agency has seen some changes in management during the past year. Their referrals have increased a great deal, with 92 referrals being received in the month of April alone. More collaboration is needed right

now to make sure with what they have, as additional money is not always guaranteed from the ministry.

Elizabeth Fry Society (Bryonie) – Their agency has submitted an application for funding to assist individuals who have been released from custody and who need assistance with returning home (transportation, obtaining personal belongings from custody facilities, housing, etc.) **Bryonie presented on a wide range of their agency's services at last month's meeting – see April meeting notes for more information

3. Upcoming Events

Child & Youth Wellness Centre Annual General Meeting:

June 14, 11:45am at New Hope Church Brockville

RNJ Youth Services Annual General Meeting:

July 18 (tentatively) at New Hope Church Brockville

4. Checkered Flags Document

This document was a result of the Student Support Leadership Initiative. It is intended to be a resource for teachers, parents, caregivers and community providers. Community agencies involved in creating the document have been working with both school boards to ensure that training around usage of the document can be provided to staff and that the document will be available in all schools. Checkered Flags is not intended to be a diagnostic tool, but simply to provide information on signs to look for, where to refer, etc. This document is available for viewing on the Every Kid In Our Communities website at <http://www.everykid.on.ca/member-area/OPERATIONAL/INTERSECTION/ssl/information/1101%20b-w%20printable%20Checkered%20Flags.pdf>

If you would like a printed copy of the document, please contact Marg Fancy at coordinator.everykid@sympatico.ca

Upcoming Presentations

-Laura Zadow from Portage will be presenting at our June meeting. Portage is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the social rehabilitation of substance abusers. Their Ontario facility is located in Elora (near Guelph) and is a residential rehabilitation facility for youth with substance abuse issues.

-Gail Steeds from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will be joining us in the near future to present on information sharing under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. This presentation will be held separately from the monthly Justice Partners meeting so that it may be opened up to a larger group.

Other business (Bryonie)

The Ontario Community Justice Association is a non-profit association representing providers of community justice programming throughout the province of Ontario. In the past, Eastern regional meetings have been held in Ottawa. There have however, been concerns raised by

agencies in Eastern Ontario over the fact that the primary focus of the OCJA seems to be the greater Toronto area. Eastern Ontario members are unsure as to whether their issues are truly being heard. Bryonie is now the Chair of the Eastern Ontario chapter and she explained that the OCJA is having a strategic planning day in September and are taking recommendations for that meeting. If any agencies in this area have issues surrounding the advocacy or administration of justice programming in this area, please get in touch with Bryonie at Bryonie.Baxter@efryottawa.com

Next meeting

June 16, 2011 – 9:30am at the Employment and Education Centre.