

Leeds and Grenville Community Justice Partners
Meeting -Thursday April 21 ,2011 – Brockville Police Station

In Attendance:

Robyn Healy – RNJ Youth Services
Sue Poldervaart - RNJ Youth Services
Rachel Burns - RNJ Youth Services
Mark Heffernan – Brockville Police
David North – TriCounty Addiction Services
Sonya Jodoin - VCARS
Sandra Bloxham – TriCounty Addiction Services
Bryonie Baxter – Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
Linda Raby – Employment and Education
Sheri Hatherly-Reichelt – Canadian Mental Health
Candace Kaine – MCYS Youth Probation
Rhonda Grant – Gananoque Police
Sheri McMullen - Foundation
Catherine Mathieson –VWAP

Regrets:

Sue Giff - CDSBEO
Kim Knox – Youth Probation

Agenda Items

1. Youth In Policing Initiative

Gananoque (Rhonda)

YIPI is a program funded through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. In larger areas such as Toronto, youth work directly with police officers in various units (i.e. marine). In Gananoque, the students are hired as town ambassadors. They are dressed in bright identifiable uniforms and help out at town activities throughout the summer. They do work occasionally with officers in and out of the station. Their 4 day orientation includes training in areas such as First Aid/CPR.

This year, a police officer will be assigned as a mentor to each student. They will be involved in hiring of the student, and following their progress throughout the summer. The program pays \$14/hour and students work 40 hours per week. Students are required to work day shifts as well as modified afternoons to ensure presence at community tourism event. The program runs the first week of July through the end of August with the training being held during the last few weeks in June.

Gananoque has received funding for 12 positions again this summer. They have just begun the hiring process for youth ages 14-17 who live in Gananoque/Leeds and the 1000 Islands. Applications can be obtained on the GPS website at www.gananoquepolice.com. Interested youth must submit a cover letter, resume and application. Applications are due by June 9. For more information, you may contact Rhonda at rgrant@gananoquepolice.com

Brockville (Mark)

Brockville Police will be hiring 3 students (2 new ones and 1 returning from last year). The returning student will be acting as a supervisor for this summer. The hiring will be done primarily through word of mouth through guidance counselors, principals, teachers, etc. who may know of students that would be appropriate for the job. Mark is hopeful that by mid-May, interviews will be underway.

2. Threat Assessment Update (Mark)

All of the Level 1 training that Kevin Cameron is needed for has been completed. Train the Trainer sessions are happening in June for 12 people – 4 from each school and 4 from the community. This will allow us to train other community members without having to book Kevin.

People are using the program regularly, and we are getting a great deal of feedback which will help to iron out details for the protocol. The next level 2 trainings with Kevin aren't being held until October, with the signing ceremony for the Protocol being held October 17.

The protocol is in the draft stages right now and it has been introduced in each community. The goal is to work with the draft version for the next few months, iron out issues based on feedback, and have the signing ceremony with the final version.

The DVD should be done by the end of May for final revisions and will be out by June. The DVD was created for people who need to be aware of the Threat Assessment process, but who do not necessarily need the training.

3. Youth Justice Committee Program Update

This group serves as Monica's steering committee for the Youth Justice Committee. As such, regular updates are required so that this group is aware of the current status of the YJC.

There were rumors going around before the end of March that funding was being cut for Youth Justice Committees around the province. Monica was able to contact the Ministry of the Attorney General and was informed that although the program as a whole is not being cut, funding would possibly be reduced.

New funding application was received March 31 indicating that we could apply for the full amount of funding again for this year. New application has been submitted and we are hopeful that we will again be receiving full funding. We should know within a few weeks.

4. Rebound

Rebound is an MCYS funded program run by RNJ Youth Services. This program is not limited to young people who are referred by the police. Rebound referrals can come from parents, schools, mental health, etc. This program is an 8 session life skills group based on a program started in Sarnia-Lambton. RNJ has been offering this program since 2005. Youth come to the office during the evening for 3 hours once/week. Volunteers act as table coaches for small discussions. Guest speakers attend, and the group participates in team building activities, movies. Etc. Each week has a different focus/topic. The last session includes a graduation ceremony and pizza party.

The program usually runs 4 times/year in Brockville and Smiths Falls, however a program is being run right now for the first time in Kemptville. In order to run a group, approximately 10 young people are required.

A session is starting in Brockville next Wednesday. This group is younger (ages 12-14). There is no fee for participating. Approximately 4 spots remain in this group – if you know of a youth who may be interested in participating, please contact RNJ at 613-284-8304.

Table coaches for Rebound need to be at least 21 years of age and generally are college students in related programs (i.e Child & Youth Work, Police Foundations, etc.). There is a training process to complete prior to participating. Interested volunteers should contact RNJ.

5. Survey Results

We talked a little bit at our last meeting about this group and whether or not we continue to meet community needs.

We have sent out a survey twice now to the group seeking input regarding current meeting format, goals, etc. So far, only 11 people have responded. If you have not yet done so, please take the time to fill out the survey. It is anonymous and your responses are greatly appreciated.

The results so far indicate that people do seem to enjoy these meeting. Thursday morning remain the best time for most individuals. There were more front line staff who responded than managers, which is ultimately the goal for the committee. The idea of using case examples came up in some responses – perhaps we should use confidential case studies to facilitate collaborative problem solving.

One idea that came up was to have Gail Steeds from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services present on the topic of information sharing under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The question was posed as to whether individuals prefer a rotating or constant location. Most people explained that a constant location is easier for the purposes of planning.

6. Presentation – Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa

Several months ago, Marg Fancy and Sue Poldervaart attended a meeting with Bryonie Baxter from EFRY Ottawa. Bryonie expressed a strong interest in presenting to our group, and she has finally been able to join us today.

Bryonie shared information on the following programs available through EFRY for youth:

- Theft prevention
- Anger program
- Health promotion
- Reintegration and outreach
- Self esteem program (Love Yourself, Love Life)

Another program available in relation to youth is the Parenting Teen Girls program. This is available to teen girls and their parents or caregivers, and is intended to open communication and address difficulties in behaviour. Counselling is done together with both parties as well as on an individual basis.

Bryonie also presented on an impressive list of programs for adults. For more information about the programs offered for both youth and adults, please visit the EFRY website at www.efryottawa.com

Bryonie explained that she is interested in ditting on our Justice Partners group because their agency provides services to our community. Their agency is looking into the possibility of setting up shop in Kemptville occasionally so that services are more accessible to individuals in our area. They recognize that only offering services in Ottawa can result in some people being left out. Bryonie clarified that their intention would not be to duplicate services, but simply to offer programs that may not already be available in our community.

David North explained that if EFRY has an addictions worker offering services in Leeds/Grenville that TriCounty Addiction Services would be happy to support her.

Rhonda Grant inquired as to whether EFRY Ottawa provides services to Gananoque. Bryonie explained that typically that area would be served by Kingston, however if there is a need for a program/service that Kingston does not offer, then Ottawa would be happy to investigate the possibility of assisting.

7. Other Business

-Sandra Bloxham suggested that we invite Laura Zadow from Portage (an addictions rehabilitation centre for youth) to present to our group. Sandra has been in contact with Laura, who occasionally visits the Brockville area and who would be happy to present to us.

-At our last meeting we mentioned the fact that TriCounty had submitted a letter of intent for a youth addictions worker. David explained that there is no update on the status of this submission at this time.

8. Next meeting

May 19 at 9:30am