

## October 2012 - Identification of Service Gaps

On October 18, 2012, the Local Task Group reviewed the Local Service Plan (dated 2010) and celebrated some successes:

1. **Communication:** While we continue to work at improving communication, practices and processes amongst the partners, this group has certainly helped to improve communication amongst the partners.
2. **Threat Assessment** – A Community Threat Assessment Protocol for the entire jurisdiction of the UCDSB and CDSBEO including all of Leeds and Grenville. Training and collaboration is ongoing.
3. **Mental Health** – MCYS has provided funding across the province for the provision of Youth Mental Health Court Workers, including a full time Mental Health Court Worker hired by CMHA (Brockville) and shared between Leeds and Grenville and Lanark courts.
4. We have implemented the provision of Conferencing (Section 19 YCJA) to provide opportunities to support young people in the justice system. Additionally, the pre-trial process has been effective at ensuring a young person appearing before the courts is well supported and plans to effectively address their needs and those of the community are put into place.

Further, the group identified ongoing or new items as service gaps within our community that the group wished to address:

1. Housing
2. Transportation
3. Transition Periods
4. Services for Specialized Populations
5. Accessible Treatment for Youth Addictions
6. Advocacy for Education and Employment Opportunities

## Local Task Group – Next Steps

We would hope to target areas where children who could best use these programs are most likely to be found. Secondly, we would hope to assist other workers in our community in reaching those children. Therefore (at least in short term) our goals are:

1. **Housing and Homelessness** - Currently, there are no beds (crisis or otherwise) anywhere in our counties for youths who do not have a roof over their heads.
2. **Transportation** –Currently, there is inter-city transportation in Brockville only and there is absolutely no intra-city transportation anywhere in the United Counties. This

provides an insurmountable hurdle for the provision of services in a rural environment, unless addressed.

3. **Transition Periods** – Linkage with youth and adult sectors, transition from youth to adult services
4. **Services for Specialized Populations** – aboriginal, sex offending, gender identity, french language services, developmental, (good place to add something about working with group homes?)
5. **Accessible Treatment for Youth Addictions** – Recently in Leeds and Grenville, the OPP have established a Highway Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) with the expressed mandate of providing interdiction for the active transportation of contraband along the 401 highway. That contraband increasingly includes high level drugs that are being made available to the youth in our community. A similar situation arises as a result of the close proximity of the United States border. Substance abuse is on the rise everywhere and is a significant criminogenic factor. Although TriCounty Addiction Service is funded to provide assessment and community based counselling to persons aged 10 to 99, services for youth are hindered by lack of capacity for outreach. Youth and families are requested to attend services at TriCounty's offices in Brockville and Smiths Falls. Lack of transportation for persons in Leeds and Grenville restricts access to addiction services by rural youth and their families.
6. **Advocacy for Education and Employment Opportunities** – in a rural community.