



EKIOC Lead Table Agenda

Committee/Work Group	Lead Table
Chair(s)	Lorena Crosbie
Date	March 4, 2026
Time	0930-1130 Hybrid
<p><i>We acknowledge that the land on which the work of Every Kid in Our Communities is performed is the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, Algonquin, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Mohawk peoples. We acknowledge the legacy of colonialism and the inequities it created that are ongoing. We are committed to reducing these inequities through the work of EKIOC. We acknowledge the enduring presence of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today, their achievements, and their contributions to our community and commit to learning from them. We offer this acknowledgment as an act of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada.</i></p>	

Minutes

AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Owner	
Welcome & Introductions	Lorena Crosbie	The meeting began with introductions from various participants, who shared their roles and affiliations.
Land Acknowledgment and agency profile	Amanda Petch Brockville and Area Food Bank	Amanda presented an agency profile highlighting the Brockville Area Food Bank's increasing demand, noting a rise from 1,500 to 2,600 monthly visitors and over 25,000 visits in 2025, with 27% being children. She emphasized the need for large diapers and school snacks and mentioned the bank's expansion to include Mondays for better service distribution. The discussion also touched on the demographic of visitors, including youth helping their families, and the food bank's collaboration with other local food banks. Jane discussed outreach to municipalities regarding food insecurity, sharing responses from various towns and cities, including Front of Young's donation efforts and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville's perspective on the issue. The group discussed the challenges faced by the Brockville Food Bank, which does not receive government funding despite serving 2,600 people monthly, including over 500 children. Amanda explained that

		<p>the food bank operates solely on donations and grants, and highlighted the stigma around food bank usage, leading to their Monday night service for those uncomfortable accessing help during the day. Jane suggested creating a data table comparing food banks' visitor numbers and municipal grants to present to Joint Services, potentially involving Food Banks United and Amanda's advocacy chair, Louise, to advocate for more support from municipalities. The meeting focused on addressing food insecurity and advocating.. Amanda discussed the community report and collaboration with Loaves and Fishes to support food security initiatives. Emily highlighted the health unit's food insecurity report and its recommendations for addressing root causes. Jane shared examples of grassroots initiatives and the need for a coordinated approach to tackle food insecurity.</p>
<p>Update on outreach to the Municipalities regarding Food Insecurity</p>	<p>Jane</p>	<p>Jane discussed the challenges faced by the community in addressing food insecurity, noting that despite various initiatives like food banks and community dinners, there is a lack of integration into municipal plans and insufficient funding. She highlighted that most municipalities she contacted, including Brockville, have granting budgets but do not allocate enough resources to address food insecurity. Jane emphasized that this issue is more of a county-wide responsibility than an individual municipal one, and she questioned what actions the table could take to address this concern for the children and families they serve. Amanda mentioned that Brockville declared a food security emergency, similar to Smith Falls, but the actions taken remain unclear. Jane expressed interest in following up with Brockville to understand their plans and actions further. rather than always having answers.</p>
<p>Diversity Equity and Inclusion- How to advocate for local communities to better support Indigenous populations</p>	<p>Siggy Leslie-Casselman</p>	<p>Siggy presented on advocating for Indigenous populations, emphasizing the concept of interconnectedness and the importance of community support. The conversation ended with a discussion on how to engage the community in supporting vulnerable groups, including Indigenous peoples. Siggy presented on strategies for becoming stronger allies to Indigenous and diverse community members, emphasizing the importance of self-reflection on positionality and awareness of personal identities. She introduced Covey's three circles of influence model and discussed how to engage with local groups and issues to create positive community change. The presentation concluded with a framework for community engagement, including identifying priorities, taking action, and</p>

		<p>monitoring outcomes, while acknowledging the challenges of making lasting change.</p> <p>Indigenous Engagement Action Plan</p> <p>Siggy discussed the need for organizations to improve their engagement with Indigenous communities, acknowledging current gaps in reaching out effectively. Siggy proposed developing an action plan to enhance collaboration and suggested starting with internal community building before expanding Indigenous engagement. Michelle shared Plio's experience collaborating with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and emphasized the importance of spending time to understand and align programs with Indigenous practices. The group agreed on the necessity of building trust and taking time to establish meaningful relationships, while also recognizing the potential for applying these learnings to other intersectionality.</p>
Approval of the 2025-2027 work plan	Jane Hess	The plan will be posted and any concerns or additions should be forward to Jane. The Plan includes for key areas Connected and coordinated communication, continuous communication, and equity-centered initiatives.
Asset Builders Awards 2026	Jane Hess	They reviewed the Asset Builder Awards program, which will continue this year with Bev Huven as chair and a new co-chair needed. The awards ceremonies are planned for June 7th at the Y.M.C.A. in Brockville and June 24/26 in Lanark County. The committee is seeking support from member organizations to replace the health unit's previous contributions, including receiving nominations, graphics work, and media support.
Developmental Assets – an overview in preparation for May Lead Table discussion	Jane Hess	The meeting focused on reviewing the Developmental Assets framework, which has been the basis for youth support work in the community. Jane presented an overview of the framework, highlighting its strength-based approach and the importance of asset builders in youth development. The group discussed whether to continue using this framework, with Jane suggesting they should intentionally recommit to it rather than continue by default. Emily offered to support the assessment of alternative frameworks if needed.
Round Table		CMHLG announced about an upcoming consultation on external communications and diversity at Children's Mental Health.

		FCSSLG identified the ongoing need for foster families and a campaign using children's art work as placemats in local restaurants.
		Reminder of next Lead Table meeting Wed. April 1 /26 0930-1115 @ Family and Children's Services LLG, 438 Laurier Blvd, Brockville ON K6V 6C5 and TEAMS link for this month only. The Lead Table will be followed by a consultation for CMHLG from 1115 to 1215 for those who are able to stay. More information to follow.

Attendees:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ali Hoover - VSLG X Allie Dedekker - Brockville Police <input type="checkbox"/> Amanda Petch - Brockville Food Bank X Bev Heuvig - BGHSoutheast <input type="checkbox"/> Bonnie Pidgeon - SG Food Bank X Brandy Smith - UCDSB <input type="checkbox"/> Brittney Poffley - YMCA X Bryan Edgeley - YMCA <input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Onstein - Career Services <input type="checkbox"/> Cecilia Clapson - VSLG <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Almeida - Ont Health at Home X Karen Forbes - Kids Inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Danny Powers - MCCSS <input type="checkbox"/> Darrel Dean - MCCSS <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Castle - Southeast PH X Emily Tubbs - Southeast PH X Erin Lee Marcotte - FCSSLG <input type="checkbox"/> Hailie Jack - UWLG <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Parsons - BGCSoutheast <input type="checkbox"/> Jenny Lane - LG Community FHT <input type="checkbox"/> Kelile Hare - Assault Resp& Care X Kelly Blonsky - Ont Health at Home X Kimberley Gavan - BDACI X Kyara Hamilton - Assault Resp& Care X Lesley Hubbard - Girls Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Livingston - UCDSB regrets <input type="checkbox"/> Lorena Crosbie - CMHLG regrets X Melissa Francis - LG Immigration Part. X Melissa Hyndman - UWLG X Melissa Leveck - LG Interval House* <input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Ondrovcik - EEC X Michelle Crogie - PLEO X Rachel Burns - RNJ Youth X Rob Adams - YMCA X Robyn Holmes - Connect Youth/JHS X Samantha Burtch - LGCFHT <input type="checkbox"/> Selena Mackie - CDSBEO <input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Brown - UCLG EarlyON <input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Pritchard - Triple P <input type="checkbox"/> Siggie Leslie-Casselman <input type="checkbox"/> Sonja Jodoin - Office for Victims of Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Watts - EEC <input type="checkbox"/> Tiffanie Belkin - MCCSS regrets <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kaufman - DSLG <input type="checkbox"/> Catherine Robinson - Language Express (minutes and agenda only) <input type="checkbox"/> Frank Rockett - VoluntCentre SL-R (minutes and agendas only) <input type="checkbox"/> Tawnya Boileau - Southeast PH (minutes and agendas only) |
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