



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2010

SUBJECT: Report CSSSJSSC10-008
Community Social Plan Update

PURPOSE

A report to provide the Joint Services Steering Committee with an update on the Community Social Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Services Steering Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSSSJSSC10-008 dated November 18, 2010, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the Community Social Plan Update be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget or financial implications resulting from this report.

BACKGROUND

The Community Social Plan (CSP) Update Report CSSSJSSC10-001 was presented to Joint Services Steering Committee on January 14, 2010. That report gave an overview of key program accomplishments and presented a work plan to guide the activities of

the Community Social Plan for 2010/2011. While work continues on priorities identified in township-specific work plans, the CSP Coordinator has also received a number of requests over the past six months for collaboration on initiatives with a county-wide reach. This reflects both the broad scope of the Community Social Plan priorities, and an increased awareness of the Community Social Plan's role in bridging between the City and County on service planning and coordination issues.

Key Program Development Activities

General

Community Social Plan staff have organized or participated in a number of community consultations over the past 6-8 months to identify service gaps and assess needs within the County. Some examples include:

- ◆ On May 4th, 2010 a consultation was held with nine service providers in Havelock Belmont Methuen Township. Agency staff came together to share program information and discuss gaps in service. The roundtable discussion increased awareness between agencies and municipal staff of services being delivered in the township. This will encourage more frequent and appropriate referrals between agencies and improved coordination of services.
- ◆ The Peterborough County-City Health Unit recently launched the “Healthy Communities Initiative” with funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport. The CSP is participating in the stakeholder reference group for this project, given the overlap with several CSP priorities. The CSP is assisting with community consultations involving all eight townships, and attending an agency-specific consultation on November 18th, 2010. The Health Unit will create a county-wide plan to promote healthy communities, through policy and program development across six risk factors:
 1. Physical Activity
 2. Healthy Eating
 3. Tobacco Use/Exposure
 4. Injury Prevention
 5. Substance and Alcohol Misuse
 6. Mental Health

Community Partnerships

The CSP Coordinator is now engaged with a number of networks, committees and working groups that correspond to priority areas within the Community Social Plan.

An active role has been maintained with the Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration. The Partnership Council hosted a one-day conference on March 25th, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, Peterborough called “Together We Prosper”. Workshops were provided for non-profit organizations, municipal staff and employers to help

promote immigrant integration. A total of 130 participants attended from business, social services, healthcare, and education sectors.

The CSP Coordinator has joined the Community Food Network and the Community Food Centre working group as the facilitation of local food security initiatives has been identified as a workplan priority for the CSP. Access to adequate, affordable and nutritious food remains a challenge for low-income families. CSP participation generates support for the development of food-related programs across all eight townships, and enables the sharing of best practices between rural and urban initiatives.

The CSP has been working with the Peterborough Community Garden Network to link gardening projects in the County with the resources and expertise of the network. The CSP assisted Buckhorn Public School and Community Garden Project to prepare a grant application for the Sobey's Earth Day Fund in support of garden improvements.

Service Provider Capacity-Building

The CSP continues to support County organizations and community groups wishing to build their capacity to deliver programs that address local needs or priorities.

The Rural Outreach Committee is receiving ongoing assistance with information and resources regarding non-profit incorporation and charitable registration.

Lovesick Lake Native Women's Association (LLNWA) is receiving support to conduct a needs assessment involving Metis and non-status Aboriginal residents of Peterborough County. Results will inform future program development at LLNWA's Buckhorn location. Information gathered during this process will also contribute to a larger asset-mapping project that the CSP will undertake in 2011. The asset-mapping project will combine existing data and gather missing information to generate an inventory and GPS map that identifies community assets as they correspond with CSP priorities. This will expose potential gaps and be useful as a planning tool for townships and service organizations.

The Ennismore Heritage Artspace Committee is receiving assistance with non-profit incorporation and the development of programs at the former St. Martin's Parish Church and Optimist Hall. The Committee has drafted a business plan and intends to operate the building as a community-use facility. The CSP is helping the group to develop a governance structure and fundraising strategy, as well as identifying potential partners for shared use of the facility.

Youth Engagement

Feedback from youth surveys completed in 2007 reflects the need for a broader range of activities for County youth, especially those on low incomes or not involved with organized sports programs.

Galway Cavendish Harvey Township has formed a Youth Engagement Committee facilitated by CSP staff. One of their goals is to establish a Youth Council to plan local activities and help young people develop leadership skills. CSP staff support this process by providing information on best practices in youth programming and Youth Council governance.

Similar support was provided to Havelock Belmont Methuen Township during a recent review of their Youth Council structure. City Recreation staff met with the Havelock group in May to discuss youth programming and share lessons learned from the formation of the City Youth Council.

A collaboration was formed with the national Arts Network for Children and Youth (www.artsnetwork.ca) on a project to develop community arts infrastructure and promote child and youth engagement in the arts. This two-year initiative will engage emerging youth artists, youth leaders and community arts organizations in creative programming to address health risk factors such as substance abuse, youth suicide and community marginalization. An aboriginal youth training company will present a performance and run theatre-style workshops for 60 young people, beginning in Havelock Belmont Methuen and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Townships.

Program and Service Coordination

A Community Information Fair was held for residents of Galway Cavendish Harvey and surrounding townships on November 2nd, 2010. Twenty-one organizations attended to provide information on their programs and services. Township residents were able to drop in and speak directly with agency staff or pick up brochures. These events improve access to services for those who lack transportation, Internet access, or knowledge of the many organizations operating in the City and County.

- ◆ The Rural Outreach Committee (ROC) in Buckhorn identified a need for nutrition education and skills development programs for their clients. The Health Unit was approached to offer the “Come Cook With Us” program at the Outreach Centre, which was attended by 10 women. This program teaches nutrition and food preparation skills in an environment that promotes social inclusion. The group has decided to start a Collective Kitchen as a next step, to be coordinated by members with initial start-up support from the Health Unit.
- ◆ The CSP worked with the United Way to expand the 2010 “Coats for Kids and Adults Too” winter clothing distribution to more County locations including the Buckhorn Library on November 8th, the Havelock TEACH Centre on November 11th, and Apsley Public School on November 12th, 2010.

Transportation

Transportation persists as an area of need without a ready solution, but the CSP continues to explore information on other community models and talk to other service providers to determine if better coordination/collaboration is possible.

In the meantime, County residents continue to have access to the Ontario Works van service through the Community Social Plan. Rides are available for health or employment-related appointments (dental, medical, counselling, rehabilitation, job search, access to food banks, training or education, Help Centre visits, etc.) and are pre-booked.

The following table demonstrates the number of van rides provided to rural residents through the CSP since the option was introduced:

Van Route	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Areas Served
East	2 trips*	6 trips	10 trips	36 trips	159 trips (as of Oct. 22)	Havelock, Millbrook, Norwood, Bailieboro, Keene
North	16 trips	74 trips	71 trips	32 trips	28 trips (as of Oct. 22)	Apsley, Buckhorn, Lakehurst, Woodview, Lakefield, Ennismore

* Trip = one-way journey

Employment

Employment Ontario Service Provider Changes

In December 2009 the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Employment Ontario branch announced changes to their provincial network of employment service providers. The Ministry undertook a review of existing employment and training services with a goal to reduce the number of service providers and streamline access to a full range of services in a one-stop approach. MTCU made the first announcements regarding the new service model in late January 2010. The transformation of employment and training services will be fully planned and implemented by April 2012. The Ministry has selected Employment Planning and Counselling, Northern Lights Vocational Services and Fleming College as service providers for the Peterborough area. These organizations will be expected to deliver a broad range of employment programs from their locations.

The Ministry designated specific areas of the County to each of the 3 service providers as follows:

Service Provider	Areas Covered
Employment Planning and Counselling	Central Peterborough, Havelock Belmont Methuen, Douro Dummer, Asphodel Norwood
Fleming College	South Peterborough, Otonabee South Monaghan, Cavan Monaghan
Northern Lights Canada	North Peterborough, Galway Cavendish Harvey, North Kawartha

The CSP Coordinator met with these providers on March 9th and April 30th to develop a plan for County outreach that would avoid overlap and duplication.

PERC Outreach

With PERC’s continued County outreach and additional outreach commitments from the 3 providers under the new model, County residents will benefit from more frequent access to employment counselling services.

Due to recent staffing changes at PERC, a revised County outreach schedule has been implemented and communicated through township CAO’s and library staff. The chart below outlines the new service schedule:

Location	Day	Time
Havelock Library	Mondays	9 am – 12 noon
Norwood Library	Mondays	1 pm – 4 pm
Millbrook Library	Tuesdays	9 am – 12 noon
Ennismore Library	Wednesdays	9 am- 12 noon
Buckhorn Library	Wednesdays	1 pm – 4 pm
Douro Library	Fridays	9 am – 12 noon
Keene Library	Fridays	1 pm – 4 pm

Enhanced Employment Services Program

CSP staff worked with Ontario Works and the Community Training and Development Centre to offer 2 pre-employment programs in the County. The “Career Makeover” 6-week program was open to women on social assistance looking to re-enter the labour market. Ten individuals attended the first session at the Rural Outreach Centre in Galway Cavendish Harvey Township between May and June 2010. A second program attended by six individuals was run between October and November 2010 in Asphodel-Norwood Township at the Town Hall. Participants had the opportunity to develop self-esteem, financial literacy and budgeting skills, resume, job search, and interview skills.

Eastern Peterborough County Career Fair – February 25, 2010 The Peterborough Employment Resource Centre (PERC), Community Social Plan and Ontario Works Employment Services organized a hiring fair at the Asphodel-Norwood Community Centre on February 25, 2010. 208 jobseekers and 25 exhibitors attended the event. Asphodel-Norwood, Douro-Dummer and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Townships assisted with funding support for venue and marketing.

Buckhorn Career Fair – March 31, 2010

A second Career Fair took place at the Buckhorn Community Centre on March 31, 2010. 94 jobseekers and 24 exhibitors attended the event. Several local employers commented on the value of the event and the large pool of qualified applicants they were able to access. These events continue to be an important activity supporting local economic development and sustainability for small and mid-sized businesses, particularly those operating in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

CSP Help Centres

CSP staff continue to operate two community Help Centres in the County, located in municipal libraries. The Buckhorn Help Centre is open on Mondays from 11am-4pm while the Havelock Help Centre operates Thursdays from 2-7pm. In addition to these drop-in locations, Community Social Plan staff responds to calls through the telephone Help Line, which is available to all City/County residents, Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Together, the Help Line and Help Centres have supported 444 individuals since 2006.

The following table reflects Help Centre activity:

Location	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Buckhorn	-	21	8	11	25*
Havelock	11	64	101	118	85*
Other (Norwood, Millbrook, Keene, Lakefield, and City)				1	8*
Total:	444				

* Stats as of October 22, 2010

SUMMARY

The general direction of the Community Social Plan has evolved to include collaboration on county-wide initiatives, with an emphasis on linking individual townships to existing and emerging programs or consultation processes. Priorities for 2011 include the asset mapping project which will create a comprehensive inventory of community resources and identify service gaps in each township; development of an additional service hub in the County; and support for local initiatives that promote youth engagement.

Submitted by,

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