**Big Data for Small Places**

**Participants will:**

* Commit the time required and engage in a series of networking, mentoring, and training activities in June - about 20 to 24 hours of formal instruction (blended face-to-face and online format)
* Work on a project/case study that is a priority for LCPC– at least 1 person for ½ day per week April – June
* Report back to LCPC on learning
* Mentor and coach other partners on learnings
* Be a resource to other LCPC members in this area

**Participants:**

1. **Emily Cassell**
2. **Jane Torrance**
3. **?**
4. **?**
5. **?**

**Project/Case Study** (to be approved):

We will look at Lanark County and establish a list of assets and deficits in the different communities covering all ages (0-21) and sectors.  This would include an inventory of programs, services and service integration (who does what and where, in partnership with whom) as well as using data to establish needs in Lanark County and within the different communities (ie. social risk, income, household composition, family size, transportation, housing, schools, childcare, addictions, mental health, crime, pregnancy rates, health data, school success data, employment, homelessness, etc.). The goal is to get a true and accurate snapshot of Lanark County and its municipalities to allow our member agencies to plan together for the future and bridge gaps between assets and deficits.

**Background of Project**

Over the past year, we have been working on issues associated with the management of Big Data for Small Places.

To date, we have secured the commitment of The Corporation of the Town of Mississippi Mills, The Corporation of the Municipality of North Grenville, the North Lanark Community Health Centre, the Renfrew and Lanark Local Immigration Partnership and **Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth in partnership with the Lanark Planning Council for Lanark Children and Youth** for our “Big Data for Small Places” pilot project. Each will make a modest contribution of $4,000 and commit up to 25 staff person days to the project.

We are aiming to secure 4 or 5 partner organizations with about 20 to 24 individuals participating in the training component. There will be some flexibility in the numbers as some partners may have 5 or 6 participants, while others may have only 2 or 3.  We’re hoping to start the project early in April and run it for 10 to 12 weeks with the training component in June.

The training component – an introduction to data analytics for small rural municipalities and community-based organizations – will include about 20 to 24 hours of formal instruction and teaching/learning interactions - offered in a blended face-to-face and online format. The precise content and delivery methodology of the training will be determined based on input from project participants during the earlier networking and mentoring phases. The training component will be provided by Algonquin College and will be based on an adaptation of selected content from their Business Analysis Studies certificate program.

Over the duration of the project, participants will engage in a series of networking, mentoring, and training activities to assess and build capacity for the effective utilization of data analytics to support evidence-based decision making and planning.  Each organization will identify a project or question of significance to them which they will use as a test case for the pilot.

As for the case study component of the project, participating organizations are being asked to commit at least one person to at least a half-day a week for the duration of the project (10-12 weeks).  This time is not intended to take people away from their jobs, but to ensure that there is time allocated for the networking and mentoring resources of the project to be integrated into the case study of the partner (i.e. for at least a half-day a week, the designated staff persons will have the assistance of the project network and mentors to help them with their tasks).  Partners are encouraged to choose a case study that has potential relevance across their organization and with other similar organizations (not a unique one-off project).