

Planning Day Report

December 4, 2014

Mississippi Valley Conservation office, Carleton Place

Facilitated by Jane Torrance, Wendy Anderson, Kara Symbolic

Attendees

Carol Anne McNeil, Lanark Community Programs

Donna Davidson, Lanark Community Programs

Elizabeth Goldman, Perth and District Union Public Library

Emily Cassel, Data Analysis Coordinator

Erin Lee, Lanark County Interval House

Kara Symbolic, North Lanark Community Health Centre

Kate Hallas, United Way Lanark County

Lianne Kevan, Lanark County Interval House

Margaret van Beers, Child Development Centre Hotel Dieu

Mona Wynn, Rideau (Smiths Falls) Community Health Centre

Pam Harris, Mississippi Mills Public Library

Ramsey Hart, The Table

Sue Cavanagh, Childrens R esources On Wheels

Sue Poldervaart, RNJ Youth Services

Suzanne Geoffrion, Open Doors

Tanis Cowan, YAK (Youth Action Kommittee) Perth

Warren McMeekin, Lanark Highlands Youth Centre



**December 4, 2014 Planning Day Summary and Suggested Actions**

**Our Successes and Strengths**

The Lanark County Planning Council for Children, Youth and Families has enjoyed some terrific successes over the past years. The listing of projects and accomplishments is amazing in the depth of the work, the breadth of the span across sectors and the inclusion of fun to serious topics! We have an incredible collective strength, and we are able to identify ways to improve, specifically with community engagement, member diversity and inclusion, identifying that we have room to grow in handling controversy, and are able to embrace new ways of working together to improve our planning table. To be noted is a comment from one of our facilitators who was so surprised that the group was so “quickly willing and eager to engage and respectfully participate! What partnership!”

Suggested Action: Continue to build on our individual and collective strengths and stretch our thinking to reach ahead into new territory.

**Clarity of Purpose**

We soon discovered that our goals, objectives and purposes are all connected, and it is hard to do one without the other. **Planning and evaluation** is our first objective, but we recognize that it is difficult to find commonality sometimes and there are barriers to working together, even if we all serve the children and youth of Lanark County. There is a continued need to speak in a unified voice as we **advocate** for the most vulnerable, and a desire to find ways to use our combined clout in order to have a collective impact. We have a desire to engage families, clients and partners in a more meaningful way to further develop **service integration,** and to build on our diverse knowledge outside of agency, funder and program siloes and geographic boundaries. We want to be seen as the “go to” network when others are talking about kids, and **community education** is the way the Council will become better known in Lanark County. We agreed that we all appreciate the **information sharing** aspect of the Council, but we have to move beyond information and into action. In the same way, professional development is seen as what we all do and is not such a collective focus as it might have once been.

Suggested Action: Prioritize the LCPC goals, objectives and purposes, so that we work collectively on planning and evaluation as well as on advocacy, service integration and community education; put less emphasis (but not forget) on information sharing and professional development; prioritize the developing work plan accordingly.

**Our Stumbling Blocks**

The naming of our stumbling blocks that were identified by facilitators from the morning discussion and some background materials were a bit of a surprise for some members.: How we work effectively with Tri-County agencies, how we promote diversity and inclusion at our planning table, and how we move from discussion to action were seen as things that get in the way of the Council moving forward, and some great discussion took place within our “wise crowds” on how we can move beyond these blocks. While these were “mock” stumbling blocks quickly gleaned from various discussions on other topics, they provided a process to talk about a difficult subject without judgement or blame assigned.

Suggested Action: These are the first of some difficult conversations that need to take place at LCPC. We need to clearly identify when we see a stumbling block get in the way, and be prepared to talk about it in a non-threatening and productive way so we can move forward. Is this an acceptable process?

**Our possibilities**

When we clearly thought about what we needed to stop doing so we could make room for innovation, three areas came rose quickly for discussion. We identified communication, our work on poverty and our LCPC meeting structure and agendas as very specific areas where innovation and change is possible.

Suggested Action: Ask our communication committee to revise their communication plan; review and revise our meeting structure and agendas; consider our work on poverty!

**Our Partners**

The mapping of our organizations by key partnerships showed that we are missing some of the key partners (sector, agency, program and community) of our member agencies. The priorities of our member agencies were difficult to analyze, and the listing serves as information.

Suggested Action: Consider the composition of the membership and invite or engage those missing as appropriate; develop a new way to track priorities of member organizations to find new ways and places to partner effectively.

**Our Goals**

We had a “bike rack” or “parking lot” available all day where priority work areas were identified, including the special needs strategy, rural funding, children’s mental health transformation and collective impact. When asked what people were specifically passionate to identify as goals for collective work in the next 2 years, the group quickly identified 4 areas including Community Engagement, LCPC Momentum, Acting on Poverty, and Special Needs and Developmental Services – Respite Expansion.

Suggested Action: Reconfirm goals identified and look for concrete steps to move forward; consider what is actionable and possible; consider working from a practical place ie Bridges out of Poverty Workbook; consider the questions – Is this the job of the Planning Council, and is it work that moves us forward within our purpose

**Action Planning**

Within the context of the planning day discussions, partners were asked to think about making a change that mattered, and a first step to achieve that change, and these bold ideas were ranked. Topping the polls were changes in LCPC meetings, community engagement, overcoming barriers (diversity and inclusion), developing share/care homes for children with complex special needs, and the elimination of poverty! The changes were very similar to the goals and priorities that were common themes throughout the day, and the bold ideas and first steps were the vision and absolute concrete beginning of a work plan!

Suggested Action: When goals are adopted, include the bold ideas and first steps in the work plan.

**Our Day**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic | Goal | LS | Why this LS |
| Welcome | Celebrate our past successes; discover and uncover our strengths, individually and as a planning council | Impromptu Networking | Loose yet powerful connections are formed in 20 minutes by asking engaging questions. Everyone contributes to shaping the work, noticing patterns together, and discovering local solutions. |
| Clarity of Purpose | Define and shape purpose | 9 Whys | Rapidly clarify for individuals and a group what is essentially important in their work. |
| Our Stumbling Blocks | Figure out what gets in our way | Wise Crowds | Tap the expertise and inventiveness of everyone in the group simultaneously. |
| Our Possibilities | Make room for innovation | TRIZ | Clear space for innovation by helping a group let go of what it knows (but rarely admits) limits its success and by inviting creative destruction. |
| Our Partners | Data | Presentation  From data day, from survey | How are we working together; where are our strengths; where are our silos; |
| Our Work | Defining the future goals | Open Space | Includes everybody in constructing agendas and addressing issues that are important to them. Having co-created the agenda and free to follow their passion, people will take responsibility very quickly for solving problems and moving into action. |
| Action Planning | Making changes that matter | 25/10 | A serious and valid way to generate an uncensored set of bold ideas and then to tap the wisdom of the whole group to identify the top ten. |
| Evaluation and Closing | Room; lunch; format;  What stood out?  What will we do differently in our work?  What are you feeling about the Planning Council? | Vote by moving your feet; Circle |  |

1. **Our Successes and Strengths**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Welcome | Celebrate our past successes; form as a group; get settled  Structured Invitation:  What strengths do you bring to the planning council? What can we do collectively to strengthen the planning council? | Stars on Display  Impromptu Networking | Loose yet powerful connections are formed in 20 minutes by asking engaging questions. Everyone contributes to shaping the work, noticing patterns together, and discovering local solutions. |

**Our Successes/Stars**

* Cross sector representation on a continued basis
* Strong leadership (Jane)
* Community Profiles
* Partnership opportunities – service integration
* Transitions (youth homelessness)
* Child and Youth Poverty Action Network – CYPAN (now folded)
* Data day (a few years ago)
* Support of VTRA Protocol (Violence Threat Risk Assessment)
* Municipal Drug Strategy
* Website
* Trust
* Professional development – leadership breakfasts
* Community Conversations - Round-tables before elections
* Family engagement project
* Planning Days
* Red Flags
* Consultation- Children’s Aid amalgamations – ability to voice Lanark concerns
* Aboriginal Planning
* Early Learning Special Needs Reference Group
* Youth Centre Coalition
* Checkered Flags
* Our Communities Care – leading to upcoming suicide protocol
* Social media – facebook and twitter presence
* Social media training
* Network mapping
* Excellent leadership (Jane)
* I love data days!
* Excellent networking opportunities (especially on the breaks)
* The opportunity to participate in a planning day 2014
* Tech training
* Healthy Hearts Healthy Minds
* Web site
* My first meeting with LCPC
* Liberating structures
* Middle years recreation planning – Jump Start

**What strengths do you bring to the planning council**?

* Networking with others
* Finding the gaps in rural services and filling those gaps
* We are UNIQUE – personally and organizationally
* Lots of experience and knowledge
* Lots of assertive people☺
* Action-oriented
* Hidden skills and talents

**What can we do collectively to strengthen the planning council?**

* Have more community presence moving forward
* Look for more diverse membership (aboriginal, francophone, consumers)
* Room to grow in handling controversy
* Membership – look beyond service providers for partnerships
* Cultivate partnerships that allow for different ways to deliver service
* Where is education? Why aren’t they here? How can we engage them?
* Promotion of French language services
* Consumers
* Learning different ways of working will lead to improvement
* Special Needs Strategy and Children’s Mental Health will be transformational – being engaged in these HUGE issues with ALL partners

1. **Examination of our current LCPC goals, objectives and purposes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Clarity of Purpose | Define and shape purpose  Structured Question:  Why is our work in this area important? Is a justification for the work coming into focus? How can we do this work within a network? | 9 Whys | Rapidly clarify for individuals and a group what is essentially important in their work. |

We discovered that our goals, objectives and purposes, as defined in our terms of reference, all are connected, and it is hard to do one without the others

**Planning and Evaluation**

* Our prime importance
* Barriers – finding useful info for ALL
* Finding commonality
* Barriers to getting info – confidentiality
* How to evaluate family –centred intervention

**Advocacy**

* There’s a need to continue to speak in a unified voice, especially for those most vulnerable
* Make sure we balance our staff time and include prevention in the mix
* Ensure clients have ability to be involved, have a voice, create their own ideas, and provide a venue for them to speak
* Need clarity of decisions/positions so that we have more clout/impact
* How do we turn discussions into action and change ie Hugh Segal – GAI; CAMH
* ALL ministries need to hear voice of clients
* Piggyback on other initiatives
* Is there evidence that the Planning Council is working?
* Family Engagement
  + More role for families – need to hear their voice
  + could be a working group
  + start with a survey

**Service Integration**

* Not letting artificial boundaries get in the way
* Make sure all partners are at the table and are invited … not just the easy ones
* Include families
* Nee to learn how to do things differently and share innovation with others
* There is diverse knowledge – build on it and look outwards aor more ideas

**Community Education**

* Context of advocacy
* Council needs to be better known in Lanark County
* Needs to be the “go to” place when people are talking about kids

**Information Sharing**

* May have worked on this 2-3 years ago
* Good at having people come and talk but don’t always carry through with a plan
* What kinds of actions have we brought forward following “Bridges out of Poverty?”
* Family Engagement

**Professional Development**

* Part of what we all do
* Not as much focus for ALL

1. **What gets in our way and how can we move beyond the stumbling block?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Our Stumbling Blocks | Figure out what gets in our way | Wise Crowds | Tap the expertise and inventiveness of everyone in the group simultaneously. |

1. **Tri-County agencies and participation–** Sue Poldervaart as client

**Stumbling Block:** An agency working Tri-County – which means being part of two planning tables. How does this affect the tables and the Tri-County staff person?

**Group One**

* Who is it a problem for – clients/staff?
* What is the impact on families when agencies/staff are so stretched?
* There is a difference with large agency vs small agency
* Wrap around their needs (those that can’t be at the table)
* Life was better for staff and clients when things were smaller (ie. Lanark School Board – smaller boards before amalgamation)
* Opportunity for us to see what we are doing the same/different and learn from each other – what’s working, engage tri-county agencies – how can we work together

**Opportunties**

* Service delivery areas for child welfare, CMHLG, etc. – could lead to rethinking of school board boundaries
* Not something that looks good but fitting with natural flowing history (ie. Lanark/Renfrew – not natural)
* Can learn a lot from what’s happening with other areas
* Entry to school (good example) of all sitting at the same table to plan
* Accessible service (boundary lines vs. what makes sense for families
* Duplication of meetings and agenda items affects capacity for some agencies to be involved at a level desired or necessary
* Different service areas

**Group Two**

* We have to realize what services they have to offer
* One planning table for tri-county area?
* Use technology to assist with meetings, etc. – ie. Online meeting spaces
* Do Tri-County agencies need to attend both or can they participate in sub-committees?
* Planners need to work closely together as well as the Stewardship and Coordinating Committee for each
* More integration between the two planning tables
* Joint planning
* Size difference in agencies that are Tri-County affects capacity
* So many geographic boundaries ie. LHIM, municipalities, school boards, etc.
* From client perspective, they want service where convenient
* Make more seamless between two planning tables

**Group Three**

* What ability does a planning council have to change boundaries
* You can’t get others to change boundaries (ie. School boards)
* Key skill is coordination – practical for 2 coordinators to come together regularly
* What other possibilities are there? Idea: Have 6 meetings each planning table and then a couple that are Tri-County – maintain autonomy but look at how to collaborate
* Shared trainings?
* Development of protocols that are Tri-County
* Build on technology – ie. Go To Meetings – attend via technology – pop in to meetings via Skype for specific agenda items (sometimes there is duplication of presentations at both meetings which are back to back) – this would require a timed agenda
* Would be surprised if agendas are the same – maybe specific topics – partnerships are different
* Perhaps have some joint meetings and have coordinators get together regularly
* Issue common with all meetings
* How to deal with TriCounty vs how do you make bang for buck, sustainable and meaningful for agencies
* How do you make LCPC a priority
* Where are we at? When we started, it was mandated. We’re at a different time – it needs to be compelling, interesting and useful – meaningful for agencies

1. **Diversity and Inclusion – Mona Wynn as client**

Who should be included in our membership? Should we be 0 – 18 or 0 to 99?

Group 1 Comments:

* Understand/get info on demographics of the community, look at trends on French language and immigrant service needs
* Do an inventory matrix of who we have already on LCPC and who are we missing
* Big Data for small communities project should help; let them know what we need
* DO internal talk and work about added value of involvement of a wider range of members. Evaluate the fit of our language and terms with the culture of the group we want to involve
* The way we engage additional groups/members needs to be meaningful and sustainable. How do we do this well? Not rotating people to represent one organization; avoid tokenism
* Develop an outreach strategy – have open meetings – bring who we want to engage
* Some agency’s staff won’t come – it’s not welcoming
* Decision makers have been welcomed – can we incorporate both formats – decision makers and open to the public.
* DO we actually make decisions
* Could training days be open to a broader group?

Group 2 Comments:

* Issue around inclusiveness and advocacy makes me return to our mission – it seems clear.
* Seems to have been driven by our funders
* SO looking at inclusiveness and advocacy changes our focus
* How would clients being at the table serve the needs of our clients?
* Experience in the past of bringing clients to agency board meetings is that they became increasingly bored – how do we make it meaningful?
* The work we do may not be meaningful to clients.
* Not even all service providers want to attend meetings
* Maybe the Council meeting is not the right spot. SO how do we go about finding the meaningful role – focus group, advisory group
* How are we as current members really representing our client groups at the table.
* Our clients can be advisors, parent groups, fun gatherings for giving feedback
* Engage/involve at the grassroots level – feeds back up within agencies, then up to LCPC
* We need multiple “hows” for engaging client groups: yearly annual open forum run like this planning day; reach out to organized groups of diverse clients
* Brainstorming day on who is doing outreach now and how it is working

Group 3 Comments:

* Population within specific groups is low and there are groups with great need; Not sure why we should focus on one specific group – instead try to be inclusive of everyone
* Use the tools/ideas of “Bridges Out of Poverty” to understand better ways to talk to each other
* Need to change our lens from a middle class white perspective – how can we communicate differently?
* “Focus on” versus “include” – rather than look at specific groups/look at how we do things now – who does it work for?
* Probably not going to get direct representation
* Need to know what barriers are experienced by groups we want to know about – address these
* Don’t want anyone to be excluded, does that mean we want everyone to be included?
* DO we need to hear more stories from people with different experiences?
* We have focused on services but the Planning Council with need to do outreach to get info/stories to help us understand our residents
* Agencies can also bring stories forward.

1. **Moving from Discussion to Action in Advocacy – Suzanne Geoffrion as client**

THE PROBLEM:

How can the Council best fulfill its advocacy mandate?

What action can we take and what processes are required to ensure an effective approach?

ADVOCACY: Scope and Limitations.

First of all we need to be clear as to what we mean by advocacy by the Council as an entity. Members engage in advocacy on a daily basis on behalf of their clients, their organizations and on occasion their strategic partners. To date we have provided letters of support on grant applications or other funding initiatives. The Ministry has also asked the Council to comment and or endorse specific program developments. It seems that our role should be directed at developing and sharing positions on issues that impact negatively on the children, youth and families we serve. A clear differentiation between advocacy and education would be helpful. The following questions emerged for further discussion.

* Is the Council clear re its expectations of members? Is it understood that members are required to take a position on a specific issue?
* Are members clear on their limitations due to their organizations mandate, funding source, and governance policies?
* Can members take an individual position verses an organizational position?
* Are we restricted as a government funded organization?

ONE VOICE/ CONSENSUS:

It is not realistic to expect that we can speak with one voice consistently. It would be helpful to have space and time to engage in meaningful discussions. Tensions and disagreements should be addressed and accepted in good faith. Members sharing a specific concern can convene and develop informed discussion papers that could serve as the basis of a position. All members are subject matter experts and we have a lot to offer the community at large on issues of interest to all, Alternatively could we develop a community issues working group.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

The Council has consistently done a good job of educating its members on the work of its member organizations. Is it now the time for us to expand our role in educating the community.

* Do we have the time and resources to this?
* Can we make more effective use of all forms of the media?
* Do we have a unifying concern? “ RURAL ISSUES”

1. **What do we need to stop doing; what do we need to start or continue?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Our Possibilities | Make room for innovation | TRIZ | Clear space for innovation by helping a group let go of what it knows (but rarely admits) limits its success and by inviting creative destruction. |

**Communication**

STOP

* Using outdated methods and technologies
* Communicating almost exclusively through in-person meetings
* Focusing on numbers instead of quality

START

* Talk to experts and adopt the most modern methods and technologies
* Develop a clear vision of why and how we communicate (internal and external)
* Find ways to communicate actively not passively – more interaction
* Diversity of channels – methods, languages and styles

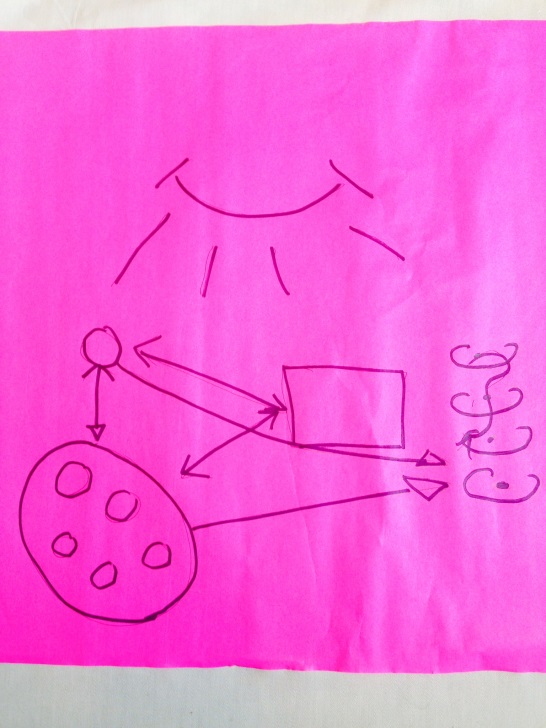
**Poverty Elimination**

* Speak out as a Council (Medicare, Guaranteed Income, Old Age Pensions)
  + Things that maintain poverty
  + Things that decrease poverty
* Take stock of the tools available to move out of poverty
* Quebec-style Childcare Program (don’t make it universal-income)
* Bring jobs to Lanark County
* Shift from token giving and coordinate real needs with funding and support

**LCPC Meetings, Structure and Agendas**

* Open up membership and have a recruitment plan or strategy
* Market the LCPC to explain how it benefits people (so they will want to come)
* Current skills inventory
* Community reps on/in working groups
* Review meeting style (language, location, priorities
* Take responsibility for our own attitudes
* A happy, bright meeting space is conducive to small group discussions
* Comfort in addressing issues ie saying what we feel and feeling safe
* Relevant topics and issues submitted by members drive monthly agenda
* All have input into development of monthly agenda – fosters transparency and inclusion
* Rename the stewardship committee
* Communication all ways
* Working individually, in small groups and larger groups at meetings
* Addressing emerging community issues at meetings

**One really Cool graphic**

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1. **Priorities and Partners of our Member Organizations**

**Can we work together in a more meaningful way?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Our Partners | Data | Presentation  From data day and from pre- survey | How are we working together; where are our strengths; where are our silos; who is missing from the table |

**Current Priorities of our Member Organizations:**

**Growth**

* expand programs and outreach
* continue to grow mentoring in Lanark County
* work to expand child and youth services in Lanark County

**Funding**

* Securing sustainable funding
* Core funding
* sustain funding to ensure services continue to grow
* Failure of Ontario government to allocate funds on a basis of higher rates for rural and northern service rather than current per capita basis for funding throughout the province.
* Fundraising

**Promoting**

* Promoting literacy and love of reading
* Increase visibility and image of CROW
* Advocacy for social justice and meaningful change for women and children
* Skills and awareness raising around food security and poverty issues
* Advocacy for low income individuals
* Recruitment
* Violence prevention education and awareness

**Planning**

* Special Needs Strategy planning
* Reviewing/planning around our space requirements
* strategic planning and expansion
* design and implementation of evaluative measures for success
* tie up loose ends from amalgamation
* organizational performance management
* Program Evaluation
* Social Housing: Implementation of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan
* Children's Services: Continue to manage system while undergoing changes
* Ontario Works: Assess and address organizational impacts of new Social Assistance System

**Partnerships**

* Shared youth services in Perth and County wide
* Maximizing resources in support of seamless, integrated system
* Strengthen and build on partnerships
* development of community partnerships

**Program Specific Goals**

* Diversion of Youth Cases from the Criminal System
* Healing harm done to the community
* Community outreach
* Adequate resources to deal with the needs of high medical and high behavioural children
* Adequate resources to overcome the limitations of poverty faced by many of our clients and their families
* Parent Engagement
* Violence prevention- support services, shelter and crisis line
* All that kids can be
* From poverty to prosperity
* Healthy people, strong communities
* healthy infant, child, youth growth and development
* healthy living and physical activity
* health equity
* Providing emergency food relief
* Healthy growth and development of children
* healthy pregnancies/healthy birth weights/ healthy babies
* supporting vulnerable families with parenting, access to their community supports and resources

**Top Successes of our Member Organizations:**

* Expansion of literacy programs
* Success in getting new funding, both from MCYS and MOHLTC!
* People are talking about the library in new ways.
* Increase in attendance and number of youth reached.
* growth in number of children served in mentoring programs
* We have almost doubled our referral numbers YTD
* Volunteer Income Tax Program - through this able to access + 1M for income vulnerable families in Lanark County.
* Maintained high attendance numbers at OEYC playgroups even with full implementation of FDK
* seeing progress in working as one organization
* Honouring and recognizing 35 years of service in Lanark County
* Increasing community impact, i.e. Youth Summit, Smiths Falls
* Healthy Communities partnership, Food Core, school transportation
* Just one? Meeting a growing demand for meals and services in the food bank.
* Program
* Happy families/happy children , increase in self referrals, parent education groups, community house
* Social Housing: Ontario Works: Implementing New Data System, while maintaining quality service, Children's Services: Supporting Child Care Operators through transition to full implementation of Full Day Kindergarten

**Key Partner Map**

**Who are we missing around the table?**

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The map shows we are missing many of the key partners of our member organizations, either by choice, by omission or by attendance. These organizations include:

* North Lanark Community Health Centre
* Language Express
* UCDSB
* Employment Agencies
* Non-Profit Housing providers
* Seniors Assistance ie The Mills
* Ministry of Attorney General
* Crown Attorney
* Police Services
* Food Banks
* HARS
* RAY
* SA/DV advisory
* Municipalities
* Provincial Advocacy Groups and Associations
* Community supports
* Businesses
* Women and children

1. **Future Goals**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Our Work | Defining the future goals | Open Space | Includes everybody in constructing agendas and addressing issues that are important to them. Having co-created the agenda and free to follow their passion, people will take responsibility very quickly for solving problems and moving into action. |

**The Bike Rack included the following topics that had been highlighted by members throughout the day as possible work areas for the next 2 years:**

* Special Needs Strategy: How can the planning table participate in and inform the process? What can we learn?
* Rural Funding Increases
* Children’s Mental Health Transformation
* Collective Impact

As in all good Open Space discussion, the actual topics that rose to the top changed, and the work people wanted to engage in included community engagement, carrying the momentum of LCPC forward, Acting on Poverty and forming a new Special Needs/Developmental Services Working Group

1. **Engage the Community by collecting individual stories and gathering public knowledge – what people want their community to be**

Willing to work on this: Ramsey, United Way of LC, YAK, Emily, Elizabeth, Pam

* Collect data and testimonials/anecdotes
* Different ways to tell the story, including written and oral, using video or ipad
* Disposable cameras – take pictures of community life
* LCPC could be seen as N.B. org, known as experts “they really understand what’s going on with that population”
* Gives perspective – non “expert” opinions ensures our goals and objectives are those of the community
* Principle 3 – engaging community in the process
* CHEO mental health grant – arts and mental health
* Photo booth
  + Couch, bull pit, various sitting arrangements
* Video – what are your aspirations for your community

1. **LCPC Momentum Forward**

Willing to work on this: Sue Cavanagh, Sue Poldervaart, Erin Lee

* Review mission statement
* Sharing in small groups before going to larger group
* More flexible agenda – responding to emerging issues and member input
* New direction building on the momentum of planning day
  + An ad hoc group meets for further discussion/and or it is added to next meeting agenda
  + The ad hoc group may seek input from larger group on line (black board, email) to come to next meeting
* Discussion items don’t get lost (due to time restrictions)
* Designate quarterly training at meetings , designed annually
* At beginning of meeting ask if there are any emerging issues that require actions when we are doing introductions
* Agenda items – add this discussion to January LCPC agenda

1. **Acting on Poverty**

Willing to work on this: Donna Davidson, Mona Wynn, Ramsey, LCIH (LK), Emily

Priorities:

1. Advocacy for system and policy change
2. Advocate/educate on guaranteed annual income (Hugh Segal, Massey)
3. Develop ways of supporting adults who want to move out of poverty; moving adults out of poverty and into their future

Stream One – Advocate

* Gather info to inform our members about GAI – how it worked and what it gained
* Gather info on systems/policies that “maintain” poverty
* Bring to LCPC meeting – what do we want to say, and who do we want to say it to?
  + Letter of support
  + Article in paper
* Monitor provincial poverty reduction strategy – what is it doing?
* Look for partners – rural, First Nations, people living in isolation, ADHC

Stream Two – Act

* Identify what is being done to support adults (and their children)now, and by whom
* Identify additional ways to increase resources for adults ie income tax
* Learn about programs that were mentioned by Gayle at Bridges out of Poverty
* Consider programs for children

1. **Special Needs/Developmental Services Working Group**

Willing to work on this: Donna Davidson, Carol Anne McNeil

* Expand the respite working group
* Form a special needs/developmental services working group, ages 0-20, and invite participation from
  + School boards
  + LCP and LEIP
  + Open Doors
  + CAS
  + DSO
  + Child Development Centre
  + CCAC – South East and Champlain
  + CHC – North Lanark and Smiths Falls
  + Employment Centre
* The committee will look at
  + Respite (respite.com model)
  + Special Needs Strategy
  + Integration with education
  + Integration with health
  + Strengths/gaps
  + Transition planning
  + Employment services
  + Share Care Homes
  + Look at committee model from Every Kid – it may inform our working group

1. **Planning – Achieving our Goals**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action Planning | Making changes that matter | 25/10 | A serious and valid way to generate an uncensored set of bold ideas and then to tap the wisdom of the whole group to identify the top ten. |

**Super Bold Ideas and first steps to achieve**

* Make LCPC meetings more relevant and engaging for all members (22)
  + Use 1-2-4 ALL at meetings
* Engaging community in LCPC (22)
  + Gather people’s stories and take them back to LCPC (video, written, audio)
* Overcoming barriers (21)
  + I will talk to groups about the Planning Council and ask them to come; maybe I could bring a guest to one meeting ie LGBTQ
* Develop share/care homes for complex needs children (21)
  + Buy home
  + Hire house parents
  + Lobby government with business plan and strategy
* Eliminate Poverty (20.5)
  + Form working committee – willing to lead (Donna Davidson)
  + Get guaranteed Income program implemented
  + Liaise with Hugh Segal – get Massey Hall students involved
  + Involve NDP and Liberals – provincially and federally
  + Report to Council for action
* Support adults who want to move out of poverty (20)
  + Learn more about how Sarnia and other Ontario cities have implemented the “Getting Ahead” and the “Circles” programs
  + Decide if we can do this in Lanark County
  + Identify adults who want out of poverty and start the experiment
* Have training for LCPC that are relevant to change
  + Create list of training ideas
  + Harm reduction, trans inclusion, LGBTQ communities, needs and realities, First Nations
* All youth service agencies in the region working together
  + Call a meeting/host a meeting to do an inventory of services
* Develop an LCPC welcome package for new members and the community in a digestible format and more accessible
  + Work from what we have; work with new members to fill in gaps
* Be part of moving LCPC into exciting new directions
  + By working on agenda and meeting structures with committee
* Have all Planning Council members adopt advocacy positions
* Have the Planning Council identify a priority issue to advocate on/around/about
  + use this as a test case to figure out how we can develop a workplan ie dental care for low income families
* Getting ahead in a just getting by world
* Remove the stigma of “They don’t have anything so they will like this”
  + Get the community to buy into the need for families to have gift cards instead of toys
  + Have them buy into the needs throughout the year
  + Should families need food or medicine, it should be available
  + Speak to community funders and agencies
* Special Needs Strategy – 4 Ministries
* Decolonize the LCPC; Decolonize Lanark
  + Facilitate presentation by Aboriginal leaders
* Gather public knowledge
  + Form a committee
* Support seniors living at home
  + Develop/expand respite program
  + Lobby government to create SSAH for seniors

1. **Evaluation and Comment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Evaluation and Closing | Room; lunch; format;  What stood out?  What will we do differently in our work?  What are you feeling about the Planning Council? | Vote by moving your feet  Circle |  |

**Evaluation – voting with your feet**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | awful | ok | awesome |
| Space |  |  |  |
| Food |  |  |  |
| Black Licorice | 11 |  | 3 |
| Red Licorice |  |  | 11 |
| Achieved at least 1 thing |  |  |  |
| Met expectations |  |  |  |
| Met expectations and then some |  |  |  |
| Facilitation techniques – Liberating Structures |  |  |  |
| Will you use one of more of these techniques in your own organization? |  |  |  |

**Closing Comments**

* Sometimes we focused too much on techniques and cut off discussion
* Most open event ever
* Fun, great input
* A good start for moving forward
* Positive
* Learned a lot
* We all have something to contribute
* Council is a safe place
* Have energy left
* Think differently
* Momentum
* Energized
* Would like to share something at every meeting – what is working well