



SUMMARY OF PRIORITY REVIEW SESSION

Lanark County Planning Committee
Thursday, November 15, 2018 (9:30 – 12:00)

SUMMARY OF THE SESSION

The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health Quality Improvement Specialists Ann Barber and Kristina Rohde facilitated a session with the Lanark County Planning Council (LCPC). The purpose of the session was to review and reflect on the established mandate and priorities of the Committee. The session focused in on the current priorities the committee was looking to further refine. The hope was that this would enable them to better support desired changes in their community and improve their ability to measure their impact.

GENERAL REFLECTIONS

Overview of the Vision and Mandate of the committee:

As the Council reflected on their current Mandate: “To provide leadership and coordination to enable optimal development and healthy living for Lanark County children, youth and families” they recognized that they lacked an agreed upon Vision. This is a key ingredient to providing a common understanding of direction, the “Why” of your team and vision for the future. The group felt the Mandate they shared was more of their Mission with a focus on the what, who and how of an organization. Together they felt they may need to go back and clearly articulate their Vision as a Council together.

PRIORITY REVIEW

The main focus of the session was to review the Council’s current priorities as a planning council and refine these to ensure they could then move forward with establishing some indicators to measure their impact on the community. All six current priorities were reviewed, and some strong consensus resulted. Definitions of each can be found in the Council’s Terms of Reference (TOR), while some specific activities were captured here in this current document.

INFORMATION SHARING

Strong consensus on the importance and relevance of this priority

What it is:

- Agreed with definition as written in their TOR with slight modifications in wording from “the Council” to “Council members or member agencies”
- This priority focuses on activities around communication both internal and external- face to face meetings, emails, presentations in meetings as well as communications to the community, on the website

What’s working well:

- Relationships, making connections, personal approach, trust established
- Timeliness of information, ability to ask questions and understand context
- Allows for different perspectives and strategies on issues,
- Collective work- decrease duplication of work
- Receive and provide support to each other
- Information sharing supports work in other priorities

SERVICE INTEGRATION

Strong consensus on the importance and relevance of this priority but feel it requires a name change to better fit the definition: Suggested name change to: COLLABORATION





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SERVICE INTEGRATION

What it is:

- The definition as written in TOR may require modification if consensus is to change

What's working well:

- Good examples included: Planet Youth, Open Doors and CDSBEO, PLEO/ Open Doors and PLEO/ CDSBEO, Suicide protocol/ VTRA
- Patient First- Wrap Around
- Having a lead agency and the coordinated efforts of “Moving on Mental Health”
- Regional Planning Coordinator- Special Needs Strategy
- Robb Nash- everyone coming together
- Single Plan of Care- currently being worked on

ADVOCACY

Strong consensus on this priority as well, however see it being combined with COMMUNITY EDUCATION

What it is:

- Strong team agreement on activities of “Big A” and “Little a” advocacy
- General agreement that community education is a way to advocate

What's working well:

- Council is recognized and listened to, e.g. Schools didn't close, spoke about youth centres
- Being united in reaching outcomes with a focus on children and families
- Council is taking action and responding to needs, paves the way to solutions
- Truth and Reconciliation Committee- statement, education, a voice, land acknowledgement

PLANNING AND EVALUATION

This priority was the least clear for the team in terms of understanding the definition or how their work best aligned with its intent.

What it is:

- Review definition in TOR- there was group consensus on the importance of evaluation but differed on where and how they saw it fitting into their priority areas
- Some of the lack of clarity centered around the combined “planning” and “evaluation” activities- most agreed these were somewhat different: e.g. Many identified that they did not do planning together therefore questioning the inclusion of planning not only in this priority, but also in their council title overall
- Much of the conversation focused on evaluation and where it should sit- embedded within each of the priorities or as a stand-alone so it doesn't get lost
- A suggestion was made to first develop their vision so they could more strategically evaluate by taking individual agency evaluations and roll them up into the council to enable them to see larger trends for planning purposes
- Need to clarify and better articulate priority- one suggestion that key point is to have evidence to support decision making and use that to communicate out
- Suggestions on this priority ranged from removing planning completely, renaming priority to something around evidence base/ practice informed evidence, or combining the evaluation portion with the newly named “collaboration” priority (former service integration)



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PLANNING AND EVALUATION

What's working well:

- Comes from the members- includes guiding, supporting and participating
- In a good place to start evaluating the Council's impact
- Part of MHA protocol is evaluation
- "Big Data for small places"
- Vital signs- good data but we still need to determine actions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There was a strong consensus that this priority did not need to be on its own but could be subsumed under one of the others. Options were Information Sharing or with the new Collaboration priority

What it is:

- Group defined as storytelling and having a common language and understanding
- Suggestion to slightly tweak the definition in the TOR to define as "evidence informed learning opportunities"

What's working well:

- The group identified several common trainings as good examples including: SPIRR, CDSBEO trainings- CAP, MHFA, Sources of Strength, VTRA, ASIST and SafeTalk
- Suggestions for further improvements including making one meeting per month dedicated to a full training, opening training up to smaller organizations and sharing more successes

SUGGESTED NEW PRIORITY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Addition of this priority was suggested to be included in their mandate or possibly included within each of the Council's priorities

FINAL SUGGESTED LIST OF NEW PRIORITIES

- Information Sharing
- Collaboration
- Community Education and Advocacy
- Diversity and Inclusion*- more fulsome discussion required

ENHANCING THE LANARK COUNTY PLANNING COUNCIL

The final area of discussion around strategies to further enhance the current Council structure did not get covered during the day. However, below are a few suggestions for the team to discuss based on best practices identified from similar standing groups.

- Recommendation 1: Develop a VISION for Council
- Recommendation 2: Consider establishment of a structured agenda to ensure time at each meeting for the established priority areas as well as other topics members find of value
- Recommendation 3: The creation of a workplan for the Council will help ensure decisions and intended actions are implemented as planned. A workplan also helps to identify leads in different areas so that the work can be evenly distributed and reported back on- consider ways of making use of Visual Management to display status of ongoing work
- Recommendation 4: Put structures in place to evaluate the Council's effectiveness as a team as well as to measure impact on the community- e.g. tools like: Meeting Effectiveness survey

MOVING FORWARD

Action Items:

- Rename Council
- Finalize and Refresh Priorities
- Develop structured agenda and workplan to move activities forward

