



Community Update March 31, 2008

Governance

Governance Policies – In preparation for accreditation, draft governance policies were approved by the Board and take effect April 1, 2008. Included were the amended Terms of Reference for the new Program Committee and the Resources Committee (formerly Finance and Personnel).

Members of the new Committees are:

Resources – Derek McElveny, Richard Cook, Ron Hannon, John Regan, Jim Stewart, Birkin Culp and Suzanne Moffatt

Program – Lamine Diallo, Dianne Kindon, John Renwick, Suzanne Tsuchida.

St. Leonard's at a Glance - In an effort to make the Agency more understandable for the community, we have prepared a program organizational chart accompanied by the corresponding acronyms. This chart will be posted on our website.

Planning

2008/2009 Agency Operating Plan - The 2008/09 Agency Operating Plan has been approved by the Board of Directors.

Departmental Work Plans - All departmental work plans will be approved by the end of May.

Service Canada Homelessness Initiative - The Board has endorsed an application to the City under the Federal Homelessness Plan, for funding to renovate 41 William Street for the provision of 5 transitional housing beds for boys leaving the YRC or other community agencies. This will mirror our proposal 2 years ago to renovate Chatham Street for girls. We hope that the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) will provide operating funding for this home.

Parent Model (Treatment) Foster Home for William Street Residence or Albion Street Residence – In consultation with Brant CAS, the Agency is continuing to study the possibility of developing a parent model treatment foster home for the community.

Mental Health Crisis Support - With funding from Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and support from Laurier Brantford, we have conducted a program evaluation of our mental health crisis services. A report will be available for review by our new Program Committee and the Board in April.

Client Services

Addictions & Mental Health

Program statistics identify the following utilization patterns during the month.

- Mental Health Crisis Response for youth (50) adults (219)
- Case Management and Concurrent Disorder Case Management clients (17)
- Concurrent Disorders clients (20)
- SNAP™ group participants (15)
- Parent Adolescent Support Group members (17)
- Respite Experience Campers (35)
- Youth Anger Control group participants (4)
- Problem Solving group participants (5)
- Adult addictions program referrals (54)
- Aboriginal referrals (5)
- Pre-charge Diversion clients (47)
- Needle Exchange clients (56)
- Back on Track clients (17)

Buffalo Street Residence - Occupancy for the month of February was 105%.

Youth and Family – Children's Residential Services

Occupancy - Referrals continue to be lower than anticipated, which is negatively impacting our ability to keep both Varenco Home and Roy Walsh Home fully occupied. Reduced numbers of kids in care, coupled with the Ministry's emphasis on use of foster care and kinship care, in lieu of group care are the main factors.

YRC – Year to date occupancy is 96%.

Chatham Street Residence – At the end of February, we had two residents registered in school and one resident is also employed part time. A third resident moved in on March 29th.

Youth Employment Services

Employment activity stats for the number of visits were: Youth Action Centre (512), Dunnville

(392), the Career Resource Centres (595). The Learning Centres had 18 students. Employment workshops were delivered to 997 students during the month through the Career Resource Centres. Summer Jobs Service programming has started in order to fill more than 500 student positions in Brant and Haldimand counties.

We also led the delivery of the “Helping Along the Pathways Forum” on March 4th. This “School College Work Initiative Project” was developed to provide front line workers in helping professions with an opportunity to understand educational options available to their clients. This was a very successful event attended by 55 staff from community agencies.

Justice Services

Highlights of the month included:

- St. Leonard’s assistance to the Ontario Multi Faith Group’s restorative justice training,
- Attendance Centre group sessions in the month of February included Youth Anger Control, Substance Abuse Education, Substance Abuse Treatment, Employment Resources, Homework Club and Eyes Wide Open (violence prevention).
- CSO client numbers are running slightly under budget. A meeting is being planned with the local judiciary to discuss the merits of the program.
- Bail numbers are also less than projected.
- The Youth Justice Committee numbers are low year to date due to a late start.
- The Youth Support Program is operating at full capacity.
- Diversion programs continue to be the most popular measures, exceeding targets in some instances by as much as 100%. This reflects a province wide trend in justice services.

Peter Willis Residence - Lower than expected occupancy continues as we adjust to the declining numbers of custody and detention determinations. Despite this reality, we have received a record 138 youth year to date.

Documenting

Client Service Manager (CSM) Database - On March 31st and April 1st senior staff met with NaszTech employees to review the Agency’s new Client Service Manager (CSM) client database, with a view to integrating St. Leonard’s existing client fields.

Two days of training per department will follow in May and June with the intention of going ‘live’ by the end of June. We have completed ‘mapping’ our client file headings, drop down lists, fields etc. against the CSM model, in order to simplify the training as much as possible.

Regulations

Emergency Response Policy – We have amended and broadened the scope of our Emergency Response Policy to comply with Children’s Mental Health standards. The policy was presented for the Board’s review and approval at the April Board Meeting.

Workplace Violence Policy – We have added this policy to the productive working environment section of the Personnel Policy for the Board’s review.

Children’s Mental Health (CMHO) Accreditation Team - Work continues reviewing each standard individually and documenting how we comply. To assist the Accreditation Review Team when they visit on November 5, 6 and 7, we are posting the CMHO standards on our intranet site and ‘hyper linking’ each standard with the corresponding Agency policy/procedure. Once complete, this information will also be available for the community to review on our website

Finances/Facilities

CMHC - We submitted plans and a budget to CMHC for the renovation of 75 Albion Street to accommodate child welfare youth.

RBC Foundation – The \$50,000 donation from RBC was allocated towards the cost of our new database and towards the cost of our Roy Walsh education program in 2007/2008.

Brant Community Foundation - We received a \$2,800 grant from the Brant Community Foundation to fund the purchase of computers and printers for the Youth Action Centre classrooms to support the use of accessibility software for the students.

Capital Funding - For 2008/2009, the Agency will be receiving approximately \$68,000 in one time capital “infrastructure funding” for repairs and maintenance at our various locations. We are awaiting details from the Ministries.

Human Resources

Health and Safety Report - The Ministry of Labour has approved our application for a Multi-Workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC).

Part Time Staff Questionnaire – In an effort to gain a better understanding of part time staff needs and preferences, we prepared a questionnaire to be completed confidentially by part time staff. Approximately half of our part time staff participated. The results have been summarized by David Sheridan, our consultant and are being reviewed by the Management Team.

Community Relations

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) - We will be meeting with the clinical staff at CHEO in Ottawa on April 7th, to discuss their use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment model (CANS) and how they keep their staff trained. Our Agency has adopted this model as well.

Marketing

Children's Mental Health Week – To highlight this week, the member agencies of Children's Mental Health Ontario, including St. Leonard's Community Services are hosting another dinner in Hamilton this year at Michelangelos, featuring Elizabeth Manley, the former Canadian figure skating champion as the guest speaker. Tickets are \$50.00 and we only have 40 available. Interested community members should contact Elaine at 519-759-8830.