barrie area native advisory circle

Aboriginal Youth Continuum of Care

 Workshop Record

 november 17, 2009

georgian bay native friendship centre

 midland , on

 pepared by

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 Consultant

SUMMARY

The AYCC report is generated for the benefit of the community members who have participated in this strategic development process and to inform the Directors of the Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle (BANAC) of the input and recommendations brought forward by the working group.

Included in this report are: the power point synopsis of the information shared over the year- long community consultation, recommendations for the formation of a standing youth committee of BANAC along with terms of reference and the draft of a strategic framework model. All of these were agreed to by the working group on November 4, 2009 and forwarded to the November 17th gathering for formal adoption. The committee is referred to as the Aboriginal Youth Circle of Care, which has morphed from the framework of the Aboriginal Youth Continuum of Care.

The power point includes a background and history of the project including the role of BANAC’s capacity developer, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services- Central East Region Office (CERO) and the community process undertaken.

The Strategic Framework is intended to guide and inform the youth committee and BANAC in the development of Aboriginal youth specific programs and services across the region. The founding principles and framework model is a copulation of the input provided from the key informants and community participation.

The model incorporates eight components of care including: Education, Economic, Social, Culture, Recreation, Support Services, Justice and Health/Healing along with intrinsic guiding principles of, Prevention, Rehabilitation, Stabilization and Independence. Traditional wholistic concepts are at the foundation of the wheel and inclusive of the four natural laws, the seven grandfather teachings and the balance of the four aspects of self.

On November 17th 2009, the working group presented the consultants draft findings to community stake holders and engaged in a review of the framework model, the terms of reference for the AYCC as well as initial planning stages for programs and services needed in two of the eight quadrants (Health and Healing and Support Services).

It was determined to initiate planning in these two areas specifically in response to the MCYS/ CERO indication of impending opportunities. The group was divided into working groups and undertook a planning process (Problem Solving Wheel) to further identify steps necessary to initiate development.

The following is a transcript of the group work:

GROUP 1 Health and Healing

Problem Statement “ Lack of basic needs like food, shelter, clothing and belonging”

Positive Re-Statement (Goal) “Children and Youth have access to culturally appropriate financial and material resources to have a good life (Minobimadsawin)

Obstacles

* no land base
* poverty and the cycle of poverty (generational)
* welfare mentality
* lack of cooking skills
* lack of nutritional knowledge
* budgeting
* lack of financial planning skills
* eligibility/policy criteria for housing
* inadequate income (student wage)
* lack of access to health practitioners with child and youth specific skills

Solutions

\* land base - access to capital funding proposals (to take over a country) buy 1-200 acres of land with multi purpose

ie; greenhouses, ceremonies, gardens, horses, proper ecological and educational uses of land based resources

\* poverty – revenue generation, economic sustainability, education

 community based liability insurance for young drivers

 decent income level

 address issues of dead beat Dads

\* welfare mentality- public education re: stigma of social services & mainstream attitudes

\* cooking skills – life skills, indigenous harvesting/cooking, youth specific community kitchens, more aunties and uncles cooking with youth, use fun games

\* inadequate income – higher guaranteed minimum wage, close gap between mainstream and aboriginal salary levels, dedicated Aboriginal youth specific mentors

programs for Aboriginal youth – entrepreneurial programs

\* access to health care – training programs for health practitioners re: unique situation of Aboriginal youth

 encourage youth to enter traditional & non traditional health field

 every TPA must have Aboriginal HR strategy

\* nutritional knowledge – see previous also addiction/diet education

\* included in all – ceremonies rites of passage, physical health ( diabetes/HIV) traditional knowledge/culture

\* budgeting/financial planning – living/life skills learn to plan and save, lift beyond survival mentality

 Aboriginal financial planners share knowledge, make financial planning fun

\* housing – policy criteria lobby government, offer letters of reference

 Native housing programs dedicate houses for youth

 more Native housing

Plan of Action

\* BANAC to lobby various levels of Government to commit long term, sustainable funding to Aboriginal community

 develop and implement for long term

 funding levels equal to mainstream

 same treatment recognition

GROUP 2 Health and Healing

Problem Statement Lack of safe places (don’t like the term residential)

Positive Re-statement changing the term to “Home Away from Home”

 Have a safe place for our youth - multi purpose lodge

Obstacles

\* No (capital) funding

\* getting people to come in and sit on committees

\* qualified staffing and people are spread too thin

\* asking existing agencies to come in

\* finding a location

\* forgotten roles

\* broken relationships- family, community, nation

\* minimal capacity

\* not knowing who they are and growing up with parents having the same identity issues

\* communication issues- language barriers, access barriers for hearing impaired

\* agency barriers for youth to access services ie: conflict with the law, waiting lists

\* engaging the youth themselves

Solutions

\* funding- draft budget/proposal to community social services, Dept of Indian Affairs, approach community partners (BANAC)

\* getting people in- utilize existing contacts, school newsletters etc

\* community involvement- fresh faces – new people

\* location- work with local realtors, Ministry owned land, crown land, land based partnerships

\* forgotten roles- Traditional teachings, credit based Traditional teachings for students and parents at different locations for different cultural, Traditional roles and responsibilities

\* minimal capacity – 2 six month rotations with 12-15 on each rotation

\* communication- the ability to be heard and understood by youth

\* accessing services- make our own in house cultural resources

\* engaging youth- “safe place to lay their heads” food in their bellies, warm bed

 a place to talk freely, non-judgemental, welcoming environment

 youth have a voice in the development of a safe place – on staff

 seven grandfather teachings, staff role modelling/embracing for youth every day

Plan of Action

\* funding – MCYS, other ministries

\* proposal – AYCC / BANAC (Wanda ?can do the budget)

\* community partners – OFIFC, Enaahtig, other Aboriginal service delivery agencies

\* bringing community organizations/programs like Akwe go or Wasinabin, CAPC & schools through newsletters, info sessions, focus groups in Simcoe County

\* people spread too thin – same strategy as above

\* AYCC/BANAC to work with realtors/ banks and Ministry to secure location

\* HR- hire executive director, hiring committee to ensure traditional staff are hired

\* capacity- 12-15 youth for two six month sessions per year

\* communication- form youth groups, ensure every committee has at least 1 youth representative

\* accessing services- have culturally appropriate services in house including Board and staff meetings

\* engaging youth- seven grandfather teachings aboriginal principles are the foundation for the house, with a youth voice being heard

GROUP 3 Support Services

Problem Statement Lack of appropriate services

Positive Re-Statement (Goal)

To develop, design and implement a culturally appropriate continuum of services for Aboriginal youth.

Obstacles

\* continuum of family life has been disrupted or broken

\* families are not understanding or living by the teachings

\* time is a factor when both parents are working

\* lack of buy in from the youth

\* wait for crisis before supports kick in

\* no consistent or core funding for youth services

\* need for culturally appropriate community capacity ie: HR paid & volunteer

\* needs a coordinated effort from broader community

\* alcoholism and drug abuse (youth and parents)

\* family violence

\* unrealistic funding formulas

\* inter generational impacts of trauma and mental health issues

\* lack of education and awareness

\* bulk of available funding goes to mainstream

\* television and video games ( contributing factors)

Solutions

\* we need to strengthen relationships between parents and youth

\* youth need to feel supported heard and understood

\* youth mentors aunties and uncles bridge the generational gap

\* youth need to be engaged in a meaningful way in the design of services and problem solving

\* need outreach and promotion for any new programs and services

\* any new programs or service should strive to include the whole family or community

\* values of any new program or service should be based in traditional teachings

\* community supports need to be healthy individuals themselves ie: aunties/uncles

\* educate families on dangers of video games, movies, TV

\* nature based programming is needed

\* alternative ways of thinking about community resources ie: going back to gardening- food, vegetables to be shared

\* convince Government to transfer resources for new programs or services, long term not just project funds

\* nerd prevention strategy

Plan of Action

Goes back to Community (BANAC?)

GROUP 4 Support Services

Problem Statement Lack of culturally appropriate residential facility

Positive Re-Statement (Goal)

Establishment of a culturally appropriate facility that is responsible to the health and wellness needs of aboriginal youth.

Obstacles/barriers

\* money, financial and human resources

\* enough services to cover county needs (increase)

\* effective assessment tools for Aboriginal youth

\* aboriginal cultural services/sensitive

\* parental involvement

\* access to programs, transportation and confidentiality

\* cooperative/collaborative community approach

\* youth buy in

\* healing/grieving loss

\* assessment development and design buy and for Aboriginal people

Solutions

\* youth buy in- youth engagement in the development of the residential facility with programs and services designed by and for Aboriginal people

\* transportation- volunteer drivers, community organized partnerships, volunteer incentives, fund raising initiatives / donations

\* funding- stable annualized funding

 capital for facility maintain and purchase of

\* priority for First Nation leaders (ownership)

\* lobbying for additional funding (United Way)

\* develop marketing strategy

\* human resources( Youth spoke to this), youth on hiring committee, Elders on Board of Directors, sufficient staffing for number of clients

\* parental involvement when possible, parenting programs available while youth are in facility

\* peer mentoring / counselling

\* family systems counselling

\* sufficient services for county more than one facility

Plan of Action

\* youth circles to engage youth

\* youth to bring in youth (mentoring/peer counselling)\

\* develop youth leadership program

\* funding – lobby MCYS & other ministries (housing, Comsoc, education)

\* BANAC/AYCC write proposal

\* human resources- AYCC develop HR plan for facility

\* Elders and youth on committee

\* partnership and expansion on existing services

Evaluation

How will we know when we have achieved our goal?

A culturally specific aboriginal residential facility and land base to support a coordinated hub of youth services that ensure a continuum which meets the needs of Aboriginal youth.

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