Thank you for the work that you and your network, task group or project is doing within the framework of the Child Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County. The Coalition’s Planning Table has the role of overseeing the Coalition’s Strategic Plan and encouraging the many initiatives affiliated with the Coalition to align with each other and with the goals of the Coalition. In order to do this effectively, the Table has asked the various groups (networks and initiatives) affiliated with the Coalition to report to it on a rotating basis. **Please fill in the following form and bring it with you to the Planning Table meeting.** The second page of this document is a copy of the guidelines Planning Table members will be using when listening to your report on the work of your network or initiative.

**Date:** December 11, 2012

**Name of network or initiative reporting:** Integrated Working Task Group (IWTG)

**Contact person and phone:** Sandy Thurston (Co-chair) 877-719-4795 Ext 2328 or 705 828-1770 (BB) Two new co-chairs pending...

**Other members of your initiative:** Mary Jean Watson (SMDHU), Gisele Forrest (Catulpa), Heather Henderson (CAS), Geraldine Dooley-Phillips (CAS), Pat Malane (New Path), Brenda Jackson (BANAC), Phyllis Hili (SCDSB), Pat Carney (SMCDSB), Aleta Armstrong (CMHA), Stan Spicker (Kinark), Danette Blue (MCYS), Liz McKeeman (New Path), Leanne Weeks (CTN), Germaine Elliott (Enaahtig), Nadia Martins (La Clé), Kathy Simpson (CAMH), Susan Lalonde-Rankin (CAMH), Lesley Watts (Catulpa), Sandra Cole (Simcoe Community Services)

**Purpose of your network or initiative:** Within the context of the Coalition’s Goal 1a) “Streamline and integrate services between member organizations” the Integrated Working Task Group (IWTG) will develop models of integrated working by supporting cross-disciplinary teams of helpers around the needs of the child and family. The IWTG will aggregate Coalition expertise on integrated working, ensuring that we build on skills and relationships that have already been created. IWTG acts as the Coalition reference group for the provincial Working Together for Children’s Mental Health initiative, and ensures connection to the LHIN Care Connections plan for children’s mental health.

**How long in existence:** Since February 2012

**Major accomplishments in the past year:**

* Merged the Single Plan of Care implementation team and the Integrated Approach to Services group into the IWTG
* Developed and confirmed Terms of Reference, developed schematic of current mental health initiatives
* Under “Working Together” is working to streamline pathways to mental health services for children and youth. We have held workshops and conferences on screening and assessment tools including the CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths), helped arrange FNMI input into the CANS which has resulted in contract with BANAC to refine the CANS tools, on the Common Assessment Framework (including train the trainers), on Mental Health Awareness from Centre of Excellence
* Have held consultations with health sector, education, 0-6 providers re “Working Together” screening & assessment tools
* Has helped to ensure coordination of Coalition mental health planning with LHIN under the LHIN Care Connections plan (Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Addictions Steering Committee) by updates from members of the Steering Committee and LHIN consultant Eric Sutton, including developmental disabilities and Francophone consultations
* Working on identifying relationship between CANS as a suite of tools and CAF as an overarching framework
* 11 trained CAF facilitators are presenting common slide deck on CAF awareness to their organizations during Nov Dec and Jan, asking questions about whether staff feel this is a useful framework, will meet again early Feb.
* Drafting an MOU on Integrated Working to come to Planning and Council in 2013
* Evaluating Single Plan of Care pilot at Chigamik via survey monkey

**How do you see your project relating to the Coalition’s strategic goals attached:**

1. ***Streamline and integrate services between agencies****:* IWTG is the group within the Coalition that attempts to develop an overview of various forms of integrated working in the Coalition, identify the tools and pathways that will ensure every child youth and family receives the help they need in a timely coordinated way. Builds on existing integrated working within the Coalition e.g. Wraparound, Single Plan of Care, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Service Coordination, CAS Case Conferencing/Circles
2. ***Improve services to more effectively meet basic needs***: not directly but with a holistic approach using a common framework, families’ entire set of needs, including housing, food, clothing etc would be addressed
3. ***Increase sensitivity and equality of service access for culturally diverse communities****:* Membership of IWTG includes Aboriginal and Francophone reps to ensure early input;all major documents (e.g. SPOC protocol) translated into French, drafts sent to Aboriginal partners with funding to develop appropriate input. Currently no LGBT or newcomer perspectives being actively sought.
4. ***Increase capacity to serve children and youth with mental health needs****:* IWTG is undertaking much of the legwork of the Coalition/LHIN joint plan for child and youth mental health and addictions planning, i.e. defining pathways, defining screening and assessment tools, creating integrated working MOU to ensure joint accountability, offering mental health awareness training for variety of professionals
5. ***Ensure the participation of youth and families in the planning process—to make it more applicable****:* Not currently undertaken by this task group, although integrated teams put children and families at the centre of the planning and service delivery to meet their needs.
6. ***Encourage use of best practices, evidence-based approaches, and improved program evaluation:*** Working Together tools have all been assessed for reliability and validity; the CAF framework has been tested throughout the UK for many years and is used universally for child welfare. MOU being developed by qualified consultant with many years’ experience in health systems change and privacy issues. Centre of Excellence workshops (Mental Health Awareness, proposed Suicide Prevention) are carefully researched and tested.
7. ***Connect to the health care and other relevant planning processes******in the County****:* see d) above re. LHIN joint planning

**Please comment on the sustainability of your project or how it will wind down:** At present the IWTG is sustained by the commitment of all organizations involved and by consultants funded through Working Together. This resource is available until March 2014, and the IWTG will need to determine how to maintain its efforts or wind them down by that time.

**How are you evaluating your success?** Individual workshops, pilots are evaluated but there is not yet an evaluation plan for the IWTG. Should put this in place for the 1 year mark Feb 2013.

**How can the Coalition help your group succeed?**

* Receive presentations on, and become familiar with the Common Assessment Framework as an overarching framework for a common understanding and approach to children in Simcoe County who are at significant risk.
* Participate in visioning a system approach to vulnerable children where core agencies use a common framework and a common set of screening and assessment tools to guide coordinated intake, assessment, planning and service delivery/education to improve the child and family’s outcomes
* Participate in opportunities to present and discuss the CAF with staff in your organizations, and what they need to be able to work collaboratively with other Coalition agencies
* Review and provide input into the initial draft of the MOU on Integrated Working to help find a feasible level of agreement to formally support integrated working among key organizations
* Identify a set of core agencies and organizations to sign on and test the formal agreement to use the common assessment framework for children who are identified at a significant level of risk

**If you have questions please contact Kristina Veenstra, Coalition Executive Assistant at** [**kristina@simcoecountycoalition.ca**](mailto:kristina@simcoecountycoalition.ca)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Coalition-Wide Goal** | **Does this presentation/initiative meet this goal?(please circle one)** | **Comments** |
| **Create one community plan for all children, youth and family services.** | | |
| 1. Streamline and integrate services between agencies | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Improve services to more effectively meet basic needs (e.g. adequate income, food, shelter) | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Increase sensitivity and equality of service access for culturally diverse communities (has this been addressed?) | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Increase capacity to serve children and youth with mental health needs | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Ensure the participation of youth and families in the planning process—to make it more applicable (e.g. Triple P we could add “youth or parents” in the planning process) | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Encourage use of best practices, evidence-based approaches, and improved program evaluation | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Connect to the health care and other relevant planning processes in the County | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Is there an evaluation plan? | Yes  No  N/A |  |
| 1. Has group demonstrated sustainability?  * Is there a launch plan (if applicable)? * Is this a short term program? * If an ongoing, can program sustain itself ? * Are resources clearly outlined and available? | Yes No N/A  Yes No N/A  Yes No N/A  Yes No N/A |  |