

# **Child and Youth Strategy**

**Provincial Symposium**  
*September 29, 2010*

**Report**

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## **Introduction**

On September 29, 2010, the many and varied partners of the Nova Scotia Child and Youth Strategy, met at the Quality Inn, near the Halifax International Airport, for a day of information exchange and planning. Sixty-five people were in attendance. Included were representatives of all provincial, regional, and community tables within the Strategy, as well as staff from the Offices of Aboriginal Affairs, African Nova Scotian Affairs, Acadian Affairs, Immigration and the Status of Women. The purpose of the Symposium was to:

- *provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet;*
- *provide a chance to raise and discuss issues of importance to those gathered;*
- *review the governance structure;*
- *gather input regarding potential future Child and Youth Strategy priority areas*

## **Opening Remarks**

### **Welcome by Judith Ferguson, Deputy Minister Department of Community Services**

Deputy Ferguson thanked everyone for attending and expressed how pleased she was to see such great representation at the Strategy Symposium. She noted that it was an important day – a time to take stock of what went well, what didn't, and to set future direction and next steps for the Child and Youth Strategy.

She noted that the Strategy works across government departments and in partnership with regions and communities. Deputy Ferguson also noted that regions are not all the same and it is important to have regional tables across Nova Scotia to ensure all perspectives are heard. Communities can best identify and often fill in service gaps, with the assistance of government.

Because the government will soon be making difficult choices, the work of the Strategy has to be innovative and creative, using existing resources and finding others. The Strategy will succeed by having the right people involved, by thinking outside the box, and by being open to accepting change. Both planning and implementation will be paramount. If we do this well, the Strategy's lasting legacy will be the increased awareness of, improvement in, and horizontal coordination of services for children, youth and families.

### **Welcome by Heather Christian, Child and Youth Strategy Social Policy Committee**

Heather Christian is a member of the Child and Youth Social Policy Committee and represents Health Promotion and Protection. She welcomed attendees on behalf of George Savoury, Department of Community Services, Chair of the Social Policy Committee, who could not be present at the Symposium. She introduced the other Social Policy Committee members present: Gary Dupuis and Judith McPhee, Department of Justice; Allan Lowe, Department of Education and Patricia Murray, Department of Health.

Ms. Christian spoke about the Symposium being a day to discuss how to make things better for children, youth and families, an opportunity to learn from one another, and to help plan the road ahead for the Child and Youth Strategy. She thanked the staff of the Child and Youth Strategy

for organizing the day and Debbie Martell, Administrative Assistant for the Eastern Network for Children and Youth, for recording the day.

## **Governance Model and Where We All Fit In**

Judith McPhee, Department of Justice, reviewed the Strategy's governance model, using both visual aids and an exercise to demonstrate that everyone has a role to play. In its simplest form, the purpose of the strategy is to implement the recommendations from the Nunn Commission. However in practice, it is complex work because of the numerous players involved and the complexity of relationships. (See Appendix A)

## **Who We All Are**

Led by John Ure, Child and Youth Strategy Specialist (Northern Region), attendees formed two lines and were asked to introduce themselves to the person facing them. Within this 15 second introduction, attendees were to share their name, the organization that they were representing and their role in the Child and Youth Strategy. Upon completion of the 15 second introduction, the lines shifted in opposite directions and attendees continued introductions with the next person that they were facing. This exercise allowed attendees to make some connections and added to the energy level in the room.

## **Strategy Framework**

Donna Deveaux-MacLeod, Child and Youth Strategy Specialist (Eastern Region), delivered introductory remarks to lay the foundation for the regional presentations. This presentation demonstrated how the Initiatives/Pilots are aligned with the Strategy. Donna outlined the Strategy's 5 Key Directions, 8 Long-Term Goals, and 5 Year Plan. (See Appendix B). She noted the Strategy is about collaboration with government and community, inclusion and the whole community taking a role. It is not necessarily about getting new resources, but about using existing resources effectively by strengthening them through linkages and forming partnerships to collaborate on shared and common issues for children, youth and families. She also noted that continuity is also very important and senior officials need to know what is happening on the front lines of the community in order to be effective and that relationships, communication and information sharing are critical to this. Donna also noted the Strategy's 5 year plan that provides direction for the work will change as the years progress. Presently, each member of the Child and Youth Social Policy Committee is a sponsor of one of the five goals and provides quarterly reports to the other members of this Committee regarding this work in progress.

## **Regional Presentations**

### **Northern Region**

#### **Family Support Navigation and Intervention Project (Maggie's Place)**

Carolyn d'Entremont, Executive Director of Maggie's Place, located in Amherst, NS, introduced the Family Support, Navigation and Intervention Project. The proposal was brought forward by Cumberland Kids and the project is a partnership between Maggie's Place Family Resource

Centre (Cumberland County) and Cumberland Mental Health Services. Through this project, a Social Worker was hired to act as the project coordinator/navigator along with part-time staff member to assist with developing and implementing youth activities. Maggie's Place was able to expand its mandate to serve families with school aged children and teens.

The three main pillars of the Family Support Navigation and Intervention Project are:

- *counseling and navigation*
- *services/programs/supports for parents and families*
- *community partnerships*

Included as **Appendix C** is a Concentric Circle that demonstrates Family Support Navigation and Intervention Project's alignment with the direction of the Strategy.

## **Eastern Region Parenting Journey**

Greg McGuire, Parenting Support Worker, Antigonish/Guysborough Early Intervention, presented on the Parenting Journey Initiative which provides support to the whole family. His role involves home visits and work with parents who have children aged 3 -16. Evidence demonstrates that 3 -8 year olds are often developmentally delayed, while the 9 -16 year olds usually have behavioral issues. As well, many of the parents are single females and grandmothers who sometimes feel they don't have anyone to talk to and feel isolated in their rural setting. The frequency of home visits is based on need. The approach is holistic – developing a family plan that involves the whole family, setting priorities and achieving their goals. Coaching caregivers by providing parenting strategies such as communication skills, attachment and bonding techniques, community involvement, and discipline information is also indicative of the program. This helps parents and caregivers to understand the issues that they are facing and find appropriate strategies to deal with identified areas of concern to cope more effectively and to foster healthy relationships within the family.

Included as **Appendix D** is a Concentric Circle that demonstrates Parenting Journey's alignment with the direction of the Strategy.

## **Western Region Supporting Youth in Transition**

Josh Purdy, Director, Split Rock Learning Centre, Yarmouth, NS, presented on the work they are doing with youth in their community through the Supporting Youth in Transition Project. Many of youth they serve are considered youth at risk. They operate a drop in service on a daily basis, as well as offer youth specific programs throughout the year. They currently have 300 youth visits a month. They help youth access other services when needed, as many youth are uncertain or uncomfortable accessing these services on their own. Some action plans involve overcoming obstacles to engaging further education and finding employment. Youth advocacy is an important part of the Project as many youth do not feel their voices are being heard. The staff

include youth in their planning to determine what is working, what is lacking, and what is needed. Because youth are more involved in the creation of programs and assist with the delivery of them, the result is more involvement in the community.

The Supporting Youth in Transition team have been working hard to increase partnerships, supporting their goal of being knowledgeable of services and in referring youth to necessary services. Youth volunteerism is increasing. As a result, youth are gaining respect in their communities. Positive reinforcement of the value of youth improves the perceptions that some people have of youth in the community. They are also working with local RCMP to change the relationship youth have with them. As a result, youth increasingly see the RCMP as a resource and not a punishment.

Included as **Appendix E** is a Concentric Circle that demonstrates Supporting Youth in Transition's alignment with the direction of the Strategy.

## **Central Region**

### **After Hours Response Project**

Judy Elliot, Manager, IWK Mental Health and Addictions Services, introduced the After Hours Response Project - Follow up Next Day ( FUNDS ) project. Partners include the IWK Mental Health and Addictions Program, Halifax Regional Police, Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (Capital Health) and Department of Community Service's Child Welfare Provincial Emergency Duty System (PEDs). The project's goal is improved coordination of existing emergency response/crisis intervention services after regular business hours for individuals experiencing parent-child conflict with a youth under the age of 16. A next day follow-up contact occurs to address the presenting issues between the parent and child. Services provided include:

- *crisis intervention,*
- *mediation,*
- *next day follow-up,*
- *parent training,*
- *training of staff and community partners,*
- *and temporary case-management.*

A new video of the project, will be used as a shared training tool for partner staff. The video is a demonstration of a parent/child conflict and the integrated response of partner Services. One of the outcomes of the After Hours Response Project is it gives hope to families that help is available.

A concern of the service is that it is only available within the Halifax Regional Municipality catchment area, and even with limited publicity the program is at maximum capacity.

Included as **Appendix F** is a Concentric Circle that demonstrates After Hours Response Project's alignment with the direction of the Strategy.

## **Leaders of Today (LOT)**

### **An Emerging Provincial Youth Network**

Attendees at the Child & Youth Provincial Symposium were treated to a moving interactive lunch presentation by two youth representing the planning team for Leaders of Today. Amanda Murley and Simon Mandari spoke of their personal experiences and challenges as youth growing up in Nova Scotia, their commitment to education, their community and other young people. They indicated that they became involved in Leaders of Today because it presented an opportunity for developing self confidence in a safe and fun environment, as well as a place to start making a real difference in how government interacts with youth. Their energy was contagious as they engaged Symposium attendees to participate in a get to know you activity of moving their bodies and minds as led by the young guests.

The youth spoke enthusiastically and eloquently about Leaders of Today. For young people and the adults who support them, Leaders of Today is a place where youth can:

- *connect to government systems;*
- *inform government programs;*
- *participate in leadership opportunities;*
- *showcase their talents;*
- *develop and nurture friendships;*
- *plan and take action;*
- *have lots of fun*

One of the forums for promoting and nurturing an emerging provincial youth network that strives to achieve these outcomes, is an annual gathering called the LOT Summit. This year, Leaders of Today has partnered with Heartwood to coordinate and plan the LOT 5 Summit. The event will be held October 22-24, 2010 in Tatamagouche.

In closing, Amanda and Simon extended an invitation to all Symposium attendees to participate in Leaders of Today, either in person or in ways that support young people in their communities.

## **Schools Plus**

Tara Moore, Provincial Coordinator, Schools Plus Program, Halifax provided highlights of the program and presented a video on the provincial initiative. Schools Plus is a collaborative interagency approach to supporting the whole child and it focuses on Nunn's recommendation for improved coordination and collaboration in the delivery of programs and services for children and youth. Four school boards: Halifax Regional, Strait Regional, South Shore Regional and Chignecto-Central Regional house project sites. Local regional advisory committees consisting of the Nova Scotia Departments of Education, Community Services, Health, Justice, Health Promotion and Protection and community organizations assist the Schools Plus facilitators expand, coordinate and advocate for services. A Provincial steering committee meets monthly to discuss implementation.

The vision is to have schools become centers of integrated service delivery enabling enhanced collaboration by bringing professionals and programs together to help children, youth and families in a welcoming place. Information is made available to parents in a way that is convenient for them and increases awareness of and access to needed services.

Included as **Appendix G** is a Concentric Circle that demonstrates Schools Plus's alignment with the direction of the Strategy.

## Open Space

Led by John Ure, Child and Youth Strategy Specialist (Northern Region) the afternoon portion of the Symposium, involved an *Open Space* session (*adapted from the work of Harrison Owen, see: <http://www.co-intelligence.org/P-Openspace.html>*)

Six themes were posted for discussion and participants were asked to choose the theme that mattered to them most. The themes were:

- *collaboration at the community level*
- *horizontal governance*
- *youth engagement*
- *how - within our communities and systems - can we make better use of our existing resources to support the work we are doing for children, youth and families?*
- *emerging models and promising practices that respond to social problems that are becoming increasingly complex*
- *open conversation*

No group formed to discuss *emerging models and promising practices*, possibly because the morning agenda concentrated on that theme.

A set of questions were suggested as a framework to guide group discussions, although attendees were encouraged to take the conversation wherever it seemed to lead:

- *based on what you know or have experienced on this particular topic, what is working well?*
- *in what ways does this theme need more attention/energy?*
- *what else could we be doing and how can the Child and Youth Strategy support that?*
- *imagine some possibilities for the future relevant to this theme.*

The full record of these conversations is included as **Appendix H**.

Below is a synopsis of all that emerged from the various discussion groups. To achieve greater clarity in this report, items were clustered under themes that emerged during the conversations, as well as those that were given at the outset. As much as possible, the exact wording recorded by the groups has been used in this report.

- ***The importance of evaluation:*** *We need baseline data in a number of areas (e.g., rates of youth in crisis, cost/benefit analyses), as well as feedback/input from users (i.e., first*



voices) such as communities and young people. All of the Child and Youth Strategy - at every level - needs to be evaluated and this process needs to be authentic.

- **Better use of existing resources:** More emphasis on prevention, as too much is now being placed on intervention, although early intervention for high-risk youth is vital. The pilots should become ongoing programs. The funding for initiatives that work well needs to be stabilized (e.g., *Youth Health Centres*). We need to set common priorities, engage in joint goal setting, and do a better job of coordinating our services.
- **More sharing of information and knowledge:** This includes best practices, promising practices (*when something seems to be working but the evidence is not yet available*), stories of success, etc. We need to do this between communities across the province and we need to find out what they are doing in other jurisdictions.
- **Facilitate communication:** Vertically within government (e.g., *from Managers to front-line staff*). Government needs to be better informed as to what is happening at the community level, as is intended with the Regional Tables. Young people need to know that we are listening and that what they have to say is getting results.
- **Partnerships:** Recognize that these are relationship-driven. What about partnering with universities? More collaboration between government and non-government organizations. Use an intentional shared leadership model.
- **Horizontal Governance:** In government, we need to practice Horizontal Governance; i.e., support collaboration rather than "silo-ism." Need to find better/stronger connections between departments and then budget, appoint staff, share accountability accordingly. What about a Ministry of Youth to consolidate all the work that is now happening piecemeal?
- **Privacy issues:** This matter is related to communication, sharing of info, and Horizontal Governance. Currently there are barriers to sharing info, which makes much of it inaccessible in our collaborative approach to complex issues. This is a tough nut to crack and needs to be elevated through Senior Management to the Deputy Minister level and vetted through legal departments. Perhaps we need a compelling presentation on the value of research, the sharing of info, and the impact of privacy issues?
- **Youth engagement:** Government is doing a good job on education re: youth engagement. Schools and communities need to play more of a role in creating strong connections with youth, providing opportunities to volunteer/lead, take responsibility, and learn about their culture and heritage. Media needs to focus on positive stories of youth involvement and contribution. The means for doing all of this is adults and youth working together, especially across generations. This work is essentially relationship-driven, based on trust, and innovative in its nature. Parents and families need to be involved in some meaningful way. Are we missing the boat for young people between 16 - 25 who are out of school and parents themselves? What about homeless youth 16 to 19? We need to show the evidence that youth engagement produces clear benefits.

## Child and Youth Strategy Symposium Evaluation

### Evaluation Summary

Sixty-five people were in attendance ( not all attendees were able to stay the full day). Thirty-two of the attendees responded to our on-line survey. The response rate was 49%.

Overall satisfaction with the Symposium was rated high with 97% (n=31 of 32) of respondents rating the Symposium as good to excellent. Many of the attendees thanked the Child and Youth Strategy Team for the invitation to participate in the Symposium. Some of the feedback received regarding the Symposium included:

- *Better understanding of other agencies and how they deliver programs and services. Some really exciting new ideas for programs and services that we can implement.*
- *Knowledge of initiatives from other areas and connections made during the day*
- *Feeling good to know that the government is committed to the Strategy.*
- *The great projects and how this strategy is making a difference, as well as the possibilities. There were great questions. The Videos were very good. Enjoyed the comments by Deputy Minister of Community Services.*
- *Understanding of the governance structure and the value of connecting community and district service providers to the community and regional tables.*
- *The importance of horizontal government and also better communication within government about what is working.*
- *All the great work that is occurring all over the province. Also the potential for further collaborations on projects.*

The planning team was interested in receiving specific feedback for planning future Symposiums. Responses to the questionnaires provided feedback on the Symposium and suggestions for future planning. Included as **Appendix I** is a summary of the information received from the attendees.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Overall, the first annual Child and Youth Strategy Symposium was a success. Feedback received both during the day and through the survey supports the continuation of this initiative. As a result, plans are already underway for future Symposia. The Symposium delivered on its objectives as it provided an opportunity for stakeholders to meet one another and network. It also provided a chance to review the Strategy's governance structure highlighting where each stakeholder fits. Comments received from respondents indicate that participating in the Symposium created confidence that the Strategy is continuing to move forward. Suggestions for improvement included having more time, more discussion on improved data collection, analysis, and sharing and hearing more "first voice" accounts from presenters.

As a result of the Symposium and the information collected from attendees, the Child and Youth Social Policy Committee has approved the following goals as the next steps of action for the Child and Youth Strategy:

- *Goal 1: Youth Engagement Practices*

To promote an environment in which young people are seen as experts on issues that impact them. Youth are engaged in informing, shaping, and evaluating responses to those issues thereby improving usage and reducing costs. Government will seek to lead by example in this area and will work with communities to support both adults and youth in this work.

- *Goal 2: Collaborative Service Delivery Model*

To develop for implementation across government collaborative service delivery that includes a comprehensive continuum of supports that will enable families, children and youth to get the service that they need, when they need it and in ways that are user friendly, achieve the desired results, and provide value for investments.

- *Goal 3: Horizontal Practices*

Develop and practice a shared understanding of horizontal practices with the Strategy that recognizes all levels of ownership to ensure coordinated activity and to enhance collaborative practices. The model ensures clear roles and accountability, communication and other protocols and processes that will serve to reflect the multi-partnered, multi-layered nature of the Strategy.

- *Goal 4: Evaluation and Data Collection and Sharing Protocols*

Develop and implement data collection practices that facilitate the sharing of information and evaluation of progress towards the approved outcomes of the Child and Youth Strategy. These should include and value the full range of tools and input from academic study to community knowledge.

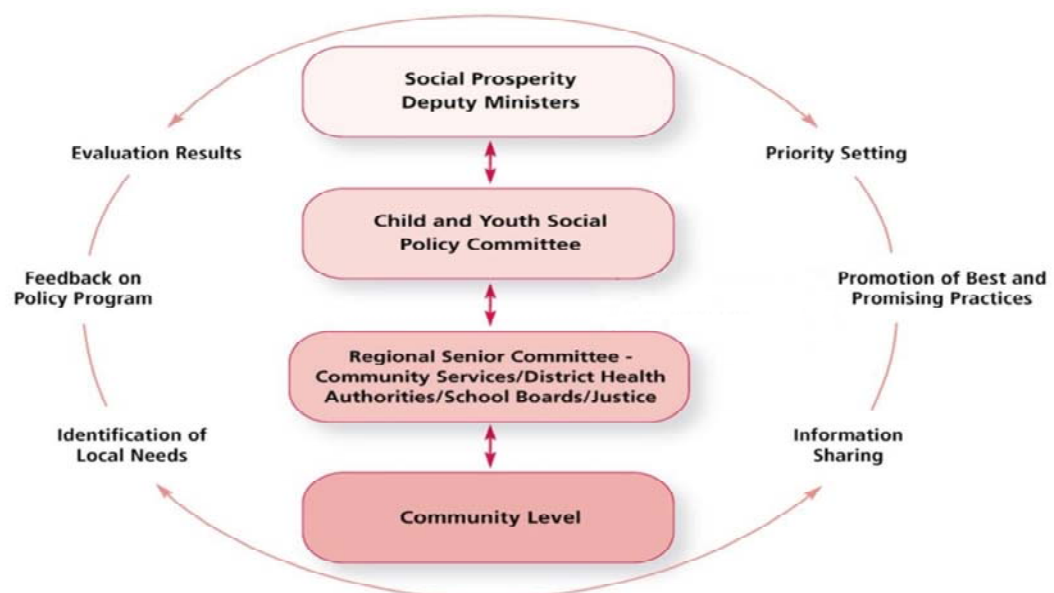


## Our Kids Are Worth It

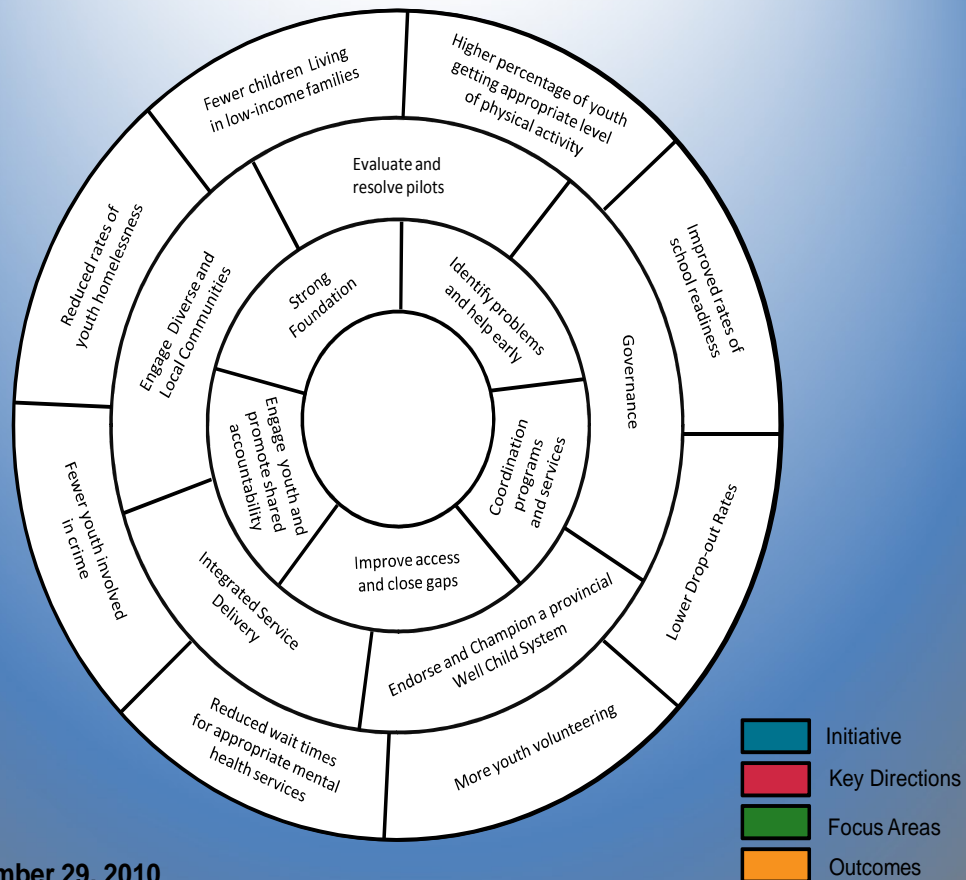


Strategy for Children and Youth

### Child and Youth Strategy Governance Model

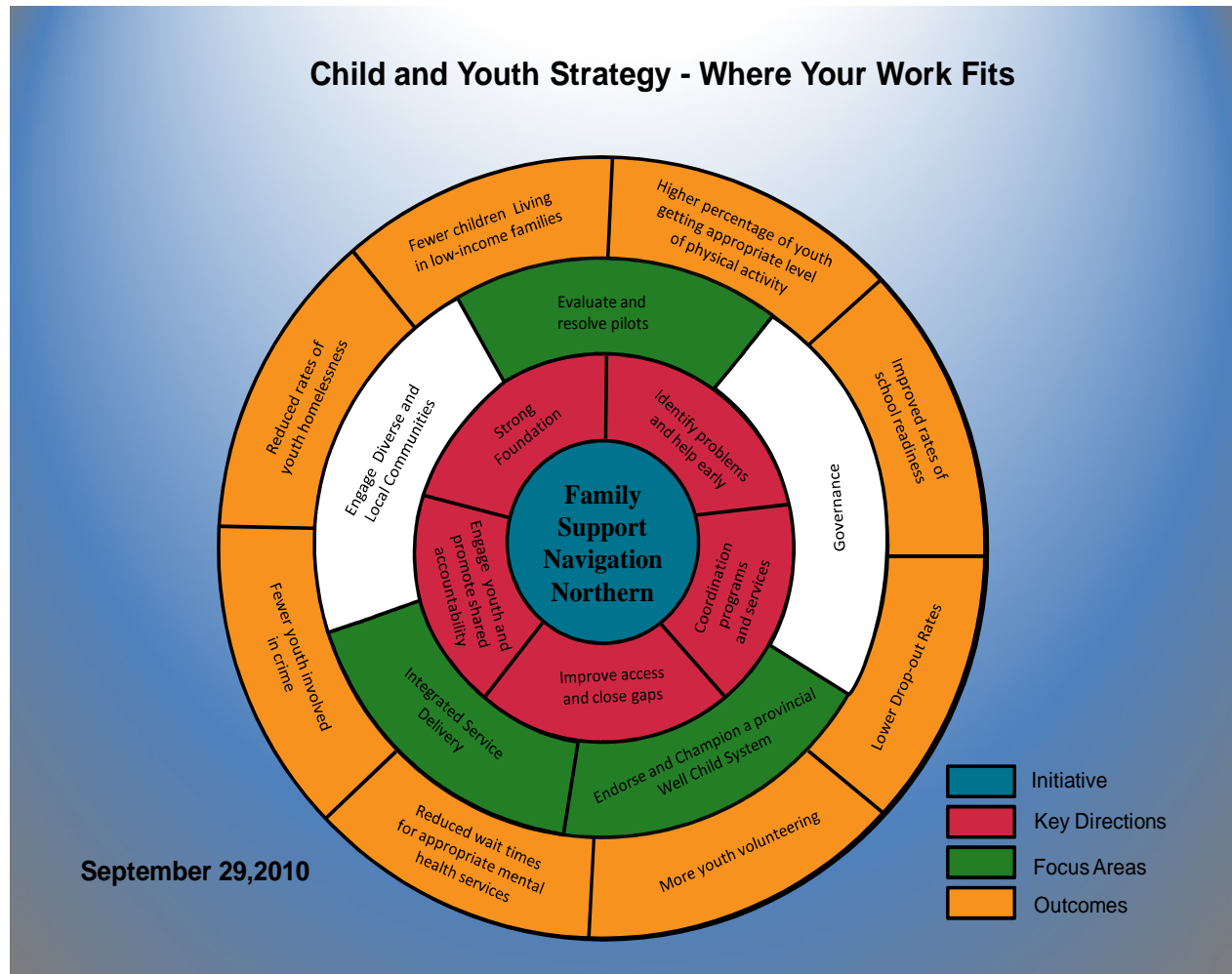


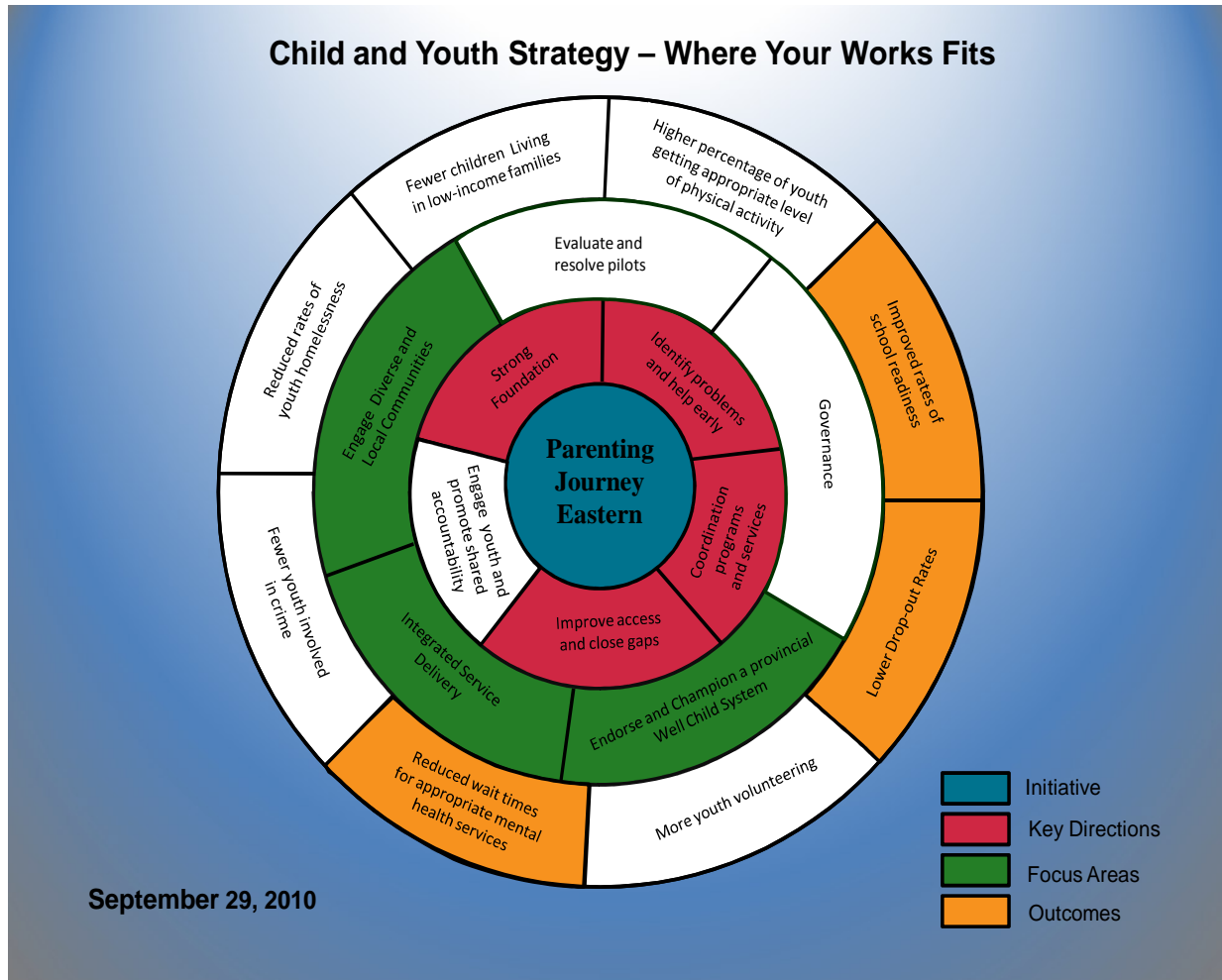
## Child and Youth Strategy – Where Your Works Fits



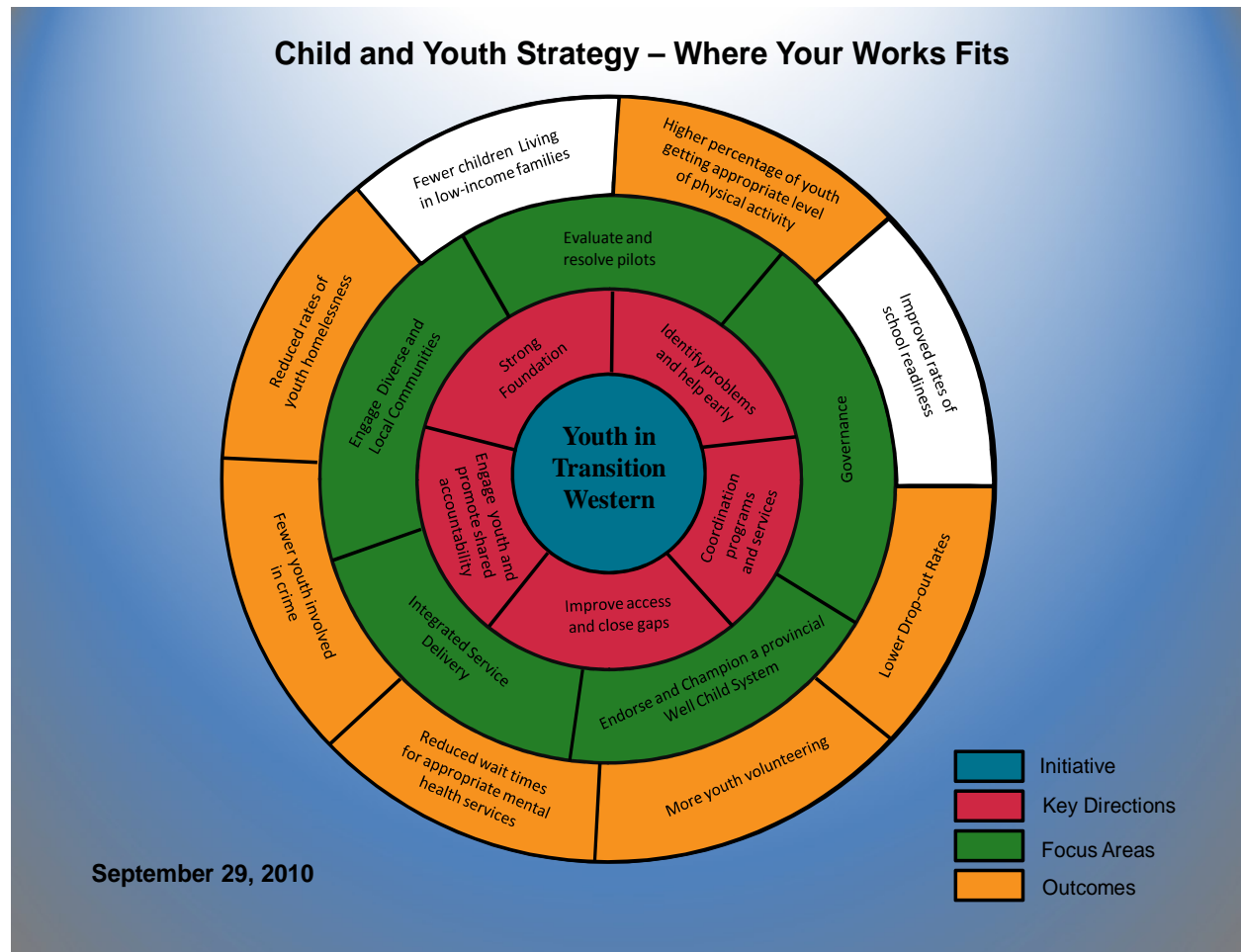
September 29, 2010

# Family Support Navigation Northern Region



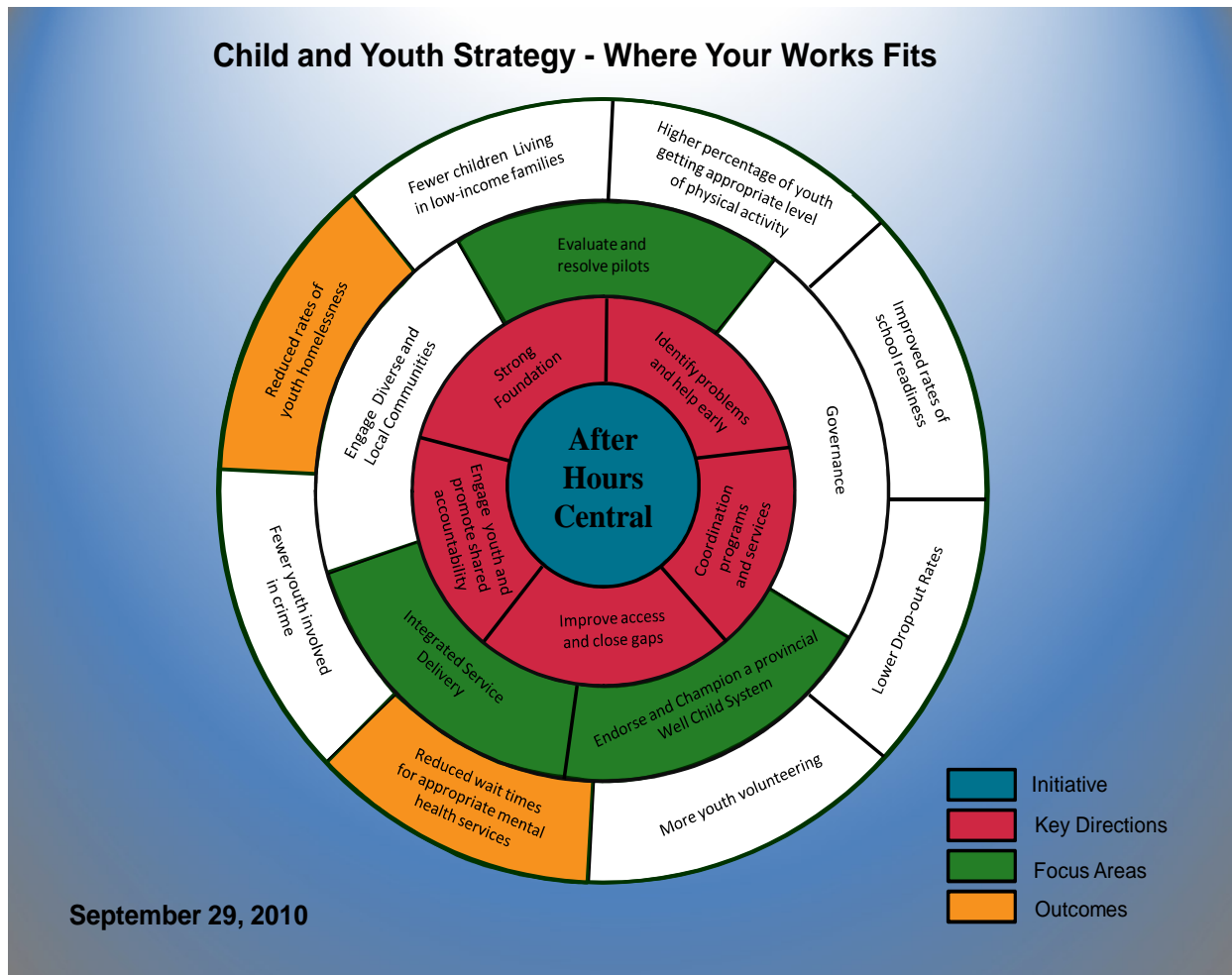


Youth in Transition Western Region

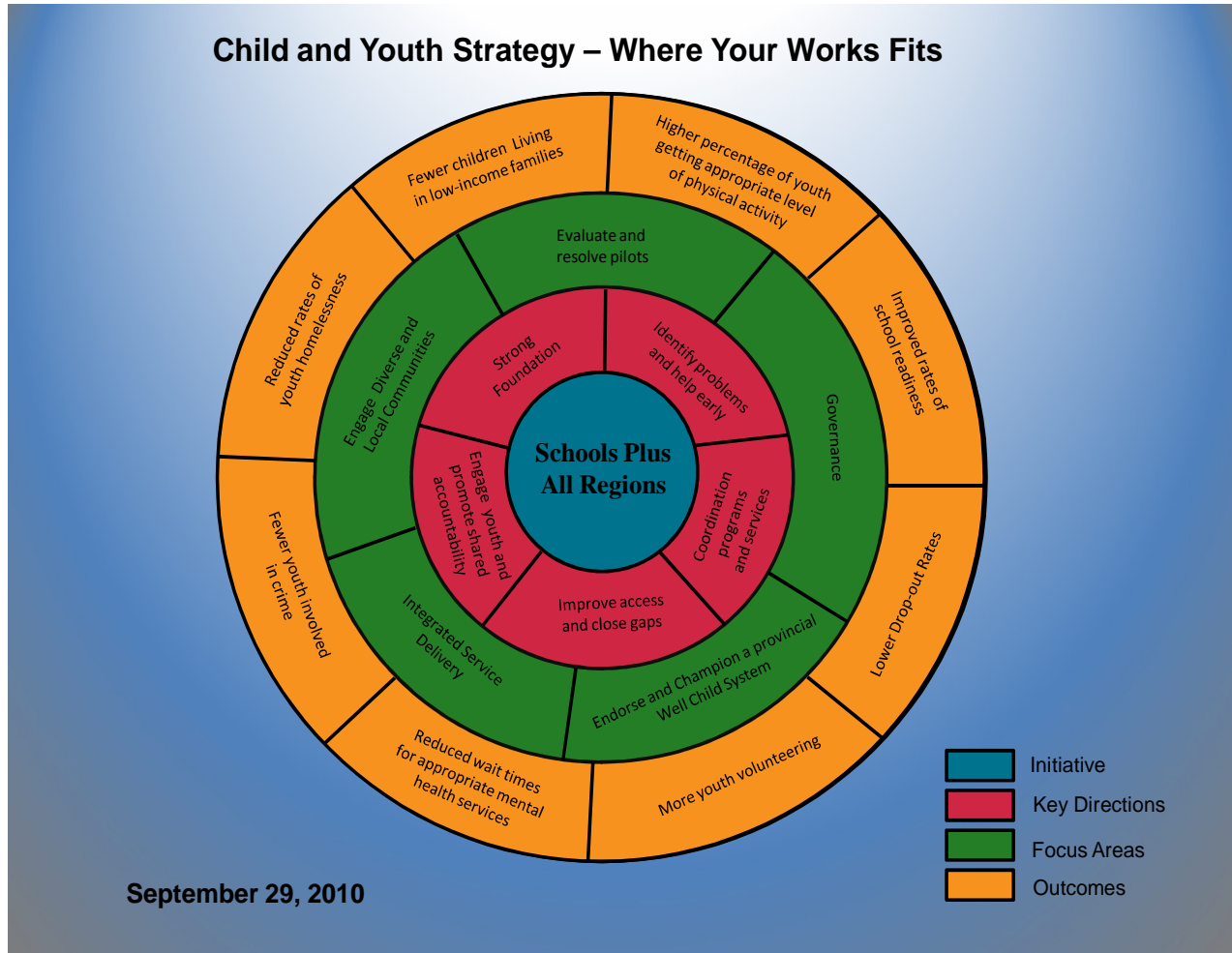




After Hours Central Region



Schools Plus All Regions



Making better use with  
existing community  
resources & systems to  
support work

What is working well?	Ways it needs more attention/energy	What else could we be doing & how can CYS support it?	Some possibilities for the future
	Need to have true evaluation mechanisms to see what is making a difference Get feedback from people receiving services Early intervention Still youth in trouble - need to balance the need to intervene with early intervention Shared accountability Provide incentives to participate in evaluation Face to face evaluations High quality testimonials, story telling & video clips	Get evidence around rates of youth in crisis Ask community for their opinion Communicate from managers to front line staff Identify how to share what is working well on ongoing basis and help others now Coordinate & report on services offered Communicate from managers to front line staff	Government to let go and let innovation happen Put current data in a format that communities can understand & use for decision making Reduce barriers to data sharing Evaluate CYS at all levels Intentional shared leadership model Horizontal governance - meeting more often, sharing information, more first voice presentations

Collaboration at  
Community Level

Established interagency committee Website development Agencies working together & forming relationships Meetings like the Symposium for CYS Government agencies better informed Good database in some areas	Using existing funds effectively Common priority & goal setting Balance focus on high risk vs. prevention More use of technology Make province-wide programs and best practices applicable to local areas Informed decisions on where pilots are implemented Sustainability of programs Getting baseline data for evaluation Access and apply information from other provinces	Bring service providers & government representatives together consistently Supporting promising practices while waiting for solid evaluation evidence	Turn successful pilots into programs CAYS requires a champion Use existing resources to support new programs
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Horizontal Governance -  
sharing resources,  
responsibility, authority,  
information & tools

Child & Youth Strategy Communication between regional tables & Social Policy Committee & District Managers	Add stories from families Add costing benefits Data - aggregating, use, collection, qualitative & quantitative necessary Consistent sharing & having conversations Privacy issues hard "nut" to crack Drive the privacy and data collection issues up to DMs & Ministers & MLAs as well as laterally through legal departments Check other provincial models Put together a powerful, compelling, presentation of research and privacy issues and their impact	Measure cost saving from early intervention Realign HR, and budget based on outcomes and sharing	Partnering with universities Share & implement best practices from other parts of country
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Emerging Models of Service Delivery and Promising Practices that respond to increasingly complex social problems.	What is working well?	Ways it needs more attention/energy	What else could we be doing & how can	Some possibilities for the future
			CYS support it?	
	None of the attendees went to this question.			
Youth Engagement - Meaningful involvement & Inclusion in essential tasks & processes of youth's own communities	Big help - within strategy Fantastic group collaboration Awareness → action Govn't doing good work on education front Engaging youth through community through culture & heritage Intergeneration Projects where organizers (adults) are listening to youth & trust between the two groups	Youth want to see results from their feedback e.g. health centres in schools are a good reflection of what youth really want - it may be uncomfortable for some. An increase in volunteer opportunities for youth beyond the first step Becoming really connected to the community Follow through on promises Make sure youths' opinions really matter in important decisions like hiring for youth support roles Empower youth to make big decisions (power sharing) Promote responsibility so they have liability. What about 16 - 25 years, out of school youth/young parents Youth seem to be extending beyond teenagers Schools don't want students back once they leave, e.g. can't register without a guardian... then DCS can't help because they are too old Getting parental commitment and support	Groups that are missing - lost in the "gap" Collaborate with NGOs Homeless youth 16 - 19 Need to develop trust with youth Need to physically go where the kids are Definition of youth so all are serving same group Intergenerational supports - take advantage of opportunities Continue to create those partnerships Educate society that youth aren't just trouble makers. Strategy should have a role in this education/awareness /training. Initiate contact with youth Get them to functions - use food & fun Stabilize funding for health centres Be extra creative in approach - out of the box Get youths' opinions and assessments Need to deal with whole family Provide proof, data on how youth engagement is beneficial Involve youth in concrete activities that produce tangible results, e.g. make a video, fix up a centre	Encourage media to focus on positive stories Seeing high schools as connected to the global community & social justice - give them credit for this Give youth time & energy instead of just a cheque Give youth specific tasks - direct responsibilities Go out of the box for a special event that is outside of the norm, e.g. circus training Work with parents to encourage support of the youth's goals

I would like to talk about...	What insights can we draw from our conversations?	How this could apply to the Child & Youth Strategy
Succession Planning Advisory Group Body Ministry of Children and Youth Social Services Plus Sharing of Priorities, Goals, Strategy Find connections between departments - budget/staff accordingly	Silos not survivable Silos create division/assumptions Silos create silos Reward collaboration & futuristic thinking - translates to action Celebrate & build on successes Collaboration/cooperation/Coordination must be mandated from top to become systemic (business plan) Put right people in right job Communicate	Support the development of Ministry Support/advocate for succession planning with/by Youth
	Response	
Where we can get a copy of the logic model for the CYS referenced in Our Kids are Worth It - Year 2?	It is currently being updated. Sonya will send to people who put in a request once it is completed.	
What actions/programs fall under Goal # 3 - Well Child?	Early years are being discussed across departments. Programs and services are required from 0 until young adulthood. The 5 government departments are currently in high level discussion about the well child. There is mapping of provincial programs and involvement at the community level to support children, youth and family. They need data access and collection and opportunities to present back to the community. The government is committed to supporting services. There could be a different funding model which includes federal funding. There will be a report to the Social Policy Committee in October. The next step is to present the Well Child to the community. Health Protection and Promotion have taken the lead on this priority. Everything that was talked about at the Symposium fits under the Well Child and the proceedings of the day will be sent to everyone in attendance.	

## Evaluation Summary

## Summary of the information received from the attendees

Items	Description	Themes and Quote(s)
<b>Location of Symposium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geographic location of event</li> <li>- Facility satisfaction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Geographic location</b></p> <p>91% (n=29 of 32) rated location as excellent/good.</p> <p>Some comments we heard:</p> <p><i>Same geographic location, but across the Highway at a different hotel</i></p> <p><i>Was pleased that session was held at airport rather than in the city.</i></p> <p><b>Facility satisfaction (Quality Inn Halifax Airport)</b></p> <p>65% (n=21 of 32) rated their satisfaction with the choice of the Quality Inn as excellent/good. 34% (n=11 of 32) rated it as fair/poor.</p> <p>Some comments we heard:</p> <p><i>Space was too small. Hallway far too congested. Did not allow for mingling.</i></p> <p><i>The photographer was distracting. The flash stand in the middle of the room with noisy fan and her walking and standing in front of the PowerPoint screen made it hard to concentrate</i></p> <p><i>It was great to be out of the city, however not the best of rooms. The presentations were great, but long, perhaps spaced too close together and not enough time for questions and answers. It would almost be nice to have presentations occurring in different rooms, more interactive and sign up for what interested in.</i></p> <p><i>The actual location was not great for break off sessions. This kind of venue should allow for good break off sessions and conversations and better acoustics. The central location is a good one but maybe there is something in Elmsdale or Enfield that would allow for the kind</i></p>

Items	Description	Themes and Quote(s)
		<i>of space that would suite our purposes better.</i>
<b>Goals of Symposium as identified by Planning Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring balance between the sectors involved with the Strategy</li> <li>- Review of governance structure and where we all fit</li> <li>- A chance to showcase some of great work being done (i.e. pilots)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ensuring balance between the sectors</b></p> <p>The main purpose of the Symposium was to bring together the various players and stakeholders of the Child and Youth Strategy. A deliberate attempt was made, therefore, by the planning committee to ensure balance between the sectors. Invites therefore were targeted for representatives from each of the Offices of African Nova Scotia, Acadian, Aboriginal, and Gaelic Affairs, Office of Immigration, the Disabled Persons Commission and the Status of Women. Also, invites went out to representatives from regional/county/community tables of the Strategy.</p> <p>Although no specific question was asked regarding the balance of representation, information received through the open-ended questions indicate a balance was achieved as demonstrated by the following quotes:</p> <p><i>I was excited to see the interest of folks from the "Offices" of immigration, status of women, etc. Their enthusiasm and eagerness was refreshing and like a new spike of energy. Folks from the region are really interested in what's happening and appreciate the opportunity for input. The importance of having your region ready to inform government of its priorities which means continued work on relationship building and being more inclusive of youth, community members, diverse populations.</i></p> <p><i>Great day, well organized, opportunity to hear about other initiatives was inspiring, have the youth attend was of great value, the CYSPC table being present was important and sent a positive message about the importance of the work</i></p>

Items	Description	Themes and Quote(s)
		<p><b>Governance structure</b></p> <p>Some of the comments we received:</p> <p><i>Feeling good to know that the government is committed to the Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Understanding of the governance structure and the value of connecting community and district service providers to the community and regional tables.</i></p> <p><i>This was an excellent opportunity to meet several people working at different levels of the Child and Youth Strategy. It also put in perspective for me at least, the chance to see the levels of cooperation more clearly and how we can channel information from the grass roots level of the community groups - Leadership groups- Social Policy - Deputy Ministers and hopefully back to the front line community groups. Great Job!!!</i></p> <p><i>The Symposium brought people together who rarely get the opportunity to collaborate. Invaluable in that regard.</i></p> <p><b>Showcase of pilots</b></p> <p>Respondents expressed their satisfaction in learning about various pilot projects of the Strategy as 97% rated their satisfaction with ratings of good to excellent.</p> <p>Some comments we heard:</p> <p><i>It was good to see the other presentations from the pilot projects to see what areas the strategy were investing in.</i></p> <p><i>All the great work that is occurring all over the province. All the potential for further collaboration on projects.</i></p> <p><b>Recommendation</b> – even though satisfaction with the showcase of pilots was high, there was a comment about including more “first voice” accounts of programs in the group of presenters.</p>



Items	Description	Themes and Quote(s)
<b>Open Space Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Child and Youth Strategy team wanted to respond to stakeholders' interest in having a deeper discussion of the Strategy. An adapted version of <i>open space technology</i> was used to facilitate this</li> </ul>	<p>81% of respondents (n=26 of 32) rated their satisfaction with this session in the "excellent to good" range.</p> <p>Feedback received indicated that the learning from this session were valuable but that a bit more time dedicated to this would have helped:</p> <p><i>The open space session was cut short and really could have used more time and more free flowing open space techniques that would have really gotten to what people really had time and passion to talk about. Understand why we did what we did with the themed areas not so sure it got to what we really needed to know in terms of setting the course for the future, further analysis will tell us.</i></p> <p><i>I do enjoy the concept of Open space however since we haven't really had the opportunity to meet all together very often or not at all before it would have been nice to have a really good information session to understand exactly what direction or possible directions the strategy may or may not be going before we discuss ideas.</i></p>
<b>Leaders of Today</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input from young people is imperative to the Strategy. The Provincial Youth Network (commonly referred to as Leaders of Today) is one of the mechanisms used by the Strategy to hear the voices of young people. During the lunch hour, two youth involved with LOT presented to the group.</li> </ul>	<p>Leaders of Today - 87% (n=28 of 32) rated this session as excellent to good.</p> <p>Some of the comments received were that participants would have like to have more presentations by youth.</p> <p>Suggestion to have Leaders of Today as a stand-alone presentation rather than squeezing it in during lunch.</p>
<b>Suggestions for future Symposiums and for improving future sessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As this was the first Symposium of the Strategy, specific feedback was requested to assist with the planning of future Symposiums</li> </ul>	<p>Some comments we heard:</p> <p><i>More opportunity/time for questions, dialogue about the info present. More time for developing ideas</i></p> <p><i>More presentations by youth</i></p> <p><i>The need for improved data collection, data analysis, and data sharing</i></p> <p><i>More sharing of information about the</i></p>

Items	Description	Themes and Quote(s)
		<i>government's direction for the strategy</i> <i>Involve politicians at all levels</i> <i>More open dialogue vs. presentations</i> <i>Collaboration, integration strategies across jurisdictions and sectors in relation to children, youth and families.</i> <i>How to put recommendations forward</i>