

Topic: Family and Community Support Services Collaborative Action Group Presentation

Introduction:

To provide an update on the Parkland County Family and Community Support Services program for Council.

Facts (Background Information):

FCSS is a provincial program that is locally driven and provides support for preventative social initiatives to enhance the well being of individuals, families and communities. Governed by the FCSS Act and Conditional Funding agreement, each municipality that provides this program supplies 20% of the funding they are eligible for and the Government of Alberta provides 80%, based on the per capita population.

Parkland County began accessing FCSS funding in 2002 and thus began our partnerships with the Town of Stony Plain, City of Spruce Grove, Leduc County, Yellowhead County and the Town of Drayton Valley. FCSS programs are based on the following categories, Children's and Youth Programs, Adult programs, Seniors Programs, Families Programs and Community Development. Specific to Parkland County use of funds, we utilize part of our funding to provide Community Development support to Community Associations, training for our community association volunteers, our partnership with the 211 program, our Driveway Snow Removal Support Program, and Volunteer Appreciation.

A review was undertaken in 2010 to build on the relationship with our partners and allow Parkland County to have a better understanding of how our funding was being utilized. The Review provided recommendations that focused on Collaboration, Accountability and Meeting the specific needs of Parkland County residents.

The Collaboration piece saw the creation of the Collaborative Action Group (CAG), representatives from each of our municipal partners FCSS programs, who meet together four times a year to discuss programs, assess the needs of Parkland County residents and share ideas and resources. On this committee, we have Lorraine Berry from the City of Spruce Grove, Gladys Friedrich from the Town of Stony Plain, Jennifer Hourihan from Leduc County, Lola McGhie from the Town of Drayton Valley and Wendy Robinson from Yellowhead County. The Accountability piece is the development of a feedback mechanism that will monitor FCSS program and service outcomes on a routine basis. This has been done through the creation of a reporting document that each partner will fill out at the end of the year and is based on the FCSS Provincial Outcome Measures. We will also review our funding agreement half way through their term in order to begin looking at any necessary changes (ie. Funding levels, program requirements). The third, Meeting the Specific Needs of our Residents, involves an ongoing needs assessment process, to determine if the baseline dollars we provide to the partners are sufficient or if there are new or emerging needs, not

already covered in the existing agreement that need to be addressed. A good example are the specific identified needs of residents like those in Parkland Village.

Monitoring and Evaluation will be done formally every year, beginning in 2012 and informally with every Collaborative Action Group meeting. We discuss the numbers and needs of Parkland County residents served, the trends that are being noticed by the groups, what community based initiatives are being undertaken, and which partnerships are being developed locally and provincially.

The Format of the new Agreements is based on a three year term from January 2011 until December 31, 2013. The agreements show the opportunity for increased funding for additional programming if it is deemed warranted by Parkland County if the need cannot be met by one of the partners. Also, we require participation in the Collaborative Action Group, which has already improved relationships between ourselves and these groups and between these partner FCSS organizations. This new agreement also allows for no barriers to our residents to participate in FCSS programs in any of our partner organizations.

Our current funding amounts to each organization are as follows:

City of Spruce Grove: \$145,731.62 plus \$35,000.00 for Parkland Village Program

Town of Stony Plain: \$145,731.62

Yellowhead County: \$55,918.63

Town of Drayton Valley: \$35,751.26

Leduc County: \$86,968.87

The Collaborative Action Group 2012-2013 Initiatives include creating a strategic marketing and communications plan, at the end of 2012, reviewing the reporting document information and looking at any service improvements that might be necessary, and utilizing that information at the end of 2013 to make any necessary adjustments to the new agreements, as well as the additional outreach program delivery. This will include hosting programs in our community halls to bring programs out into the community.

We recently have been approached by the Town of Wabamun who now have their own FCSS program, to partner with Parkland County for funding and to collaborate with our existing partners for resources, on initiatives and resource gathering. A cost share agreement with Wabamun has been discussed with them, pending additional information from them and their program scope. This is just in the preliminary discussion stages.

Our FCSS Partner Program Information

The Town of Drayton Valley saw a total of 9686 people served in programs in 2011, and 1128 families directly impacted by an FCSS Program. Drayton Valley provides forty one in house programs and services and have provided funding for twenty programs offered by different agencies so far this year. Drayton Valley has also initiated seven interagency groups who are working in collaboration with each other, and have also partnered with eleven other community initiatives. An FCSS Volunteer Appreciation banquet is held annually to recognize their contributions to making the community a better place to live. The 2010-2015 focus for this group is to see more organizations partnering with each other to maximize resources, that people have access to the services and resources they need in order to become more resilient, to see generations working together in collaboration with one another and that people have a greater sense of belonging and ownership in their community. All residents of Parkland County who are 55 years of age or older have access to the *Seniors Wellness Program*. There are currently 10 people who are active participants. All students from Parkland County attending high school in Drayton Valley will participate in the *Making Financial Cents Program*. There are 18 students currently registered.

10% of participants of *Parenting After Separation* are Parkland County residents.

Yellowhead County provides a variety of programs including home support like light housekeeping to the community of Entwistle and surrounding area. Other programs include family outreach and child and youth programming such as Roots of Empathy, Active Parenting in 3, Fun Friends and It's Cool to Know Your Way in a Relationship. They work very closely with Regions 6 & 7 Child and Family Services, Alberta Parenting for the Future and Alberta Health Services. Yellowhead County also provides special grants to community agencies that also provide preventative social services, as identified under in the Provincial Act.

Our partnership with Leduc County is a little more unique. Parkland County dollars primarily fund FCSS services in the Graminia and surrounding area, but of course Parkland County residents can utilize any of the Leduc County programs like Family Support Services, Seniors Services or the Counselling and playschool subsidies they provide. A family support worker is based out of the Graminia School and provides information and referral, one to one visits, workshops and events and support groups to families, youth and children in the area. A Seniors Services Coordinator is based out of Leduc County and provides services to residents over the age of 65 or who have a disability. These services include information and referral, one to one visits, subsidized housekeeping, Community information sessions. Counselling and playschool subsidies are also available to families.

The Town of Stony Plain supports families through a variety of programs, the Youth Centre, Counselling, Information and Referral, Anger Management, Home Support, and the Stony Plain Volunteer Centre, to name a few. The Town also provides Information and Referral for the community through a variety of means including the Green Book, Town of Stony Plain Housing Booklet, The Stony Plain Seniors Information guide and their participation in the 211 program. From January to December 2011, 267 Parkland County residents called for information or were served via programming, and from January to June 2012, 191 residents were served.

Working alongside the Town of Stony Plain, the City of Spruce Grove participates in the information and referral process through the 211 program and Green Book. Programs include Counselling, Home support, Income Tax Clinic and Meals on Wheels. On top of these programs are a variety of others to the specific demographics in the community. The City also provides programs directly to residents of Parkland Village, including a weekly youth program, the Roots of Empathy Program, Registered Programs for youth (like babysitting courses, cyber safety and junior gourmet), a seniors dance night and parent and tot drop in. Approximately 26% of the participants run through the Spruce Grove FCSS programs are Parkland County residents.

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration is providing this report as information to update Council on the FCSS Programs and Services available to County residents.