

PRIORITY AREA: CHILD/YOUTH HEALTH
Child and Youth Family Network (CYFN) Committee (August 15, 2016)

1. What is the problem?

Group One

- Access to infant and child mental health services and treatment
- Transportation, no support network (family etc.)
- Safe access for teens and youth to learn, create and have collaborative play
- Poverty- service, resources, access

Common Themes

- AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR CHILD/YOUTH HEALTH
- REMOVAL OF ACTUAL AND PERCEIVED BARRIERS

Group Two

- Parenting Support
- Access to support on Infant, child and youth health services (i.e. parenting, development, health)
- This includes offering a variety of formats for key supports (outreach, drop-in, 1 place/centre for everything)
- Supporting children with adverse experiences
- Child abuse (prevention- parenting education/supports)
- Access to dental care for children and families from birth /prenatal
- Education on cause of decay and methods of behaviour change
- Lack of availability of quality care spaces for children ages 0-5
- Lack of adequate funds for child support services (i.e. supported child development, early intervention therapies etc.)
- Social opportunity- depending on where you live/grow up there is a variety of levels of access to opportunities for social development (health services, recreation options, services for parent support, healthy food choices, safe housing etc. which influences child/youth development)
- Nutrition and Physical Health

Common Themes

EARLY INTERVENTION (Services/Programs) FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN & YOUTH & FAMILIES

2. Why is this happening? Keep asking “why” until you get to the root causes of the problem.

Group One

Theme One: Availability of services and programs for child/youth health

- Space for programs and services to be offered
- Availability of programs (and spaces in services, programs i.e. waitlists)

Theme Two: Removal of actual and perceived barriers

- Barriers to access (individual: transportation, cost, not aware of program/services, process is overwhelming)
- Safety (do individuals feel safe (not only physical safety))
- Perceptions (of what the program is, fear of how they will be labelled for being in the program, perception of barriers to the program)

Group Two

Theme One: Early intervention (services/programs) for vulnerable children & youth & families

- Social inequities
- Parents need support and education around healthy child development
- Intergenerational trauma
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACES)
- Families are low income or below the poverty line
- High levels of stress for families, single parents, single income

3. What measures would help us determine if we significantly improved or solved the problem?

- Increase in the number of participants in a defined set of programs/services
- All children have a healthy, safe home, school and play environment
- In every neighbourhood in Prince George a “Community Hub” is created and supported where residents can access parent support services, EI services, child care, dental services, health services (a full range), recreation programming etc.

Working Group Consideration:

Goals in relation to themes: Availability of Services and Supports for (Vulnerable) Children/youth and families