

Chilliwach Child and Youth Committee

INTEGRATED PLANNING & PRACTISE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between Participating Organizations

BACKGROUND

There has been a long and healthy track record of collaborative work in Chilliwack and, specifically, at the Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee (CYC) table. To support this tradition we are committed to the development of new ways of providing services including, common methods of sharing information, assessing and evaluating strengths & needs, and coordinating multi-agency strategies. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) identifies the commitment of members to the fullest implementation of Integrated Planning & Practise (IP&P) of services to children, youth & families ó and especially to those most vulnerable ó in Chilliwack.

The signing of this MOU is not a legal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach ó to the best of their ability ó the objectives stated in the MOU.

PURPOSE

The overriding purpose of IP&P is to improve outcomes for children, youth and families in Chilliwack. For reasons of efficiency, effectiveness, finances, and economies of scale, the participating agencies recognize the need to work together and to collectively evaluate the operation of services to children, youth and families. This will be achieved by:

1. making priority RECOMMENDATIONS on discretionary funding;
2. IMPROVING and EVALUATING existing services;
3. planning and implementing the DEVELOPMENT of new services;
4. providing a FORUM for information exchange for providers and stakeholders in the child, youth & family sector;
5. PROMOTING the development and implementation of inter and intra regional initiatives for children, youth & families;
6. COORDINATING a process for formal and informal community participation and active engagement;
7. ADVOCATING for policy and systemic change;
8. providing a FORUM for consultation, planning and coordinating service programs and service delivery;
9. increasing the VISIBILITY of children, youth & families;
10. IMPLEMENTING community priorities collaboratively and DEVELOPING the capacity to respond collaboratively.

AGENCY CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

Because the CYC plays a significant role in the development and delivery of services to children, youth and families in Chilliwack, membership consists of community-based agencies that have a broad comprehension of the depth and breadth of issues pertaining to this identified group. Members bring their understanding and resources to the CYC table.

The MOU is entered into between the following core members:

- Ann Davis Transition House
- Chilliwack Community Services
- City of Chilliwack
- Family Y
- Fraser Health Region
- Fraser Valley Child Development Centre
- Interministerial Association
- Ministry for Children and Family Development
- RCMP
- School District #33
- Sto:lo
- Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services (Xyolhemeylh)
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GENERAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING IP&P

1. Children will be provided strength-based, culturally competent services in their own community and within the context of family systems;
2. Resources will be prioritized on addressing the needs of the children, youth and families exposed to the greatest vulnerabilities;
3. Strategies and interventions will recognize the need to protect the child, the family and the community;
4. Planning will strive to balance mandates, statutory rights & duties, interests and resources of participating agencies, while using a consensus model of decision making;
5. Signing partners will work collaboratively in a spirit of mutual trust, support and respect, where difficulties or differences of opinion are addressed promptly, in an open & honest manner;
6. The signatories to this memorandum are committed to the participation of their staff, in accordance to existing policies & procedures. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - CYC Subcommittees;
 - Integrated Case Management;
 - Annual ABC Consultation.

IN SCOPE / OUT OF SCOPE

The following table outlines opportunities and responsibilities undertaken by member agencies towards the development, delivery and evaluation of services for children, youth and families:

IN SCOPE	OUT OF SCOPE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative & cooperative practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each agency's unique missions & mandates, and statutory responsibilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to the annual development of a CYC Planning Calendar.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application of the Annual CYC Planning Calendar to guide the agenda of monthly meetings.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to regular involvement in monthly meetings (sending an appropriate alternate when not available to attend).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing development and evaluation of a CYC Strategic Plan.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement that the CYC Strategic Plan will inform the group's discussions and decisions.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agency involvement in and support to the work of relevant subcommittees.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to bring allocatable resources to the CYC table.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collective input on the use of each agency's discretionary funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Input on the use of an agency's non-discretionary funds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment to integrated case management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of case-specific information.

TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

1. Duration

This MOU is effective on the date it is signed by the parties and will continue in effect for one year. Continuing involvement will be reviewed on an annual basis.

2. Amendments / Modifications

The parties will perform an annual review of this MOU in light of emerging needs and changes to legislation. Changes to the terms and conditions of the MOU will be made at this time with the agreement of all participating members.

3. Addition of New Organizations

Additional core member agencies may be brought on at the consensual agreement of all participating members. Additions to existing signatories can be made through amendment to the existing MOU.

4. Involvement of Non-Core Members

Non-core members may attend meetings and participate in discussions. Voting is restricted to core members.

5. Disagreements / Complaints

Matters under dispute will be discussed informally between involved parties. If the parties fail to resolve the dispute, the matter will be discussed by the CYC with a view to joint resolution.

6. Conflict of Interest

In the event that discussions and/or decisions being made reflect a conflict of interest for one or more members of the CYC, the signatories will disclose their conflict of interest at the earliest moment possible.

SIGNATORIES

On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Date: _____

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Date: _____

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