

EXPLORING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Objectives:

- To gain clarity on the existing programs, services and resources available to support youth at risk of trafficking;
- To better understand the range of organizations providing education and supports for at risk youth; and
- To identify opportunities for moving forward collaboratively.

Background:

In 2013, ACT Alberta received funding from Status of Women Canada to create a community plan to prevent and reduce sex trafficking in Edmonton. The project began with a needs assessment, and through that process we heard from our stakeholders about the vulnerabilities of children and youth and the importance of early prevention and education efforts, including education about healthy sexuality, consent, respect and self-esteem. Although stakeholders identified this as a priority, ACT Alberta does not work with youth and we have no expertise in the area. We are exploring ways we can support what is already happening in the community. We know that there are many organizations delivering this type of education to youth in Edmonton. As a first step, we brought key youth serving agencies together to have a conversation about what is already working, particularly around education. The meeting was facilitated by Community Development Officers from the Community Development Unit, Alberta Culture and Tourism.

Meeting Summary:

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Facilitators asked participants to introduce themselves and went over the meeting ground rules
2. Understanding our Current Context
 - a. Amy Wilson (ACT Alberta) outlined the project and the priorities and the purposes of the meeting (See Objectives and Background above)
 - b. Facilitators asked participants to identify existing programs and services in their organizations. See Appendix A for the complete list.

What Stands Out?

Facilitators asked participants to reflect on what stands out with the list of programs generated, and think about how to move forward. Highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- There are a lot of existing presentations on healthy relationships.
- Organizations don't necessarily know what others are doing in the same area
- It is important to evaluate programs to determine what is effective
- It might be helpful to bring together organizations delivering similar education programs to develop a consistent message and work together effectively.

- There is a need to streamline, coordinate and focus efforts
- Everyone is under resourced, so there is no sense in duplicating. There is some overlap
- It is important to identify the strengths and gaps in education and services
- There are many targeted programs and that diversity has great value.
- There are different levels for prevention and education. Can we timeline this and identify where children would be routed? We should put information together with a timeline criterion to present to the audience.
- Participants identified the need for a central information hub to compile, update and disseminate information about what is happening in the community such as the programs, demographics served, where they exist, etc. The Support Network is doing this with 211, but there may be information missing. EIYSA is also working on this. The City of Edmonton may be looking at ways to improve 211.
- Do a little project to get a real snap shot of what is happening
- Pulling information together into a toolkit that can be provided to teachers.
- The Edmonton Community Foundation may be willing to fund something like this
- The group could develop an education plan
- Education – teach youth how to ask for help

3. Moving Forward Suggestions

- Further meetings
 - Pull together organizations to share and develop curriculum
 - Meet again to talk about embedding content in a very work/action oriented meeting
 - Mandy Abrams – Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations may be a good facilitator
- Develop clear objectives and direction for future meetings
- Alberta School System
 - We need to do some political advocacy work so that we can get around the opt-in issue
 - There are limitations to embedding information in the education curriculum. Other approaches may be more effective
 - Develop a toolkit for teachers
 - Disseminate existing resources in schools (Centre for Child Protection)
- Assess and evaluate which programs are effective, develop best practices
- Conduct an Environmental Scan
 - Participants stressed the need for an environmental scan of what is happening around youth education in Edmonton and identify gaps and overlap. This information could be organized according to the age and risk levels of the participants (timeline style). Part of this scan could include approaching 211 to determine what information they are already collecting and whether there are additional questions that could be added to their yearly survey of organizations. Develop template to send to networks – ask who do you serve, what is your mission, do you deliver education?

4. Next Steps

Engaging Community: Addressing Sex Trafficking in Edmonton

- ACT Alberta will work on finding an organization who may be interested in conducting an environmental scan of existing programs for youth.
- ACT Alberta will work to find a host for a follow up meeting in the fall

Appendix A: List of Organizations

Organization	Program, Service, Resource, etc.
Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW)	Leadership and Empowerment Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aug 24-28, 2015 - Increasing safety for Aboriginal women collaborate youth in care focus
	Leadership Development In-School Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amiskwacyi and Partners
Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)	We provide referrals and initial counselling to families and youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Settlement services in our office and libraries and schools
	We provide mentoring to youth in afterschool and summer programs
	We deliver 'Right in the Sun' programming from the John Humphrey Centre for grades 5-9 in afterschool and summer programs
	We deliver the 'Healthy Youth Relationships' program from Red Cross in after-school and summer programs with teen newcomers
AHS Addiction and Mental / Children's Services (PSECA)	PSECA (workers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment - Intervention placement - Voluntary supports - Referrals
	Ongoing Individual assessment, referral and education
	Protective Safehouse (YYC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing - Education
	Grimmon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treatment centre
	Community follow-up Workers – CSS and MCF
	CYS – Education Sessions (with caseworkers)
	Group Care – Education Sessions
	Action 22
	Mobile Addictions Counsellor
	Residential Programs Intensive Day Stabilization Program
Edmonton Police Services (EPS) / ZEBRA	Current proposal: Distribute 'Teatree Tells: Keep & Speak Secrets' to grade 2 students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education to replace 'stranger danger'
	Zebra trauma referred program
	Zebra Centre Public Educator: Community & school presentations

John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights	Youth Action Project on Poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Starts this fall and will be a team of youth digging into the connection of poverty to sexual exploitation, criminalization and democratic engagement
	YEGDIGNITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth public education campaign with two local artists - Pop up - Sexual exploitation, mental health
	Rights in Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing human rights education in schools and youth agencies on a variety of topics - Current focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Children’s rights o Gender/HBV o Poverty o Exclusion/discrimination
	Community Coalition for Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An informal network of advocates dialoguing about barriers/challenges/opportunities and building collaboration
	Child Rights Based Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support youth serving organizations to embed children’s rights into policy and programming
iHuman Youth Society	Caring Services – 12024 yrs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach, youth work in crisis intervention. Referral and RSW youth workers - Addictions worker and AHS mobile addictions worker For whom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth at risk - Exploited/trafficked youth
	Links Mental Health Clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free; on site - Psychologists/ counselling - Youth outreach to schools, group homes For whom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth at risk - Exploited/trafficked youth
	Woven Journey (young moms program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum to moms covers awareness – zebra and in-house staff - Curriculum to children For whom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth at risk - Exploited/trafficked youth
	4 Fires (young mens program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing program content For whom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth at risk

	- Exploited/trafficked youth
	Knowledge is PowWow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on social justice issue each year - Youth led - Learning circles - Often includes traditional cultural teachings
	iSucceed (pilot until Dec 31, 2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individualized action plan for each youth - Work experience; employment; volunteerism; schooling
	Future program or partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target trafficked youth specifically - Advocacy - Extraction - Treatment?
	Healthy Heart, Healthy Start <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth developed and led curriculum about healthy self-awareness/relationship - Guidebook in production - Looking for partners to “test” work book
	Uncensored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth led training program - Can develop customized sessions with youth leading the drama-based training sessions
	Moving the Mountain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research project – ihuman is partner - Audience has currently emerged as girls age 12-17 years who are actively engaged in HR behaviours - Focus us on experiential learning as an alternative to HR activities
Alberta Network for Safe and Healthy Children	Training for front line staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising and responding to sensitive/difficult topics
	Parenting support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coping with crying and shaken baby syndrome
	CAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - File review
	Translated resources on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normal child development - Post-partum/perinatal mood disorders - Coping skills - Etc.
	Father’s involvement initiative
CEASE	Youth Stop Trafficking and Exploitation Program (YSTEP) - Peer educator <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peer mentoring with girls incarcerated at EYOC and sometimes at PSECA psh 2. Presentations at YESS, YYC, Group Homes, CSS Safe House, ICYHP 3. Presentations at junior and senior high schools upon invitation by teacher or EPS SRO

	YSTEP faith-based youth learning events, eg. mustard seed
	Public awareness Cool Camps at Mayorthorpe and Whitecourt – peer educators
Youcan Youth Services	Step Up and Step In – School Stream/ Community Stream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth workers housed within Edmonton schools/at Youcan Youth Services - Peacemaking circles, restorative justice emphasis, one-to-one support - Preventative, proactive approaches
	Verto Pre-employment Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group based skills development - One-to-one support as needed - Proactive, preventative approaches, but reactive to emergent issues
	Relentless Youth Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One-to-one support in the community - Reactive approach, long-term intervention working towards proactive and preventative support
YWCA Edmonton	YoWoChAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor Education Centre Ages - 6-17
	The Power of Being a Girl Conference – Junior High
	GirlSpace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After school program – Ages 11-15
Sexual Assault Centre (SACE)	Education Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sexual assault (consent) - Abusive and healthy relationship - Sexual Assault facilitated by technology Given at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools, hospitals, group homes, agency, anywhere we invited
	Education and Self-care with Elizabeth Fry given at prisons (mixed ages)
Canadian Red Cross	Healthy Youth Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dating relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Exploitation, corruption, consent, safety planning - Partner organizations deliver to their own youth (EISA, Saffron, SACE)
	Be Safe! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adults who work with children ages 5-9 - Understand sexual abuse, tricks, bribes, threats and force
	Professional Development for Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child abuse issues - Prevention - Reporting disclosures
	Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity when child abuse workshop is revised (2017/2018) to embed new sexual exploitation information (currently outdated)

SAFFRON	ONYX - Teen girls Group
	Elevate - Teen boys group
	Education Presentations - Sexual assault/harassment - Boundaries - Internet safety - Sexual disconnect - Self-image
Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta (ACT Alberta)	YEP! - Youth Education Project

Additional Organizations

- Metis Child, Family and Community Services
- Boyle Mccauley health centre
- OBSD
- Catholic Social Services (CSS)
- Hope Mission
- Terra Centre
- Action for Healthy Communities
- Uncles and Aunts at Large
- Below the Belt
- Youth Council
- Compass Centre
- Francophone School Boards – Public and Catholic
- CHEW with ISMSS
- Pride Centre
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- WrapEd – REACH
- The Landing
- YESS
- OCYA
- Inner City Children’s Project
- E4C Youth
- ICYHP
- Chimo
- BBG Bigs, Boys and Girls Clubs/ Big Brothers Big Sisters
- John Howard Society
- Crystal Kids

