

Children and Youth Services Network
Community Indicators & Measures Committee

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

MEMBERSHIP

- Many organizations commit to the concept of the CYSN as demonstrated by the number of agencies signing the membership agreement
- The network has a large number of strong leaders represented at the network
- Skills, experience, personal resources, wealth of knowledge among the membership
- Unique community knowledge and intimate knowledge of the community

MANDATE/PURPOSE

- There is a passion for the wellbeing of children and youth
- Great potential to create change
- Strong desire for action
- Collaborative relationships within sectors (youth org to youth org, early years org to early years org)
- Solid mandate and vision
- Appetite for data driven planning

FUNCTIONALITY OF NETWORK

- Significant networking opportunities and promotion of programs and services between members/strong information sharing structure
- Communication is transparent and consistent. There is a lot of communication to the network
- Presence of a website that acts as a resource to the network
- Diversified funders/core funding that allows for the coordination of the table
- Lead agency is secured moving forward
- Process in place for the appointment of lead agency in the future

WEAKNESSES

MEMBERSHIP

- Collaboration across sectors is missing
- Lack of engagement at the network and committee level
- Competition for funds and competing mandates of members can prohibit collaboration
- Same people at all levels (leadership, committee etc) trying to push the CYSN agenda forward
- Membership is losing interest
- Lack of members willing to embrace longer term leadership roles

MANDATE/PURPOSE

- Mandates of the committees and working groups don't always align with the CYSN mandate
- Direction & focus is lacking/following tangents
- Actionable items/projects is missing
- Evaluation and measurement of projects/activities is lacking
- Lack of direction on how to achieve impact
- Lack of functioning energized committees
- Lack of understanding of purpose of the network (why we meet, are we a network network or an action oriented network?)
- Lack a process for identifying gaps

FUNCTIONALITY OF NETWORK

- Perceived lack of communication (there is a lot.. is it too much?, between committees and working groups etc)
- Website is hard to navigate for some
- 'new' Structure lost commitment to priorities that were important to some members
- Current structure doesn't foster impact/change at the community level
- Lacking a mechanism for finding other funding sources
- Heavy focus on administration vs leadership, vision and facilitation
- No authority or decision making body limits ability for effective leadership
- Demonstrated commitment to membership agreement (many sign it, few practice it)
- Far too much focus on the functionality of the network itself (focus internally rather than on the community)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improved linkages with primary organizations in community (municipalities, public health, LHIN etc)
- Provincial strategies to strengthen systems including French language and FNMI to further foster community level decision making
- Position the network as the collective authority on children and youth issues
- R&D from other best practices (learn from successes and failures of other C&Y tables across province)
- Making sure our network doesn't operate in silos independent from other provincial strategies (eg. Patient first model)
- Municipal funding – leverage the development of this community plan and its outcomes to encourage municipalities to fund the work of the cysn
- To be a reliable data source for the community (contingent on \$)
- Take a strengths based approach to activities and community engagement

THREATS

- Restructuring of ministries across sectors (potential for it to be very undefined/ new mandates and priorities)

- Undefined regions/boundaries for funding (this applies to ministries and member agencies as agencies restructure themselves to align with ministry)
- Competing mandates/tables could dilute the work that can be done – committee member burn out as the same people are at all the tables
- Weariness/over extension of staff of individual member agencies leading multiple priorities
- As always the risk of losing funding .