Child Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County

October 2020

CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

WHAT?

As Coalition members, a key part of our collaborative work is to facilitate the connection of the individuals we serve to appropriate resources within the community. We view this connection to community as a part of our shared commitment as members of this Coalition and one that is fundamental to both individual and community health.

For example, without permanent housing or when individuals live in a precarious housing situation, it is difficult to have a sense of connection to one's community or neighbourhood. Some connect lack of community to a higher risk of falling deeper into poverty.

With our current pandemic, people are experiencing isolation in an amplified way. We know that having access to technology is also a critical element in "staying" or "getting" connected.

While improving housing stability/reducing homelessness is critical work, it is also important to connect individuals to the communities they live in. When an individual has a sense of connection to their neighbours, a broader support network, pride in neighourhood, and a sense of stability can be achieved.

SO WHAT?

Individuals who feel a sense of security, belonging and trust in their community have better health than those who feel isolated or marginalized. When people feel a greater connection to their community, they are more inclined to take action to improve their own health and the health of others.

When families are connected, they feel committed to their community and have a sense of "neighbourhood" (it takes a village), they maintain housing (monetary benefits to not moving people) and their kids are connected (alleviates transition trauma, maintain relationships).

Social connectedness to one's community, can lead to increased neighbourhood safety (families feel safer, less police/child protection services), people connecting with the services and support they need, strengthened resilience during emergency events, increased volunteering and a stronger sense of community pride.

Fast Facts

- Residents of socially connected
- Canadians with a strong or very strong sense of community belonging are over twice as likely to report that their health is good as compared with people who have a weak or very weak sense of community belonging
- Kids lose a half year of schooling every time they move

NOW WHAT?

Educate/assist member organizations to work together to promote and encourage a connection to community and to each other's programs, create new programming and opportunities for connection (focused papers, learning series).

Look for funding opportunities for ways to improve families' connection to their community which includes continuing to advocate for devices and low cost broadband services for low income families.

Promote programs connecting families to the community through CAPC, EarlyON Centres, Triple P, YMCA Simcoe Muskoka, libraries, Bridges Out of Poverty

Contact
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The Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Coalition of Simcoe County is a countywide alliance of organizations providing services to children, youth and their families in Simcoe County.

Vision

All children, youth and families thriving in a strong, nurturing community.

Mission

To maximize the capacity, effectiveness and cultural uniqueness of the child, youth and family service system through collective efforts.

Values

Integrity
Respect
Innovation
Collaboration

CYFS Member Agencies

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle
Barrie Police Service
Barrie Public Library
Canadian Mental Health Association-Simcoe Branch
Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County
Catulpa Community Support Services
Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe/Muskoka
Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York
Community Connection/211 Central East Ontario
Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir
Conseil scolaire Viamonde
County of Simcoe
CSC Chigamik CHC
Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services
E3 Community Services
EarlyON– Simcoe North
Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County
Empower Simcoe
Georgian College
Gilbert Centre
Gilda's Club of Simcoe Muskoka
John Howard Society
Kerry's Place
Kinark Child and Family Services
La Clé d'la Baie en Huronie
Mackenzie Health
New Path Foundation
New Path Youth and Family Services
NSM LHIN
Orillia Public Library
Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
Seasons Centre for Grieving Children
Simcoe County District School Board
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions
United Way Simcoe Muskoka
Waypoint Centre for Mental Health
YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka
Youth Haven