

Tools for an Inclusive Ontario

Meeting 2 Provincial Advisory Group

June 11, 2003

Agenda

1. Welcome – 10:00 am
2. Review of Meeting Notes, May 7, 2003
3. Discussion: 2nd Draft of Working Definition of an Inclusive Society

An inclusive society creates a feeling of belonging for everyone. People build an inclusive society together, through an active process of change, by creating responsive systems. People and their systems equally value and seek justice for all, in every physical, mental, social, economic, health, cultural, and spiritual aspect of life.

4. Preliminary Discussion: Signs and Symbols of an Inclusive Society
5. Discussion: Working Criteria for Indicators

Indicators will be meaningful to the peoples and communities seeking inclusion; will identify policies and practices in institutions which serve as barriers to inclusion; will be workable and useful in measuring transformative change in institutions; will strive to be holistic, indicating the personal, social, economic, health, cultural and spiritual aspects of inclusion; and will be transferable to other settings.

6. Exploring Indicators of Inclusion in the Demonstration Sites
 - a) Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre
 - b) Peterborough Family Resource Centre
 - c) Francosc nie
 - d) Thunder Bay Friendship Centre

Minutes of Meeting June 11, 2003

Present:

Ed Adlaf, Pedro Barata, Ginette Goulet, Axelle Janczur, Sam Dunn, Heather Levecque, Barbara Liilico, Michelle Quick, Laurie Thompson, Michael Fay, Betty Burcher, Cathy Turl, Voula Karagiannis, Mary Martin Rowe

Regrets:

Dianne Patychuk, Maria Herrera, Maureen MacDonald, Donna Lero

Discussion: Working Definition of an Inclusive Society (Lead by Cathy Turl)

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Discussion: Working Criteria for Indicators (Lead by Betty Burcher)

Indicators will be meaningful to the peoples and communities seeking inclusion; will identify policies and practices in institutions which serve as barriers to inclusion; will be workable and useful in measuring transformative change in institutions; will strive to be holistic, indicating the personal, social, economic, health, cultural and spiritual aspects of inclusion; and will be transferable to other settings.

Exploring Populations Seeking Inclusion in the Demonstration Sites

Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre (Axelle Janczur and Sam Dunn)

- Long-time process of being welcoming and inclusive; now doing anti-racism, anti-exclusionary anti-discriminatory process and strategic planning.
- Do they want to be anti-discriminatory OR inclusive?
- How does it look and feel, and how is it supported by management & the infrastructure?
- Has implications for how the organization looks and feels to people when they come in.
- Also looking at practice (Drs, RNs etc)
- How do you make it the bricks and mortar?
- Research has found that clients are very ready to participate in decision-making. So how do we facilitate that?
- Also looking at CCB in programs. What are the indicators of CCB?
- 2 issues re children (from 1st meeting):
 - change in daycare workers every 8 weeks
 - language at home/instructions from school boards re English at home, and the fallout
 - message is that reading with children has to be in English, but that is not the case
- Very little in the research literature on children and inclusion; how will we measure it?

- Sam will look more at this. Especially children who are seeking inclusion with Access Alliance.
- It's unclear what the local thing will be/look like. Will be running a program "Children Cooking Together".
- There will be no look for all, it's location specific.
- More interesting is children and inclusion (broad) rather than specific agency(s) and strategic planning (i.e. it's not just AAMCHC, but a community issue)
- Some research may be submerged in research on family (if mom and family are not included, neither will be child)
- Regressive school board policies (e.g. undocumented school kids get kicked out each June, just to be re-registered in September)
- Pedro will be a good link here
- Example of a mother who has 2 children ages 10 and 12, who is underground, has been living like this for 5 years; impact on her children

Peterborough Family Resource Centre (Barbara Lillico)

- Mandate is children 0-6 but direct beneficiaries are parents/adults
- Challenge is to merge pots of money for families with risk factors and for all families, and not have silos targeted and non-targeted (ghettoized clients)
- But there are criteria for people who are in targeted programs
- Program 1 includes:
 - Prenatal visits
 - Transportation
 - Child care (for adults in program)
 - Food vouchers
 - Food at the program
- Aim is to have targeted program clients move on to non-targeted programs (i.e. less highly supported programs)
- To encourage clients to move on to other programs, there are staff who work in both programs and bridging programs
- New database captures first entry to organization and subsequent program use, making it possible to track clients through a pathway of programs from being highly supported to being independent, a movement from exclusion to inclusion).

- There is huge transferability from this program to all others like it in the province.
- Have to have a broad range of peer and volunteer roles/activities
- How well are clients doing with other community programs? E.g. involvement in library, gym etc.
- Some clients have taken leadership training and are co-leading programs
- Also want to do a qualitative piece. 2 of the 5 assessment tools from CAP-C are helpful a) knowledge and access to services in community; and b) feeling of competence in parenting role.
- In retrospect, Betty Burcher suggests three possible questions to consider: Does this kind of feeling of competence lead to inclusion? Should we examine “school readiness” of parents as a parallel piece? If the program is inclusive, will this help the family be included outside of the program?
- Peterborough and P. County are a very large geographic area. Includes 3 Aboriginal communities. Programs go out to rural areas. South of Highway 7, there are beautiful cottages and large farms. North, there are people scratching out their livings.

Eastern Ontario (Ginette Goulet)

- The stage performance has not happened yet, but the experience is there.
- Individuals can participate in many, many ways. Just need to speak French.
- People are feeling included because of the way they are treated.
- There has already been a sewing workshop that has come out of the project.
- Re children: needed to look at safety issues, e.g. change rooms. Rather than screening everyone, if parents want their kids involved, the parents have to come too.
- All the faces in the marketing brochures for this year’s festival are of volunteers. They are promoting themselves.
- Some parts of the performance would have been better filled by professionals, but they can’t volunteer because of union issues. One actor who did cross the line is getting flak. Solution: say it’s an educational workshop, not for daily rate.
- Problems are solved together and shared together. Problem-solving of this sort could be an indicator of inclusion.
- Also everyone is feeling officially recognized, everyone’s name is on the website.

- Question: are there spillovers into the community, generated by the project? What are the other benefits that have accumulated by all ages together? E.g. children's safety/families are built on trust/turning negative into positive/are there intergenerational effects?
- So, what is inclusion? Is it trust?
- Volunteers are being respected for what they can do, e.g. appreciating manual and mechanical labour. Ginette's partner who is a mechanic and inventor, has brought like-minded men into the project and they love it. We are mixing the labour skills here.
- Learning: don't assume that everyone is on the same page (person who is an historian, and said the priest celebrating the mass could not be black).
- There is something about belonging that is very generating.
- Kawachi: Health and Social Capital; Putnam: Bowling Alone – two interesting sources

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, Thunder Bay (Heather Levecque)

- Will focus on children and youth; we are working on 7 generations, we don't own the land or even our children
- This project will be used internally:
Are we meeting the community's needs and respecting local autonomy?
Are we being inclusive in our own community?
Do we reflect First Nations wherever they live, urbanites etc.?
- Externally:
Biggest focus will be hunger.
Kids are being kept home from school because they can't afford lunch, can't buy pizza on pizza days.
School is bound to report to Children's Aid if child is hungry
Moms are borrowing food to put in the cupboards for CAS visits
- "Who can think about culture when your kids are hungry?" (a mom)
- Looking at health; employment; education levels; happiness (pride, spiritual, recognition); ownership of principles, traditions, language, success, participation
- Feeling of belonging and participation.
- Court ruling that threw out the "must have normal residence on reserve" to get services has upset many within and outside of First Nations
- "Strangers in a strange land", may be in parallel with AAMCHC
- June 21st is National Aboriginal Day