

# Partnership Agreement for Community Connect Youth

## BACKGROUND

Community Connect is a mapping and planning support group for the city centre area. This group has been meeting for the past four years to discuss the distinct service needs and resources of the city centre.

Over the last year the group completed an environmental scan and identified two areas to focus on—mental health and youth. The scan revealed that there are many services available to youth in the city centre area, but youth are often unaware or unsure of how to access these services.

This partnership agreement has been created by agencies committed to addressing the needs of youth seeking support within the city centre.

## GOALS

- Agencies that provide services to youth are working together more collaboratively
- Youth services are more accessible.
- Youth services are strengthened (meeting the current needs of marginalized youth).

## STRATEGY

A network of agencies that provide services to youth will work together to facilitate improved access to youth services.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Partners have an increased knowledge of existing resources and an expedited way to link youth to them.
2. Professional knowledge and expertise is enhanced among participating staff.
3. A more holistic approach is used in meeting the needs of youth as an array of services will be available at a single point of intake.
4. Youth are more successful in accessing appropriate resources in a timely fashion.
5. Youth needs are met more effectively.
6. Youth feel supported.

## FOUNDING PARTNERS

- Alberta Health Services—AADAC
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- City Centre Education Project
- Edmonton & Area Child and Family Services
- Inner City Children's Project
- Inner City Youth Housing Project
- The Pride Centre

## **PARTNERSHIP LEVELS**

In this strategy we will have 2 levels of partnership:

- Level One will include all individuals interesting in joining this partnership and committing to the partnership goals and expected outcomes.
- Level Two will be the subgroup of individuals representing youth serving agencies who agree to participate in the strategy of utilizing a common intake/referral form, a process to expedite necessary appointments for at-risk or high-risk youth and cross training to ensure that appropriate referrals are made.

## **SHARED PRINCIPLES AND VALUES**

- All youth will be treated with respect and dignity.
- Youth will be served as effectively and comprehensively as possible at the first point of intake.
- Youth will be met with an attitude of hopefulness and positive regard.
- All partners commit to a shared responsibility of the well-being of the youth.
- Partners recognize that the complexity of youth issues requires a collaborative response.
- Partners will be responsible and respectful of information collected regarding youth and partners.
- The boundaries, rules and expectations of each partnering agency will be acknowledged and respected.
- Each partnering agency is fully committed to this collaborative approach in meeting the needs of youth and working together on a continuous improvement model.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- Membership is open and new members are welcome; however, their orientation will occur outside of regular meetings. We will strive to have representatives from the entire spectrum of human service providers (social service agencies, library services, government, education, etc.).

## **DECISION MAKING**

We will strive for consensus whenever possible; if consensus is not achieved, the majority vote will rule.

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

In the event of a conflict between members of Community Connect Youth, the members should attempt to work it out between themselves.

If the agreement cannot be reached, the chairperson of the Community Connect Mapping Project can be asked to assist.

If the conflict cannot be resolved at that level, a manager or supervisor from each partnering agency may be asked to mediate.