

**2018/2019 Annual Report
of the
Community Resources Committee**

Chairperson: Joan Winter

Members: Mia Berg, Sharon, Creighton, Evelyn Fowler, Frank Moore

Resource: Rosemary Foran, Program Coordinators Clinton Office and Judy Sinclair

The Community Resources Committee united with the Quality Review & Planning Committee to advance the work of the Agency's Strategic Plan Together Better. The Executive Director and/or Coordinators have provided written updates to the Together Better Committee and resumed regular meetings in the fall of 2018.

Written monthly reports from Program Coordinators and Executive Director over the past year provided updates from the Community Support for Families Program; Community Participation Supports; Huron Respite Network; South West Regional Respite; and Teen Talk. The partnership with CL-CH and the Thames Valley Children's Centre for Autism Services was discontinued in October 2018, due to changes in the Provincial Autism Program and staff.

The Community Support for Families Program provides County-wide services, including Special Services at Home; Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities and Family Support Work to approximately 195 children this year. As required, staff assisted families to apply for services; advocate; obtain additional supports; and connect to local resources.

Community Participation Supports is an individualized, strength-based approach to providing assistance with person-directed planning for inclusive community participation under two programs: Foundations Huron and Passport Administration Services. The Coordinator assisted approximately 96 individuals, from both Programs, to identify their personal goals and develop a plan. Participants then choose a mentor who supports them to work towards their goals, build skills and connect to natural supports in their community. VOICES self-advocacy workshops are also offered.

Teen Talk provided social skills workshops for youth aged 11-14, with Autism or Asperger's Syndrome. The focus is on social skills through interactive activities and to introduce self-regulation/calming exercises which include Yoga, Tapping, Drama, Pound and an Escape Room adventure. Two 4-week sessions were held in the 2018/19 fiscal year serving 6 individuals. Groups also included others with some events which gave the teens an opportunity to further develop their skills and communicate to open up new friendship opportunities.

The Huron Respite Network supported over 106 families to access planned respite services consisting of week long and/or day camps, over-night host families and hourly supports. HRN expanded Host Family respite options and programming with the help of a 2-year Ontario Trillium Grow Grant. This past year, CL-CH hosted our 2nd Day at the Races fundraiser at Clinton Raceway with proceeds going to respite services. Huron Respite in partnership with Rural Response for Healthy Children continue to run successful Caregiver Mornings and Sibz Club throughout the year.

The South West Region Respite Network continues to meet regularly with Local Respite Networks regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder and best practices in respite as per the "Ideal Model." Meetings occur on a monthly or quarterly basis with Local Respite Networks and their community partners. Community of Practice Meetings are convened three times per year. Staff are preparing for the 2019 SWR Symposium, London on May 3rd, Community Living Month.

Information on all the above programs is available on the Agency's website @ www.clch.ca.

At this time, I wish to extend appreciation to Committee Members and Resource Staff for their ongoing commitment and contributions to the Community Resources Committee.

Submitted by: Joan Winter, Chairperson