

**2015/2016 Annual Report
of the
Community Resources Committee**

Chairperson: Evelyn Fowler
Members: Mia Berg, Sharon Creighton, Bill Pfannenstiel and Joan Winter
Resource: Sharon Allison, Rosemary Foran and Cris Reed

The Community Resources Committee met regularly over the past year to provide direction to and receive updates from the Community Support for Families Program; Huron Respite Network; South West Region Respite Network; Foundations Huron and Applied Behaviour Analysis Programs. Collaboration occurs with other Agencies, including: Community Care Access Centre; Local School Boards; Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI); Huron Perth Centre for Children and Youth; Thames Valley Children's Centre; Adult Protective Services Workers; Children's Aid Society; CSCN Local Resolution Committee and Kids First Huron Perth, to name a few.

The Community Support for Families Program provided County-wide services, including Special Services at Home; Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities and Family Support Work to approximately 196 children this year. Staff assisted families to apply for services; select appropriate workers; obtain additional supports; work on goals; connect to local resources; provide parent relief and seek financial assistance. Donations totalling approximately \$28,000 were received and assisted families with modifications to vehicles; specialized equipment; home renovations; one-to-one supports costs for summer camp, etc.

Community Participation Supports is an individualized, strength-based approach to providing person-directed planning for inclusive community participation. There are two program under this umbrella: Foundations Huron and Passport Administration Services. The Coordinator assists individuals 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. This past year, 99 individuals received service. Another successful Dream Big event was held this Spring with a continued theme of inclusion, overcoming obstacles, achieving personal goals and believing in one's abilities.

The Huron Respite Network, also a County-wide collaboration, administers respite services for children and adults. The Coordinator meets with families throughout the year to develop their individualized respite plan. Individuals have access to hourly respite, over-night respite, camp, retreat weekends, day retreats, Sibz Shops, etc. With the support of approximately 60 workers and 9 active host families, 102 individuals received service.

The South West Region Respite Network continues to meet regularly with 9 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 and all Local Respite Networks and their community partners convene three times per year for Community of Practice Meetings. Regionally, 743 children received service which included in-home and out-of-home respite, as well as seasonal camps by way of direct service and direct funding options.

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The Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Program is in its 5th year of a partnership with the Thames Valley Children's Centre providing service and support to children and youth in Huron and Perth Counties with a diagnosis of Autism. The annual service target is 50 instances of services. Recently, the Provincial Government announced new funding for Autism over the next 5 years. At this time, children on the Wait List for Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) will be addressed first then Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA).

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

Submitted by,
Evelyn Fowler, Chairperson