

For Information

DATE: February 17, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **PEEL CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE (PCYI)**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services
 Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update to Council on the progress made by the Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI) and its alignment with work dealing with the root causes of youth violence and integration with Success By 6 Peel and other related community initiatives.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI) has a mandate to integrate services for effective and efficient service delivery to children and youth aged 0-24.
- PCYI has formalized their strategic plan which represents key priorities for the next two years along with the structure to support the initiatives.
- The activities of Success By 6 Peel are integrated within and supported by PCYI.
- Peel Youth Violence Prevention work will align with PCYI in addition to other activities with community and safe city organizations, Peel Regional Police and Caledon OPP. A report highlighting the work related to youth violence prevention, its alignment to PCYI and other organizations will be provided to Regional Council in the Spring of 2011.
- Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI) is a Ministry of Education funded initiative, bringing together the Ministry of Education, Children & Youth Services and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

This report responds to a Council direction to staff for information on the evolution of PCYI and its integration of youth violence prevention initiatives. At the Regional Council meeting of September 9, 2010, staff was asked to report back in six months on the PCYI strategic plan, the ongoing integrity of youth violence prevention programs and to present the Region's role in the work of PCYI. Given the mandate to work with the 0-24 years of age continuum, PCYI is well positioned to support violence prevention and intervention for children and youth.

PCYI, a collaboration of almost 100 community partners, will develop a comprehensive approach to planning and capacity building through practice, system and policy changes to produce positive outcomes for Peel's children and youth. In an effort to reduce duplication and optimize staff involvement from member organizations in children and youth initiatives,

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the governance between PCYI, Success By 6 Peel and Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network were aligned. This alignment affirms the commitment to children and youth so that related research, opportunities for knowledge transfer, joint planning, advocacy, partnerships and policy work all increase our community's ability to support children and youth across sectors, while ensuring that services are coordinated and youth violence prevention remains a priority in Peel.

2. Peel Children and Youth Initiative Update

In November 2010, PCYI hired its new executive director, Graham Clyne, MA. Mr. Clyne is known nationally for his work in non-profit management in the child and youth sector. Most recently Graham oversaw the development of a similar initiative in Calgary called "Upstart Champions for Children and Youth". His work there resulted in provincial policy changes that improved outcomes for children and youth services.

Graham, along with the PCYI steering committee, has been working on formalizing the strategic plan and structure for PCYI. The strategic plan was informed by two community forums, five focus groups with youth, as well as consultations with key informants, collaborative groups, service providers, parents, businesses and volunteers. The synthesis of this input has identified the following key priorities over the next two years:

1. *Strengthening the Early Years*: A strategy to help integrate the organizations and activities that support parents and children 0-6.
2. *Peel's Kids Participate*: A strategy to increase the numbers and percentages of children, youth and young adults who are engaged in healthy recreational, skill building and after-school opportunities.
3. *Thriving Children – Stronger Future: Opportunities for Children and Youth in Peel*: A research and planning report to identify the current status of Children and Youth in Peel and highlight the opportunities to improve outcomes.

The strategic plan utilizes the results-based accountability (RBA) model and aligns with the existing Peel Youth Charter of Rights and Children's Charter of Rights. Additionally, the activities and initiatives within Success By 6 Peel and some of the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network activities and initiatives aligned within the PCYI framework. This strategic plan and structure for PCYI was presented on March 1, 2010, in a community forum.

Regional staff has had a significant role in PCYI, through the participation in consultations to develop the strategic plan, representation on the committees and through the work towards integration of Success By 6 Peel, Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network and Student Support Leadership Initiative. PCYI will seek representation from members of Regional Council on the Council of Champions as its governance structure continues to develop.

3. Steps Toward Integration

The creation of PCYI was also driven by the need to reduce duplication of effort and find ways to, where appropriate, integrate and support the activities of three initiatives: Success By Six Peel, Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network, and Student Support Leadership Initiative. In a short time, PCYI has made significant progress.

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a) Success By 6 Peel

This organization has fully integrated its activities and administration with PCYI including:

- Shared volunteer teams for Media/Communication, Research and Evaluation and Professional Development
- Joint office space with the new Community Door project in Mississauga
- Shared administrative services (e.g. Executive Assistant; accounting, payroll, communication support) and common phone systems, computer and all technical supports
- Combined staffing resources including communications, research and management
- Shared web design and multimedia work
- Integrated planning for research work and policy development

Now fully incorporated into PCYI, Success By 6 Peel will also provide the primary lead volunteer group and will manage the Strengthening the Early Years Strategy.

b) Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network (PYVPN)

The interventions of the PYVPN working groups continue with youth engagement and community outreach activities on the go, in conjunction with many community partners. Many of the initiatives currently undertaken by the working groups closely align with two of the strategic priorities of PCYI, namely *"Peel's Kids Participate"* and *"Thriving Children – Stronger Future"*. In the future, PYVPN work will align with PCYI in addition to other activities with community and safe city organizations, Peel Regional Police and Caledon OPP. In the Spring of 2011, a detailed report will be brought forward to Regional Council regarding youth violence prevention initiatives and successes, along with other relevant work as it relates to a continuum of youth violence prevention.

Members of staff support PCYI by providing leadership at the PCYI Steering Committee, Youth Engagement Committee and Communications Committee. Continued emphasis will be placed on youth engagement, especially in relation to youth violence prevention.

c) Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI)

SSLI is a Ministry of Education funded initiative bringing together support of the Ministry of Education, Children & Youth Services and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. SSLI is designed to encourage closer cooperation and collaboration between professionals to support the success of students affected by mental health, addiction, behavioural concerns and justice issues who may struggle to complete school. This is achieved by forging connections with educators and their many professional counterparts, who work in community based organizations, to work more effectively together to ensure the best use of their collective resources and to integrate the initiatives from Student Support Leadership into the key priorities and initiatives of the Boards of Education to support healthy student growth and positive achievement.

The initial phase of SSLI supported a Peel-wide initiative to create a new cross-sectoral planning and community capacity building body for children and youth 0-24, now known as PCYI. This shared Peel vision for children and youth aims to seamlessly integrate SSLI priorities both provincially and locally to ensure long term sustainability of activities beneficial for our youth population and their success at school and in their community.

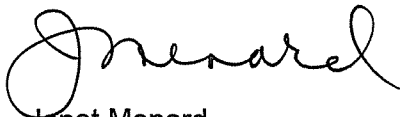
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SSLI provides financial support for the infrastructure of the PCYI organization. PCYI will provide accounting services and support for youth engagement activities. It will also be instrumental in supporting professional development, the collaborative and integrated vision, as well as the opportunity for joint decision making and planning with the broader community. After the conclusion of SSLI funding, which is likely to occur in 2013, the accomplishments achieved collaboratively with PCYI will enable the ongoing community cross-sectoral planning and visioning necessary for Peel's young people to thrive.

CONCLUSION

PCYI continues to work with community organizations in the planning and integration of initiatives for children and youth aged 0 to 24 years. PCYI has made significant strides forward to integrate activities of Success By 6 Peel; the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network; and Student Support Leadership Initiative. The priorities within the PCYI strategic plan provide a framework for the ongoing work on the integration of services, where appropriate, to ensure efficient and effective service provision to children and youth aged 0-24.



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Approved for Submission:



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