

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Feb11\_2020**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Family Resource Network – Expression of Interest Application**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide an update to the Priorities Committee on the status of the Family Resource Network expression of interest application.

##### **Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

##### **Report**

###### *Family Resource Network Expression of Interest*

- In November 2019, the Government of Alberta informed Family and Community Services Strathcona County (FCS) that as of March 31, 2020, funding would end for early childhood development programs. This represents approximately \$800,000 budget reduction for FCS.
- At the same time, Alberta Children's Services posted an expression of interest and invited organizations to compete for Family Resource Network (FRN) grant funding. The expression of interest application deadline was January 20, 2020.
- The main requirements of the FRN expression of interest are to provide prevention and early intervention services for children and youth aged 0-18. The core service delivery domains are 1) child development and wellbeing supports; 2) caregiver capacity-building support; and 3) social connections and supports. These core services are provided across a continuum of universal, targeted and intensive programming, in alignment with the Government of Alberta's Well-being and Resiliency Framework.
- The FRNs are designed as a 'hub and spoke' model, to ensure access to quality supports and services for children, youth, and families across the prevention and early intervention continuum of programming.
- In this model, the hub is responsible for direct service delivery and the coordination of service delivery across the continuum, including implementing standards of practices and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of both hub and spoke activities. The spokes are responsible for providing services, supports, and programming that children, youth, and families can access through the hub.
- FCS is applying as a hub under the FRN expression of interest, with the Boys and Girls Club of Strathcona County, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Strathcona County, and Robin Hood Association applying as partner spoke organizations.

###### *Family and Community Services Background*

- The mandate of the new FRNs is an expansion of the FCS early childhood development function which focused on universal, targeted and intensive services for children aged 0-6. The new model includes a larger age group (0-18 years), a focus on prevention of intervention services, and accountability functions and relationship between hub and spoke organizations.
- FCS is already operating in alignment with the principles and practices of the Well-being and Resiliency Framework.

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- FCS services are founded on the understanding that prevention and early intervention programming is important in helping families build resiliency, coping and parenting skills thereby increasing protective factors and reducing child maltreatment.
- FCS has been operating as a hub in the community for residents to access social services and programs in a timely manner, through arrangements such as co-locating with community partners and multi-sector collaboration initiatives.
- FCS is successful in this approach, thanks to the strong supports in the County, including County Council, the Social Framework Leadership Table, Early Childhood Development Coalition, and faith-based and non-profit organizations.

### *Going Forward*

- From February 17-March 20, 2020, Alberta Children's Services will enter into negotiations with the successful applicants of the FRN expression of interest. The negotiation process is expected to establish the budget and formalize roles and responsibilities. During this time, FCS will learn if they are allocated the funding to provide childhood development supports in Strathcona County, as of April 1, 2020.
- It is critical that these services continue to be delivered in Strathcona County. We know that the whole community benefits from the connected and collaborative services delivery approach that we have in Strathcona County. The establishment of the Family Resource Networks is an opportunity for FCS to further enrich, grow, and develop the continuum of programming for Strathcona County.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** N/A

**Master Plan/Framework:** Strathcona County Social Framework

### **Enclosure**

1 Family Resource Network Expression of Interest Application Overview Presentation