

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jul14\_2020**

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****Family and Community Services – Department Business Plan Update 2020****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the progress of the 2020-2023 Department Business Plan for Family and Community Services.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

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

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

**Report**

Family and Community Services has a mission to provide stewardship of the Social Framework in our community to create together a supported, safe and connected community for all. The department focuses on holistic, evidence-based, action-oriented supports and skill-building within the mandate of prevention and early intervention, while leveraging community partners' areas of expertise. The department has two related core business functions, Empowering Individuals and Families and Empowering Communities. The next year will see continued development and strengthening of partnerships across sectors.

**Empowering Individuals and Families: 2020-2021 Forecast**

Staff teams provide a holistic, responsive, evidence-based continuum of supports and skill building strategies to children, youth, adults, seniors and families. Teams collaborate with participants and partners to empower individuals through seamless support and connection with the wider community. In response to changes in priorities and funding by the Government of Alberta in its approach to prevention and early intervention services for children, youth and families throughout the province, Family and Community Services is leading and evolving service delivery to align with changing provincial priorities, while continuing to support community through implementation of the Social Framework. Over the coming year, data and experience will be used to refine service delivery in alignment with local and provincial priorities as the department and partners learn and explore new and evolving roles across the following programs:

- Family Resource Network
- Counselling
- Mental Health Capacity Building
- Solutions Navigation
- Home Support

**Empowering Communities: 2020-2021 Forecast**

Staff teams support the implementation of the Strathcona County Social Framework as a shared effort by individuals and organizations throughout the County. Using innovative strategies, concepts and approaches, partners and staff together address complex social issues in Strathcona County through the following programs for the period 2020-2021:

- Policy & Social Innovation
- Planning, Research & Evaluation
- Community Investment

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**COVID-19 Response**

In response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, Family and Community Services has led the coordination of Emergency Social Services and adapted services to evolving conditions. As the situation, and needs of the community have evolved, the work of Family and Community Services with the Social Framework Leadership Table has allowed for rapid and nimble responses to emerging circumstances. Actions include responsive grant applications with multiple partners, development of a sophisticated community safety protocol and a coordinated domestic violence response.

**Council and Committee History**

May 23, 2017      Council moved: "THAT the Social Framework – A Platform to Unlock the Ingenuity of the Community, as set out in Enclosure 2 of the May 23, 2017 Family and Community Services report, be approved."

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** N/A

**Master Plan/Framework:** Social Framework

**Enclosure**

1      Department Business Plan Update – Family and Community Services presentation