



## Growing Up Great Network Update October 2013

### Growing Up Great Network: Where ideas move into action

The *Growing Up Great Network* is not only where ideas for change are generated, but also put into action. Membership is open to all those interested in moving forward our common vision and strategic priorities.

The *Network* provides oversight to subcommittees, provides a platform for members to explore key issues, learn about innovative activities in our community, and generate ideas for action. The group meets 6 to 8 times a year.

**All members are encouraged to join one of our action groups.**

*Upcoming Network meetings :*

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Thursday, Dec 12, 2013

Tuesday, Feb 4, 2014

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

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Join us for the annual...

### Growing Up Great Awards

Monday, November 25, 2013

2:00 – 4:00pm

Jean Pigott Place, City Hall

110 Laurier Avenue West Ottawa, Ontario

To register, please visit [www.growingupgreat.ca](http://www.growingupgreat.ca)

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### Strategic Priority—Activities and Next Steps

#### School Readiness

The School Readiness Task Group is a multi-disciplinary subcommittee working to promote supports for young children and their families for child development and school readiness. Members include representatives from speech and language, early learning and child care, school boards, public health, and community health centres.

- The Supporting Child Development workshops are being held this Fall. The intent of the training is to provide strategies and tools for professionals to working with families for the early identification of developmental delays and tips to integrate these strategies into daily practice. This workshop supports the overarching goal of group to normalize the NDDS tool across the city.
- Making Early Years a Priority—go online to download the final version of the literature review on the determinants of school readiness [School Readiness: Working Together for All Children](#)
- Made possible through funding from Ottawa Best Start, the group is leading the develop of a French version of the Renfrew County training video and supporting materials on talking to parents about sensitive issues. It is expected to be released and available Fall 2013.

## Critical Hours

### **Critical Hours Practice Standards Task Group**

This new task group was formed in late September to explore opportunities on promoting promising practices, applying common evaluation, and implementing practice standards for critical hours programs. Co-chaired by Kelli Tonner and Craig Mackie, the group is currently working on refining its mandate and scope of work and engaging key partners. A draft work plan is expected to be available by early December.

### **Summer Literacy Achievement**

In late Spring 2013, a small group came together to work towards addressing summer literacy gap for vulnerable children. Building strategies and practices already in place, and working in collaboration with the Ottawa Public Library and Community Houses across the city, a small pilot project was implemented to explore best practices in staff training and program delivery within a summer camp setting. The pilot's intent was to develop base practices that could be implemented into daily programming to help support literacy skills. The results of the pilot are currently being evaluated. The group will come back together to discuss practice, planning, and policy recommendations.

### **Community Use of Space**

The Community Use of Space task group has had many accomplishments over the last 18 months. The group was successful in releasing a literature review on best practices, mapping critical hours programs and developing the background infrastructure to support future planning and decision, raising awareness on the issue and the linkages critical hours programs has on school success, healthy outcomes and skill development, and encouraged partners to consider innovative ideas to help address barriers organizations encounter in securing space for programs.

In September, the members of the working group decided to retire its current mandate. However, Community Use of Space has not been lost, but under the strong leadership of the Community Development Framework, a subcommittee of community leaders has been formed to address this issue at a systems level. We have been invited to participate on this subcommittee to ensure issues related children and youth is well represented and provide linkages back to our broader network.

## Research into Action

The Research and Evaluation Task Group held the Inspiring Collective Action: From Outcomes and Indicators to Community Change forum on June 19, 2013. This forum was designed to gather feedback and endorsement on the draft Ottawa Child and Youth Data and Community Action Framework; highlight key issues in our community; identify where we can concentrate our energy for community-wide change. Supported by the Pickering Centre for Research in Human Development, guest speaker Paul Johnson, (*Director, Neighbourhood Development Strategies for the City of Hamilton*) inspired participants and demonstrated the difference collective impact can make in our communities. For a copy of his presentation and the findings of the forum, please visit our [website](#).

Since the forum, the research group has been at work validating and confirming child and youth outcome indicators and community action measures. This framework will help us better understand the health of our community's children and youth, and will monitor how the supports and service we have in place help impact healthy outcomes. Look for the release of this first phase of work in early January 2014.

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## Partnerships

### **Collaborative Parenting Support Strategy**

With the support of our partners, we hosted an open forum on May 2013 to explore the feasibility and opportunities for a community collaborative parenting support strategy. Building on the positive dialogue, support in principle, and a willingness to work together, a sub-committee has been developing a draft framework for community consideration. We are planning community forum this fall to seek consensus on recommendations for next steps. Stay tuned for more information.