Creation of an FASD Community Coalition

8th International Research Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD
Review, Respond and Relate: Integrating Research, Policy and Practice around the World
Vancouver April 18-21, 2018

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Executive

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NorthWest central FASD Network

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Occupational Performance Analysis Unit. Occupational Therapy Department
University of Alberta
A Success Story

Creating a community support and service network for adults with FASD

A presentation on behalf of the members

WESTLOCK AND DISTRICT FASD COALITION
A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN ALBERTA
A PRESENTATION OUTLINE
Session Outline

Who we are
What we achieved
Who we serve
How did we get there
Reflection & case example
Where we want to go
Questions & Discussion

Learning Objectives:

- Increase knowledge and ability to create FASD coalitions
- Consider strategies that maximize funds, share resources, and expand FASD knowledge
- Reflect on how this coalition model can enhance client service
Who is the Coalition

Caring local agencies

With a common purpose

- Westlock & District Family & Children Support Services
- Northwest Central Alberta FASD Network
- Barrhead Family & Community Support Services,
- Alberta Justice
- Alberta Health Services
- Alberta Supports
- Alberta Child & Family Services,
- HOPE Resource Center
- Westlock Independence Network
- Healthy Families, Healthy Futures.
## Who we are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Olchowy</td>
<td>Executive Director, Family and Community Support Services, Westlock, a Provincial and local municipal funding partnership for preventative programs and services.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Coalition Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvette Kraychy</td>
<td>Central Zone Key Worker, NorthWest Central FASD Network</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Assess clients for eligibility and setup Outreach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Brintnell</td>
<td>Coalition Resource, Occupational Performance Analysis Unit, University of Alberta, Professor &amp; <strong>Member of NWC FASD diagnostic team &amp; coalition advisor</strong></td>
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What we achieved

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES LIKE WESTLOCK ATTRACT PEOPLE NEEDING SERVICES
Westlock Alberta  A rural community

Serving approximately 12,750 residents

Westlock and district encompasses
  ◦ Westlock County with the Town of Westlock and the Village of Clyde

Supported by agricultural industry,
  ◦ on farm production and agricultural related business.

A healthy community
  ◦ Rich in the location of government services and programs
  ◦ Alberta Health Services, Alberta Community and Social Services. Income Support and Employment services the area.
What we achieved

- Identified the targeted supports required to meet the complex needs of individuals with FASD
- Created a community coalition to address local issues and service gaps
- Advocated for and contributed to a dedicated FASD community worker
- Harnessed a rich resource base of community services and business to enrich client experience
- Enhanced interagency communication
What we achieved

First 9 months

Funding for Key Worker shared by Network and FCSS

Donations in kind

FCSS provided office space

Key Worker, employee of FASD Network

Outreach Services – supervised by FASD Network, including personnel, case management, reporting

Awareness campaign – mocktail challenge, learning opportunities to the schools, interagency and directly to agencies as requested

Photos
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we achieved - Response to need</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client aggregate data to be shared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client aggregate data to be shared</td>
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<tr>
<td>After</td>
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What we achieved - FASD worker position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions changes</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Keyworker is located in the Westlock area</td>
<td>Able to meet with more clients in one day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office space provided by FCSS</td>
<td>Private office space to complete forms and have conversations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boardroom still available with HFHF along with FCSS</td>
<td>Provide more services and able to make closer working connections with agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel time is cut down</td>
<td>Building solid relationships with clients because I’m able to connect face to face on a regular basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smaller geographic area</td>
<td>Able to attend more appointments with clients ie.. medicals, specialist appointments, addictions, probations, court, AISH, PDD, employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>More time one on one direct client contact</td>
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### How we got there

#### One person’s

**Vision**
- Increase support to Caregivers & Clients in the Westlock district

**Commitment to**
- Reduce service gaps
- make a difference and
- respond to a growing service demands

#### Resulted in

Bimonthly meetings of community agency and provincial supports personnel
- Key task issues discussions
  - included needs assessment,
  - role responsibility identification,
  - program development,
  - funding and
  - Sustainability

Heightened community participation across many domains
How we got there

**FCSS Ex Director - the initiator**
- Assessed community assets
- Advocated on behalf of the community
- Worked collectively with stakeholders to:
  - increase, strengthen and develop community initiatives and
  - meet a growing demand for services
- Reached out and connected with like minded groups
- Promised good food

- Sought opinion’s from other agencies on how they were responding to FASD clients
- Sent out invitation (many times)
- Respectful of others’ opinions
- Inclusive
- Meetings began and ran on time
- Timely minutes
How we got there - Agreed on the priorities

- Commitment from Coalition members to focus on service gap on long term basis
  - The commitment would not be cumbersome - the meetings would be short, expectations would not create more work for the agencies
  - Contributions to the Coalition would be based on strengths, mandate, resources and budget

- Develop financial commitment
  - Secure location for point of contact
  - Hire dedicated resource (employee) to be community key worker, supervised by FASD Network, having similar staff compliments in neighboring communities.
  - Education and Awareness (prevention) be extended to area
How we got there  Overcoming client obstacles

Barriers to direct client service

The Dx wait list for FASD assessment
- Compiling information
- Confirming PAE

Compiling the forms
- AISH/PDD/Income support
- Information and criteria needed from the clients to get them set up.
- Getting bank statements, letter from landlord, physical address forms, direct deposit forms.

Medical Needs:
- Finding local services
- Covering cost of transportation to medical needs outside our service area.

Challenges
- Communication between clients, community connections/service providers.
- Miscommunication due to clients not having a phone
- Increase in client case load
- Clients moving out of service area
- Lack of funding/short term funding
How we got there

Improving on the situation

Situation before Coalition support of position

- Keyworker covered a large geographic area
  - meeting clients in their homes
  - or public places
- No private office nor meeting space
- Lost client time in travel
- Delay in meeting clients in crisis due to distance
- Reduced number of client daily meetings

- Reduced opportunities to
  - Meet local supports & build relationships
  - Advocate for clients
  - Participate in community & local events
  - Promote FASD awareness

- Keyworker was unknown resource
# Reflection & case example

## Reflection

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<th>Reflection Items</th>
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<tr>
<td>What the coalition contributes to community services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What it means to service agencies and the clients</td>
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<tr>
<td>What can be improved upon</td>
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<td>Will it work in other areas</td>
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## Case Example

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<th>Case Example Details</th>
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<td>A demonstration of the increased awareness of and supports for an adult client with FASD</td>
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<td>Is used to stimulate application of a coalition in other geographic areas</td>
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<td>Knowledge Sharing</td>
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Where we want to go from here

Celebrate the successes this is working

Work to sustain

- The Coalition
- The outreach services for as long as the need is there
- Political will to address FASD

Expand services to support children.
Where we want to go from here

TRACK EMERGING NEEDS AND CHANGES IN COMMUNITY
FORECAST OUR ANTICIPATED NEEDS AND RESPONSE PLANS
Thank You to All Clients Coalition Partners and the Community of Westlock

AND FOR YOUR ATTENTION & COMMENTS