

EVALUATION FINDINGS: PHASE 1

BACKGROUND

In 2014, 40 statutory and non-statutory agencies and 20 young people committed to a Collective Impact (CI) approach to improve outcomes for youth aging out of government care. McCreary Centre Society was asked to evaluate the first phase of the initiative. During Phase 1, CI members developed a shared vision and common agenda.

METHODOLOGY

The developmental evaluation focused on the initiative's process and evolution, and collected information on successes, challenges, and lessons learned.



Evaluation surveys were distributed to community partners at the four gatherings that took place from September, 2015 to May, 2016.



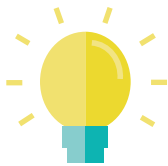
Focus groups and interviews were carried out to supplement the survey data with in-depth qualitative information.



Evaluation findings collected at one gathering were then shared at the next gathering, so that information from the evaluation could help to inform the ongoing development of the initiative.

FINDINGS

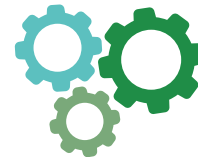
Community partners identified a number of successes during Phase 1. These included:



Agreement on a shared vision and goals.



Identification of a backbone agency (McCreary was selected).



Organizations' desire to move forward and take action.

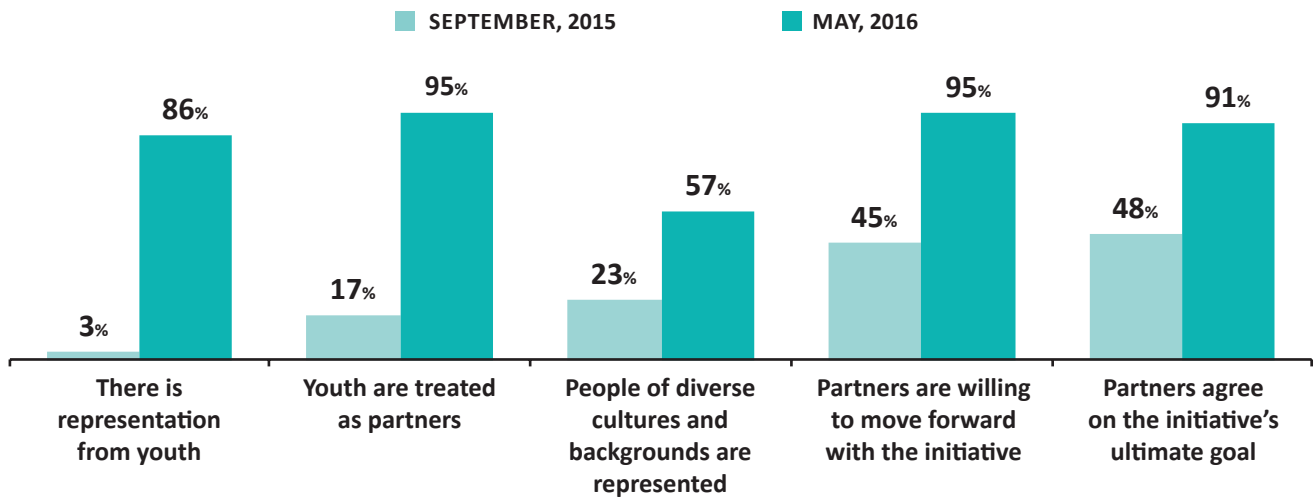
Across all four gatherings, most participants felt emotionally safe at the meetings, felt they were kept informed of the initiative's progress, were hopeful that positive change would arise, and were inspired to stay involved.

Most community partners felt the initiative supported learning and reflection. Also, toward the end of Phase 1, 80% reported knowing quite a bit or a lot about the Collective Impact model, compared to a minority who felt they had had this level of knowledge at the start of Phase 1.

There were a number of improvements from one meeting to the next, including a greater percentage of partners who felt decision-making processes were open and transparent; that people of diverse cultures and backgrounds were represented; partners agreed on the initiative’s ultimate goal; partners were ready to move forward; there was representation from youth; and youth were treated as partners.

The patterns of findings were similar for youth and adults, as well as for partners who had attended multiple gatherings compared to only one.

CHANGES OVER TIME (PARTICIPANTS WHO AGREED ‘QUITE A BIT’ OR ‘VERY MUCH’)



NOTE: Participants were not necessarily the same at each meeting.

Throughout Phase 1, partners did not typically feel they had a clear goal for their own contribution to the initiative, and felt that clarification on agencies’ and individuals’ roles and responsibilities would be helpful moving forward. The majority of partners were interested in staying involved in Phase 2 and felt the initiative would likely succeed if it continued.



McCreary is continuing to evaluate Phase 2 of the initiative, with input from community partners. This infographic and the complete Phase 1 Final Evaluation Report are available at [www.mcs.bc.ca/ci\\_mainpage](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/ci_mainpage).

