

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Youth Aging out of Care—Vancouver

July 2015—Issue 1

What's New

We have a Project Manager

On June 10th, Lucie Honey-Ray was hired as the project manager for the initiative. This initiative is funded by the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Foundation and the Federation of Community Social Services of BC in partnership with the Sustainability and Innovation Action Plan .

Caroline Bonesky states “Lucie comes with extensive experience in facilitation, excellent working knowledge of collective impact (including participating in events with Tamarack and FSG) and her master’s thesis was focused on innovative board governance models. She is passionate about meaningful engagement and I believe this project will be in good hands.”

Over the summer months, Lucie plans to meet with stakeholders, create an inventory of services and formulate a plan for moving forward.

SAVE THE DATE—SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 for our first community gathering.



“In the 5 years since its inception, the Collective Impact approach has gained notoriety as the only approach capable of changing results in

complex social problems. Its success is founded upon stakeholders' willingness to value greater impact and results over the current 'status quo'. My challenge in the year ahead is to help you see the value of embarking on this journey!



In This Issue

- What's new
- Our goals
- Our history
- CI—what is it?
- Collaborative Principles
- What's next



In partnership with the Sustainability & Innovation Action Plan



Our History

A little over a year ago, Caroline Bonesky, CEO of Family Services of Greater Vancouver, noticed that several organizations were focusing on the issue of youth homelessness. Having recently attended Tamarack's conference on collective impact, she wondered if the approach might have a greater impact for youth aging out of care.

Caroline picked up the phone and asked if they would be interested in getting together to explore the collective impact approach. Representatives from MCFD, the Vancouver Foundation, Streethome, Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) and the Federation for Community Social Services of BC (FCSSBC) organized the first conversation held in April 2014. and attended by approximately 30 people.

From there, interested parties formed a steering committee : Alison Bond (MCFD), Lorraine Grieves (VCH), Mark Gifford (Vancouver Foundation), Carolyn Tuckwell (Boys and Girls Clubs), and Caroline Bonesky (FSGV). The steering committee organized a second conversation in September extending invitations to a wider network of community service providers and stakeholders. This conversation was attended by approximately 50 people . Both sessions were facilitated by Liz Weaver of Tamarack.

Our next newsletter will provide a summary of the outcomes from these conversations. A third, smaller group came together in December to explore principles of collaboration. These are introduced on the back cover of this newsletter.

We have goals:

1. To establish agreement on issue, system parameters including both formal and informal systems and the key population outcomes;
2. Youth in care, aging out and out of care are engaged in initiatives and processes—diverse community stakeholders participate in specific initiatives; and
3. Develop a plan and resource budget for the ongoing governance and backbone structures of the respective initiatives.



**ABC's of Collective Impact
on next page**

A potential shared agenda—common vision

In September one strong idea surfaced when asked “what do we aspire to see”—No kids aging-out at age 19. It's a great place for our next conversation to start...or end!

There is also a strong thread around connection, connectivity!

Collective Impact

Lessons learned

In Australia (2013)

“In summary there are three things that stand out as lessons learned over the past 12 months;

- Collective Impact requires a shift in mind-set
- Collective Impact requires funders to shift their perspective
- Collective impact demands better locally available data”

In the United States

Broward County (2014)

“ Constant and consistent communication keeps participants on task, engaged, and motivated to get the work done. Large scale work has many moving parts and success is measured in years, not days”.

In Canada

Ontario (2014)

Until the Last Child—the common agenda

“A loving and permanent home for every child”.

Common Agenda	All participants have a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions.
Shared Measurement	Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
Mutually Reinforcing Activities	Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
Continuous Communication	Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
Backbone Support	Creating and managing collective impact requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinate participating organizations and agencies.

The Five Conditions of Collective Impact—Channeling Change: making Collective Impact Work, Stanford Social Innovation Review (2013)

What is Collective Impact?

Collective impact is the new kid on the block, making its debut in the early 2010s. It's a framework for facilitating and achieving large scale social change. Collective Impact (CI) is a structured and disciplined approach to bringing cross-sector organizations together to focus on a common agenda that results in long-lasting change.

In the US, FSG's Fay Hanleybrown, John Kania and Mark Kramer are CI thought leaders and in Canada, Tamarack has driven opportunities to learn about CI. FSG's trio affirm “ the complex nature of most social problem belies the idea that any single program or organization, however well managed and funded, can singlehandedly create lasting large-scale change”. They add...”collective impact is not just a fancy name for collaboration, but represents a fundamentally different, more disciplined, and higher performing approach to achieving large-scale social change”. The table above lists the five (5) conditions or principles of collective impact.

There are also three preconditions: an influential champion or group of champions (Caroline Bonesky and the steering committee); adequate financial resources (3 funders); and a sense of urgency (several organizations working on the issue of youth homelessness). The Vancouver CI—Youth Aging Out of Care initiative has enough momentum to create opportunities and the motivation necessary to bring people together.

Collective Impact is more complex than a one page article...lets look forward to exploring and grokking the approach together!

Principles of Collaboration

On November 25, 2014, eleven (11) people participated in a facilitated session hosted by the Vancouver Foundation. Their purpose to 'create principles of collaborations or agreements on how we will work with each other, youth and community...to determine essential practices for meetings that foster a collaborative, learning environment...meetings that invite everyone's best contribution and where we can hold each other in respectful accountability'.

Principles are guides and not sticks with which we hurt ourselves and others when and if we fall short. This work represents the first round of principles of collaboration to guide the work of the collective impact initiative. A more detailed document will be sent prior to our September 25 community gathering. .

Round 1—Principles (Votes + Shared Votes)

Transparency (11)

Courageous Modeling (11)

Humility (8)

Whole System in the Room (5 + 3)

Power Shifts (5)

Trust the Wisdom of group (3+3)

Iteration (3)

Tend Relationships (2)

Presence (2)

History & Context (2)

Invitation (1)

Setting Intention (1)

Holding Space (3)

Contact me

Give me a call and lets set up a time to talk! I am ready to:

Make presentations on CI

Talk to your teams about the CI initiative

Meet with youth and explore how they want to be engaged

Add you to our distribution list.

Lucie Honey-Ray

Project Manager
(604) 807-2422

lhoneyray@gmail.com

Group Works Pattern Language Deck used for principle work



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC

vancouver
foundation