

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Youth Leaving Care—Vancouver

September 2015—Issue 3



September 25

Community
Gathering

So excited for our gathering on Friday! Looking forward to all stakeholders being in the room at the same time and some rich discussions!

In a recent conversation with Liz Weaver at Tamarack, she used the analogy of 'pigs in a python' to refer to the level of engagement anticipated in a collective impact approach. She further explained this as 20% of people and organizations will be raring to go and move quickly, 60% will be willing to dip their toe in and 20% will sit back and watch. I applied this analogy to our CI initiative for youth leaving care and, based on this summer's conversations, more than 65% of you are asking to move from conversation to action! We heard you loud and clear saying "**We need action now!**".

READY, SET GO! At our September 25 gathering we will aim to set a small shared vision that could net results over 9 months and give this CI approach a trial run!

Our Strategic Advisory Committee Members

- Caroline Bonesky, FSGV
- Allison Bond, MCFD
- Lorraine Grieves, VCH
- Mark Gifford, Vancouver Foundation
- Mary Clare Zak, City of Vancouver
- Carolyn Tuckwell, Boys and Girls



- Adhoc member—McCreary Evaluation contractor



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In partnership with the Sustainability & Innovation Action Plan

Summary of Stakeholder Conversations

Over the summer, 36 individuals representing 30 organizations participated in conversations about collective impact and youth leaving care. For those that had been to prior community gatherings, we asked about their sense of these meetings. The majority walked away feeling excited, optimistic, hopeful, intrigued, curious and encouraged by the number of shareholders in the room.

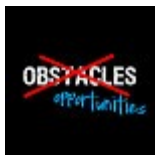


WE ASKED “Where’s the fire? What are the burning issues?”

Most common response securing the crevices, precipices and cliffs facing youth transitioning from care (11)
 Connection through transitions—*“who’s youth’s 911?”* (10)
 Next came housing (10); income security and employment (9); clear pathways (4); 40% Aboriginal (3) .

WE ASKED “What gaps exist in services for youth leaving care?”

Bridging and transitions along with connection was most popular (18). This was followed by family support (9), housing (11), mental health services(13), employment and education (7) as well as adequate income (6).

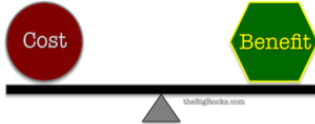


WE ASKED “What do you think is the biggest obstacle to working together?”

The top response was agreement on a shared vision and common agenda (21). This was followed by inspiring people and organizations to get engaged and stay committed over the long run (15). The only other theme for this response was FEAR—fear of judgment, fear of lost revenues, fear of renewal and some thought change is indicative of criticism.

WE ASKED What needs to change in order for a CI approach to work?

The top response was strong working relationships and building trust among service providers and governments (17). This was followed by mentions of setting egos and agency mandates aside to invest in possibility thinking...changing mindsets and thinking (9). Increasing public investment and responsibility also received several mentions (6).

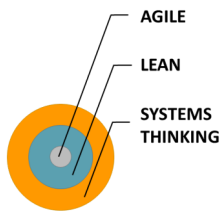


WE ASKED “What do you hope to gain from this CI? How will it benefit your organization?”

Better outcomes for kids was number one (24). This was followed closely by shared learning and knowledge, data and “learning labs” (17). Another theme was opportunities to work together, increase trust, transparency, “bust out of silos” and enhanced communications (15).

WE ASKED “ What are the best ways to encourage youth engagement?”

The top response was to engage existing Youth Advisory Councils—we have identified 9. It was also suggested that youth be engaged in meaningful ways: decision making, ideas, and leadership (22). Critical is that youth voices are heard and they are seen as part of the solution. Create meaningful space for contribution!



Although no question asked about systems, there were an abundance of comments referring to current systems which we felt were important to note and share here.

“Systems entrench people” and some have not changed in over 30 years...foster parent system and MCFD systems mentioned most often (26). The RFP process encourages a culture of competition (19) and CI needs a collective building trustworthy and long lasting relationships! We need political will and integration at the government level—inter ministry conversations to begin **“whole system thinking”** (9).

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