



A Time for Action

Integrating Mental Health Services
for Children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder
In Dufferin



Project Partners

Dufferin Child & Family Services

- Developmental Support Services
- Children's Mental Health

ErinoakKids

Kerry's Place Autism Services – Dufferin

Parents

Upper Grand District School Board



A Parent's Perspective

- DVD



The Need

- No mental health services beyond crisis intervention
- No local clinical expertise for diagnosis of ASD
- Approximately, 65% youth with Asperger's will experience an affective or mood disorder
- # children seen with ASD by Children's Mental Health within first year of pilot



The Project

- Build & enhance capacity to respond to mental health needs
- Support effective working relationships
- Share knowledge & expertise
- Develop standards of practice
- Foster innovative approaches to emerging needs



Where did we start?

Community Mobilization Awards
The Provincial Center of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health

Phase I: Spring – Fall 2009

- Identify service needs- Stakeholder forum & focus groups
- Best practice research re: mental health services & ASD

Phase II: Fall - Spring 2010

- Develop foundational structures
- Relationship building between service providers
- Professional Development regarding ASD & mental health concerns
- Map out service pathways for accessing mental health services

Phase III: In progress, to be completed August 2011

- Pilot and evaluate service pathways
- Continue relationship building & professional development efforts
- Identify & respond to emerging needs



Engaging Community

What we heard...

- Access to local counseling and assessment services
- Improve integration of services – every door is the right door
- Advocacy for community service needs – inadequate resources and funding
- Education: training for service providers & general community awareness



Setting the Foundation

Developing the Leadership Team

- Identifying Potential Partners
- Creating the Steering Committee

Orienting to our North Star

- Vision
- Mission
- Guiding Principles
- Strategy

From Individual to Organizational Commitment

- Charter of Participation



Relationship Building

Effective working relationships are critical to successful collaboration:

- Lunch & learns – networking and information sharing
- Site visits
- Monthly Steering Committee meetings
- Information sharing at Team meetings



Service Pathways

- Research pathways used in other communities
- Map out what services are currently available
- Draft a proposed pathway that integrates mental health services
- Test out with case scenarios to anticipate the “bumps on the road”
- Pilot & evaluate the pathways



Professional Development

Coordinating local workshops on assessment and intervention in dual diagnoses

Attending workshops offered in other jurisdictions and sharing what is learned with partners

Participation in case consultation with Redpath Cent

Supported improved case planning between agencies



Service Coordination

Pro-active planning rather than being reactive

- Common language
- Identification of need for collaboration
- Delivery of coordinated plans,
- Common assessments
- Case conferencing tools

What happens when...



Evaluation

Developmental evaluation: evaluating along the journey rather than at the end

- Designated staff within partner organizations act as internal evaluators who have their ear attuned to trends in conversations, emerging issues and good news stories
- Steering Committee standing agenda item – “Percolating Pots”
- Adapt strategy to reflect emerging needs



Learnings

- Take the time to build relationships- trust is key
- Collaborative change takes time
- Learn to tolerate uncertainty –chaos is a precursor to creativity and innovation
- Flexibility is a must: be prepared to adapt the strategy
- Communication is critical...and can always be improved



Emerging Issues

- Need for multi-disciplinary diagnostic team
- Standardizing a case planning and conferencing approach
- Explore levels of service including intensive services offered by DSS, CMH, KPAS.



Next Steps

- SSLI Standardized case planning model for all partners
- Communication tools that link in public & service providers
- Exploring how to support complex cases and how to best manage the services
- Advocating for improved resources for Dufferin



Updates

- Community Presentation
 - November 7, 2011
 - What we heard...



Continue to support families in their
journey with their child
is a shared responsibility