

“WRAP CANADA – CREATING COMMUNITY FOR ALL”

A REPORT FROM ANDREW DEBICKI NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. WRAP CANADA

May 12, 2011

Dear Colleagues and Board Members,

This is my third annual report to the Board of Directors as your (Volunteer) National Development Director.

First and foremost I want to thank Mark VanderVennen, our Board Chair for his vision, leadership and support to me in this role. Second, I want to thank you, the members of the Board of Directors, for your vision, support and commitment to Wrap Canada. We can only make this a pan Canadian initiative with all of your vision, support and energy.

There has been continued progress on many fronts since my second annual report to you on May 1st of last year. Before I jump into giving you a brief overview about those activities, let me review the vision and mission of Wrap Canada. Our work to date is to do what we can to make both this vision and mission a reality in Canada.

THE VISION OF WRAP CANADA

All children, youth, adults and their families will be part of a vibrant supportive community such that their varied challenges and needs will be heard, addressed and met.

THE MISSION OF WRAP CANADA - “CREATING COMMUNITY FOR ALL!”

Wrap Canada will support communities to successfully implement the WrapAround Process with all children, youth and adults and their families dealing with varied and complex problems so that they have better lives and can be active participants in their community.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR WRAP CANADA & RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. To develop a strong, vibrant network of interrelated and diverse community initiatives using the Wraparound process across Canada

Over the last year I have done what I can to stimulate new initiatives or to support existing Wraparound community initiatives across Canada. I will highlight a few of both for you.

On the east coast, I provided two days of training and technical assistance in June on how to use the Wraparound process for the staff of the Youth Advocate Program. This is a National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) project funded by Safety Canada which is sponsored by the Halifax Municipal Government. This program is seen as a leading and successful model for crime prevention with children and youth in Canada.

It should be noted that the National Crime Prevention Centre under Safety Canada lists Wraparound as a best practice.

In addition, the Youth Advocate Program of the Regional Municipality of Halifax sponsored a five day Wraparound training Institute in November in Halifax for people from Halifax and the surrounding areas.

As a result staff from two existing projects in the Halifax area who attended the training have now started to use the Wraparound planning process. One is a program called “Schools Plus” and is run by the Halifax District School Board. Its focus is to provide intensive in home, in school and in community support to identified children and youth and their families that are dealing with multiple, complex problems.

The other program is called the “Alternative Suspension Program” and is funded by the Ministry of Education of Nova Scotia and operated and managed by a local Y. It’s focus is on elementary school students who are suspended for at least 3 days at a time. They help the students to constructively and academically focus their time while on suspension and help them to develop a plan for their return to school.

Last May I started to work with the Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority based out of Ile a la Crosse Saskatchewan. This is a huge health region that encompasses all of northern Saskatchewan from an hour’s drive north of Prince Albert all the way to the border with the Northwest Territories.

The leadership in this health region has committed to implementing the Wraparound planning process as a way to provide effective multi disciplinary teaming to develop integrated plans. Through May I completed four days of training for front line staff from various disciplines along with meeting with their leadership team to draft an implementation plan.

In September I met with the Regional Intersectoral Coordinator for this area who said that they have started implementation with a few families with the hope of expanding this work in the coming months.

Finally, in July I provided several hours of telephone consultation to a group working with long term psychiatric patients in a hospital in Calgary, Alberta who want to develop a project to use Wraparound to help some of these patients return to the community both successfully and long term.

Through the late fall of 2010, Dr. Michael Ungar and I had a number of discussions with the manager of Research and Knowledge of the National Crime Prevention Centre. Our goal was to ascertain their interest in assisting in and funding the development of a national demonstration project using the Wraparound process as a key component of a crime prevention and/or gang exiting program.

We started this process by discussing their current interest in and support of the use of Wraparound in the prevention of crime and in assisting with gang exiting. We found that of the current 16 crime

prevention and/or gang exiting projects funded by them, 13 stated that they used a Wraparound model or one similar to it as one of the core components of their program.

By the end of February of this year, we had agreed with the manager from the NCPC to start by first looking at how effective the current funded projects were in using the Wraparound process. We developed a contract with them whereby I would provide them with an assessment of Wraparound programs and approaches used in projects currently funded by NCPC in Canada. The purpose of this assessment was to identify emerging good Wraparound practices used in crime prevention and/or gang exiting.

In addition to assessing the existing programs with respect to emerging good Wraparound practices, the study was to also investigate the links between Child Welfare, Youth Justice and Children's Mental Health needs and services when providing concurrent service to this target population and the issues and challenges that arise in doing so.

This assessment was accomplished by reviewing program reports and evaluations and visiting a purposeful sample of four projects where we interviewed managers, some staff and a few past clients that have implemented Wraparound as part of their service. In addition, extensive telephone interviews were conducted with program managers and staff from two other projects.

The goal of the paper review, the site visits and especially of the interviews both in person and over the phone was to identify key elements of success, common challenges and lessons learned to date during their implementation.

This work was done by myself with the support of Dr. Michael Ungar, a Professor in the School of Social Work at Dalhousie University and the Director of the Resilience Research Centre. Dr. Ungar played an advisory role to this project.

The results of this project will provide a snapshot that will inform how NCPC can best move forward with the use of the Wraparound Process in Canada. Their goal will be to maximize the Wraparound Process' potential benefit for populations of children and youth at risk of criminal behaviour while also providing a potentially effective way to support children and youth exiting from gangs thus creating a safe and resilient Canada.

While in Halifax in June I attended a three day International Resilience Conference at Dalhousie University. In late September I also attended the five day Communities Collaborating Institute put on by Tamarack in Kitchener.

Both were well attended by people from communities across Canada. I connected with people who are interested in learning more about Wraparound from Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Abbotsford, Goose Bay, Moncton and St. John and even at home in Hamilton.

Otherwise, I have had calls from numerous communities in British Columbia interested in getting training. There seems to be a groundswell of interest in using Wraparound in different ways across that province.

2. To develop a Training and Technical Assistance Team that promotes, assists and supports excellence in the training, coaching and implementation of WP with children, youth and adults and their families experiencing/living with multiple, complex and unmet needs.

I am in the process of finalizing the development of a Canadian model of Wraparound Facilitator training and certification. This will include a greater focus on building Resilience, community mobilization and connecting people served to the community as well as a new focus on the social determinants of health. In the mean time we continue to use the Vroon VanDenBerg certification model.

Finally, while we have had discussion in the Trainers and Coaches group about developing a Francophone Facilitator Certification training we are not there yet. Both Suzanne Rochon of North Bay's Wraparound initiative and Louise Latourelle of Halton Support Services' Wraparound initiative in Oakville are comfortable training in French. We have had a number of core documents translated into French but we still need far more of the materials translated to actually deliver all written materials in French.

3. To develop varied/creative/culturally sensitive and effective strategies and models of community mobilization that result in resilient/vibrant communities as defined by geography, culture and/or need.

Mark Vander Vennen and Elske de Visch Eybergen of Shalem Mental Health Network in Hamilton have continued to develop a variety of models of how to implement Wraparound within a faith community as part of mobilizing that faith community. This is an exciting and unique adaptation in the use of the Wraparound process and holds tremendous promise for the future. If you are interested in this model please contact Mark or Elske directly at markvv@shalemnetwork.org or elske@shalemnetwork.org to learn more about this emerging model.

4. To develop a strong consumer voice across the age spectrum/life cycle that results in meaningful participation in all aspects of the work of the association.

We continue to encourage past consumers of Wraparound to give us feedback whenever possible. However, we have not yet been able to undertake more significant work on this strategic direction.

Of note is the fact that West Hamilton Wraparound under Elske de Visch Eybergen's direction has developed a wonderful six minute video starring a consumer of Wraparound there with the support of the students in Film courses at Mohawk College. There is some minor editing to finish and then a link to the video will be posted on the Wrap Canada website. This has been accomplished with the support of World Vision Canada.

5. To develop the capacity to respond to the unique needs and preferences of the Aboriginal, Francophone and Immigrant and Refugee communities.

It is exciting to see that the Native Women's Centre of Hamilton is in its 4th year of development and implementation of an Aboriginal specific model of Wraparound. The target populations for this

project are women and children fleeing violence, families and women and men leaving a correctional institute. To date the program has served well over 200 different clients.

For further information about this exciting and innovative model of Aboriginal Wraparound please contact Linda Ense, the Executive Director of the Native Women's Centre in Hamilton at exdir@nativewomenscentre.com.

Please refer to the discussion at the end of strategic direction #2 for a review of the progress made with respect to the development of Francophone specific training and materials.

6. To develop linkages within the broader system of care that supports the integration of services for individuals and family at a community and/or a regional, and/or a provincial or territorial level and/or at a federal level.

We have not yet moved forward with any significant work in this area.

7. To develop the capacity to initiate and successfully complete qualitative, quantitative and cost benefit research for individuals and families dealing with unmet needs.

I continue to “surf” the internet looking for viable opportunities as well as contacting individuals from various government departments or foundations. However, I have not as yet discovered any other viable calls for proposal to submit an application for core project funding for Wrap Canada.

Over the last year we have developed a Wraparound Research and Evaluation Group (WREN) in southern Ontario that submitted three applications for research funding from the Centre of Excellence for Children's Mental Health. Each of the three initiatives involved were successful in receiving grants of \$20,000 each for one year to develop their capacity to do Program evaluation.

The group is currently comprised of:

- WrapAround Northumberland, sponsored by the Children's Aid Society of Northumberland
- The Simcoe County Wraparound Service, sponsored by Catulpa Community Support Service and
- The West Hamilton Wraparound group sponsored by Shalem Mental Health Network

Our focus over the next year will be to plan and pilot four measures:

1. A Goal Attainment Scaling model (developed by myself)
2. Child and Youth Resilience Measures (developed by Dr. Michael Ungar and the staff of the International Resilience Centre)
3. A Canadianized form of the Wraparound Fidelity Index (the original was developed by the National Wraparound Initiative in the US and is being modified with permission by myself)
4. An Adult Resilience Measure (developed by Dr. Odin Hjerdal and associates of Norway)

8. To assist in the development of new policy practice with all levels of government across Canada that better support and integrate services for people and families dealing with complex needs.

Both Mark Vander Vennen and Jane Ashmore had the opportunity to present about Wraparound in Ontario and Canada to a panel member for the group conducting a three year review of how child welfare services are delivered in Ontario. Given that the committee has written an initial report that focuses in part on the need for greater integration of services this was a timely presentation for which I want to both commend and thank Mark and Jane for doing.

I have had a couple of discussions with local regional office staff in both Saskatchewan and from different areas in the Atlantic provinces over the last year. Otherwise, we have not yet moved forward with any other significant activities in this regard.

9. To develop a strong sustainability plan for the future of Wrap Canada that includes a strong mix of revenues derived from membership dues, fund raising and fee for service work and the acquisition of funds available from grants and provincial / territorial / federal funding.

I continue to develop and support projects with individuals and groups across the country to further the spread the use of the Wraparound Process in Canada. I continue to investigate the possibility of funding from a number of federal government departments.

10. To strategically partner with other national associations and initiatives that complement our work and are concerned with the same population of people and families as we are but perhaps from a different direction or approach.

Last, but not least is that we continue to have the commitment of a fantastic, knowledgeable and experienced Advisory or Reference Group to help us move forward with Wrap Canada. This is a group of people with whom we have working relationships and can call for feedback, advice and suggestions. They have or are working nationally already in different and successful Canadian initiatives.

The members of this group are as follows:

- Mark Cabaj, Director, Vibrant Communities Canada
- Dr. Michael Ungar, Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University who is the Director of the Resilience Research Centre based out of Dalhousie University
- Clayton Rowe, National Manager, Canadian Programs, World Vision Canada
- Dr. Jean Clinton, child psychiatrist and well known lecturer across Canada on the Early Years
- Dr. Eric J. Bruns, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and

Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington Medical School in Seattle, Washington at
Portland State University and Co-Director of the National Wraparound Initiative based out of
Portland State University

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