



PROFILE of

Inter-Agency Head Start Network

Goals:

- To better assess the need for Head Start services and align existing services to meet those needs by:
 - Identifying the number and concentration of families eligible for Head Start services within the Capital Region
 - Identifying the availability of Head Start services
 - Identify existing service areas and,
 - The ability, or resources, in place to address any potential gaps within the existing service
- Work towards a coordinated effort to respond to identified gaps in service.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased ability to work as a collaborative group
- Increased joint accountability to Edmonton communities

Process

- Jan '07: Created a comprehensive set of maps which plotted out:
 - Service areas (boundaries)
 - Eligibility demographics (ie: incident of low-income, # of preschool children)
 - Types of Head Start services available.
- Autumn '07: Focused on targeted areas (North Edmonton & Mill Woods)
- Autumn '07: Engage other stakeholders within target areas
 - A representative joins the North Centre Community Mapping Subgroup Enhancing Services North of 153 Ave.
 - A representative joins the Mill Wood Mapping & Beyond Child Subgroup.
- Winter '08: Postal Code Mapping of Family by Applicant: Accepted and Waitlisted
- Spring '08: Boundary and Program maps are created.
- Autumn '08: A standard intake form is used for all of IHSN which documents postal codes of all Applicants (to be used for planning)
- An Early Head Start program is opened in Mill Woods.
- Spring '09: Boundary and Program maps are updated to reflect changes

Members & Organizations Represented

- Early Head Start Program
- Bent Arrow
- ABC Head Start
- Oliver Center: Early Learning Programs for Children & Families
- Early Childhood Development Support Services
- M.A.P.S. Alberta Capital Region

Outcomes Achieved:

- Have provided leadership at the collaborative planning tables.
- Members have an increased ability to work as a collaborative group.

- Have shifted boundaries to better meet the needs of families.
- Have created a standard intake form for IHSN agencies which documents postal codes of all applicants (to be used for planning).
- An Early Head Start program is opened in Mill Woods
- Have begun to use maps to better align existing Head Start, Child Care and Early Learning programming to meet needs of Edmonton neighbourhoods
- Have used mapping and postal code data when considering additional Head Start services in Edmonton (i.e. Expansion of Early Head Start / Head Start programs in Mill Woods)

Date Profile Updated: March 24, 2010