



PROFILE of

NorthEast Mapping and Action Team (N.E.M.A.T.)

Goals:

- To increase professionals and residents awareness and utilization of community agencies and organizations supporting children and families in northeast Edmonton.
- To identify neighborhoods of high social vulnerability.
- To heighten professional and community awareness of the “informal” resources or assets in each neighborhood.
- To coordinate and target services to children and families most needing support.
- To make changes, as necessary, to the location or type of service provision to better serve children and families most needing support.
- To develop closer working relationships among service providers in the northeast.
- To recognize and support the contributions offered by informal resources in the northeast.

Expected Outcomes:

- Families living in northeast Edmonton will receive more effective referrals to service providers.
- High risk families will be better supported to experience a continuum of linked services as they transition to wellness, rather than accessing services from different agencies at repeated periods of crisis.
- Professionals will have a heightened awareness of how to support and encourage “non-professional grass-roots” community assets to meet family needs.
- Increased opportunities for immigrant, refugee, and isolated families to access services that are sensitive and appropriate to their needs.
- Strengthened relationships among professionals providing services in the north east.

A Collaborative Community Mapping Planning Process

Joint Commitment:

- May, 05: Presented to Partners East End and Community Builders at East NCCYF.
- Jun, 05: Identified: what are the boundaries, why is the group interested in mapping, and the name of the partnership as “NorthEast Community Mappers”.
- Sept, 05: Coordinator is hired.
- Sept, 05: Presentation to MLA’s and assistants.
- Sept, 08: NEMAT partners re-confirm commitment to work together to share knowledge of community and plan collaboratively based upon this knowledge

Community Profile:

- Oct, 05: Broke into sub-committees: demographic, agency, mapping, informal assets and discussion around mapping resources.
- Dec, 05: Entire group met to review maps, receive report from Coordinator and determine a plan to gather resource information.
- Feb, 06: M.A.P.S. presented final set of maps to large group.
- Jun, 06: Coordinator submits final report and provides agency/resource list for review.
- Jul, 06: Changes made and final versions of Resource Directory and related information sent to group from Coordinator.
- Nov, 08: Presented demographic maps of 2006 Census data.
- June, 09: Trends analysis from maps
- Sept, 09: Maps analysis identified gaps in profile information
- Jan, 10: Critical service populations indentified
 - New families/parents/young children
 - Aboriginal community
 - Newcomer community
 - Low income families

Community Engagement:

- Sept, 06: N.E.M.A.T. partnership meets to discuss next steps in Community Profile - Partnership renamed "NE Mapping and Action Team".
- Sept, 06: Review maps to identify additional useful demographic information to map. Themes identified were: Immigration, Youth, Housing, Addictions, Basic Needs, Mental Health, Aboriginal.
- Sept, 06: Analysis of maps, themes continue.
- Dec, 06: 75 people signed up to attend Community Meeting to review work to date and sign up for work in one of the theme areas.
- Dec, 06 to Feb, 07: Four Action sub-groups created to work on NEMAT areas of interest.
 - Mental Health
 - Basic Needs
 - Addictions
 - Cultural Diversity
- Feb, 07: The subgroup focusing on Cultural Diversity merged with North Central's subgroup which is focusing on the same topic. They renamed themselves the "Northerners".
- Apr, 07: CPEF funds available to hire administrative support to main group and the sub-groups.
- Jan, 10: Early Childhood Services in Abbotsfield/Rundle sub-group is formed

Action:

Northerners Sub-Group

- The overall goal is to create and enhance opportunities to work with four communities (Kurdish, Afghan, Sudanese and Somali) without duplicating efforts and overburdening leaders/resource people. The Northerner's can add other communities as need arises.
- Jun, 07: Hosted 2 public events 'School is out' – What to do! Series of Cultural Workshops/summer fair.
- -Jul, 07: Developed a 'buddy system' as a new way to remain connected with culture community leaders that respects the time constraints of the leaders.
- -Autumn 07: Hosted a series of Multicultural Workshops for human service providers.
- -Jan, 08: Consultation with community leaders re most important and effective actions to support.
- Jun, 08: Organized two Community Resource Fairs with 14 organizations.

Mental Health

- The overall goal of this sub-group is to enhance knowledge between service providers who offer mental health resources and programs to children and adults.
- Spring, 08: members are in the midst of planning a resource fair in conjunction with Clareview Headstart.
- Spring, 08: Working towards involving newcomer populations in a Mental Health First Aid program. This initiative will seek to reduce stigma and increase access to mental health services.
- Fall, 08: sub-group concludes

Basic Needs

- The aim of this sub-group is to pull together service providers and faith agencies in order to reduce duplication and introduce agencies to each other.
- Winter, 07: Several members of the sub-group have attended the interfaith agency meetings.
- Jun, 08: Homelessness Mayor's information meeting.
- Nov, 08: Mental Health Workshop on ethno cultural issues (70 participants registered).

Addictions/Family Violence

- Educational sessions regarding family violence to service providers.
- Nov, 08: Family Violence Workshop held hosted by Stronger Eastwood Families Network.

Reflection:

- In the Spring and Summer 2009 the NEMAT underwent a review of work to date and identified accomplishments.

Members & Organizations Represented

- Alberta Health Services
- Child & Family Services Northeast
- City of Edmonton
- Clareview Head Start
- DAH
- Edmonton Community Services
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
- Edmonton Public Library
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Edmonton Student Health Initiative Partnership
- KARA Family Resource Centre
- Child & Family Services Northeast and East Neighbourhood Centres
- Northeast Health Centre

Outcomes Achieved To Date:

- NEMAT Mapping Profile completed.
- Community Connect mapping Committee has identified priorities: Ethno Cultural Groups, Mental Health, Basic Needs and Addictions/Family Violence.
- Professional knowledge and expertise is enhanced among Human Service Providers.
- Improved relationship between Human Service Providers.

Profile Updated: M. Christie (March, 2010)