
PARTNERS IN ACTION COMMITTEE

MODEL DESCRIPTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ANNETTE SHARKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR THE NORTH OKANAGAN
3205 31ST AVENUE
VERNON, BC V1T 2H2
TELEPHONE: (250) 545-8572
FAX: (250) 545-0091
E-Mail: info@socialplanning.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
PROJECT OVERVIEW	4
FUNDING SOURCES	4
DESCRIPTION OF MODEL	4
COMMITTEE STRUCTURE	5
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	6
STAKEHOLDERS/PARTNERS	6
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES	7
EVALUATION	7
OUTCOMES	8
SUMMARY	8

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Funding Sources

In May 2006, the Social Planning Council applied to the Province of BC *Safe Streets and Safe School Program* for funding to adapt and test a new model of action planning for crime prevention in our community. The idea was to build on the work from the already established Partners for a Safe and Healthy Downtown that was previously funded through the federal National Crime Prevention funding. The members wanted to change the structure of the committee to a model developed by the Vernon Safe Communities Unit and based on crime prevention through social development (CPSD) approach. Since January 2007, additional funding has been supplied by the City of Vernon, Community Futures and United Way for the ongoing coordination of the committee. Due to the success of the committee, the City of Vernon is now providing funding for the Coordinator for 2008-2010.

Description of Model

The Partners for a Safe and Healthy Community Committee is a solution-oriented, community driven committee that addresses crime prevention through social development (CPSD). CPSD is a proven approach that focuses on strengthening the foundations of a community (for example, adequate housing, recreation, childcare etc) thereby preventing crime at its root cause and increasing the overall health of the community.

Action Teams

The key to this model is to break down larger social and safety issues into manageable solutions. When an issue or problem is identified or brought forward to the coordinating committee, an action team is created. The task of the action team is to problem solve. Key players for the action team are recruited from the community based on the skills, knowledge and connections needed to reach a solution(s). Action teams can be created ad hoc or include already established committees in the community. Once a solution(s) is reached, the action team disbands.

Coordinating Committee

Members will be recruited based on the skills and knowledge they bring to the table, in addition to representation of an agency or group. Each member will be responsible for linking the committee to their particular resources (committees, organizations, individuals who are knowledgeable in this area). The role of the

Coordinating Committee is to identify problems and/or solutions and then create and oversee action teams.

Membership

The areas of expertise needed by the Partners Committee include:

Designing Safer Communities
Geographic/Neighbourhood
Community Justice
Youth
Women
Disabilities/Mental Health
Seniors
Women
Children and Families
Media
Men's Issues
Diversity
First Nations

Representatives from City Council, MLA office and MP office

Committee Structure

Vision Statement:

A safe, healthy and crime-free environment in which to live, work and grow.

Mission Statement:

To identify and implement manageable solutions to the root causes of crime in our community by coordinating and mobilizing community based action teams

Goals:

- Identify, describe & analyze specific community problems
- Coordinate action teams to address the problems (goals & objectives)
- Support action teams to implement solutions (resources and support)
- Monitor & evaluate the results (determine impact on community)

Membership:

- *Ongoing - Coordinating Committee* members are representatives from the community who can link the group to other resource (committees/organizations/ individuals)

- *Ad hoc* - Action Team members are recruited based on their ability and commitment to implement specific solutions

Roles and Responsibilities

Coordinating Committee

- Responsibilities:
 - Promote committee goals and accomplishments in the community
 - Recruit members for action teams
 - Determine capacity for new action teams (action team requests can come from committee members or community at large)
 - Create new action teams as required
 - Support action teams by providing resources (research support, connections, networking)
 - Commit to regular attendance of meetings
- Meeting Format:
 - Standard Agenda:
 - Report by each Action Team Chair
 - Guests (info sharing and/or requests for new Action Team)
 - New Action Teams – determine capacity
 - Consensus decision making model
 - Action team members are welcome to attend but not required (Chairs are responsible to report to committee rather than individual team members)
 - Guests are welcome but need to notify Coordinator in advance of their attendance and/or agenda items

Action Teams:

- Task is to problem solve a particular community issue
- Members recruited for skills, experience, contacts and resources
- Meet on an ad hoc basis – once solution is reached, the action team disbands
- Chair of each Action Team attends the committee meetings to report on progress, need for more resources etc.

Stakeholders/Partners

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ School Districts | ▪ Mental Health |
| ▪ Parent Advisory Groups | ▪ Mayors and Council |
| ▪ RCMP | ▪ Health Officials/Physicians |
| ▪ Social Planning | ▪ MLA/MP for Region |
| ▪ Safe Communities Unit | ▪ Students/Youth Groups |
| ▪ First Nations | ▪ Housing/City Planning |
| ▪ Ethno-cultural | ▪ Economic development |
| ▪ Business | ▪ Recreation Depts. |
| ▪ Women's Groups | ▪ Volunteer Organizations |

- Ministry of Children and Families
- Federal/Prov. Corrections
- Seniors Groups
- Transition House
- Religious Organizations
- Crisis Intervention Organizations
- Judiciary
- Early Childhood Education

Identified Priorities

- Housing
- Mental Health
- Neighbourhoods
- Addictions Treatment
- Recreation
- Early Childhood Education

Other Important Interventions:

- Rehabilitation
- Secondary Education
- Special Needs Programming
- Countering Violence
- Public Awareness/Engaging Community/Community Caring
- Accessible Health Care
- Transportation
- Food Security
- Working with Marginalized Populations (including elderly)

EVALUATION

Evaluation forms were completed in June 2006 when the model was first presented to the working group. At the end of six months, the same evaluation form was presented to the group asking them to rate the model after experiencing it in action. The results were as follows:

JUNE 2006 (18 Responses)	DECEMBER 2006 (11 responses)
<p>On a scale of 1 to 10, how potentially effective do you view this model?</p> <p>Respondents had an average rating of 8.4 out of 10.</p>	<p>On a scale of 1 to 10, how effective was your experience of this model?</p> <p>Respondents had an average rating of 9 out of 10.</p>
<p>The main strengths of the model:</p> <p>Action focus (problem solving and solution based) Research focus (broad range of skills and resources) Collaborative, integrated approach</p>	<p>The main strengths of the model:</p> <p>Action focus (problem solving and solution based) Inclusiveness (broad range of skills and resources) Collaborative, integrated approach</p>

<p>The main challenges of the model:</p> <p>Sustainability - lack of funding for coordination Definition of crime – creating collective values Diversity and representation – who is missing at the table Not missing the bigger picture – prevention verses reacting Promotion - selling it to the community</p>	<p>The main challenges of the model:</p> <p>Solidifying the model – need time to define the roles and responsibilities Having consistent membership throughout the initial process Growth and development</p>
<p>Recommendations to increase effectiveness of the model:</p> <p>Broader representation – more diversity/inclusion, more players, experts with commitment Try it out! – follow an action team through the model Promotion and education within larger community</p>	<p>Recommendations to increase effectiveness of the model:</p> <p>City of Vernon funding for the ongoing coordination Strategic planning for the coordinating group Performance measures built into the model to evaluate how the efforts of the action teams fit into the larger context</p>

OUTCOMES

See our quarterly reports.

SUMMARY

We feel we have a successful project due to the concrete results of our action teams and the increase in the effectiveness rating by participants after experiencing the model. Most of the players involved like the focus on problem solving and achievable actions. They also appreciate the fact that action teams are problem specific and limited in time frame.

The challenges of the model include the time commitment needed to facilitate the coordinating committee in developing the roles and responsibilities. Once the framework is established, the action focus builds the momentum and buy-in from the committee members and community at large.

The key to ongoing success, however, is to have adequate funding for the coordination of the committee and action teams.

We welcome inquiries from other regions interested in adapting this model for crime prevention in their communities.