

April 1996

HUMAN SERVICES INVENTORY

IMPACT: What is happening to our Cambridge Services?

The latter 1990's are proving to be a significant challenge for Ontario's human services. Reductions in government spending and the pressure to restructure services are just two of the forces impacting agencies, their clients and the broader community. **THE CAMBRIDGE SERVICES INVENTORY** seeks to determine the impact of these factors to date and to establish a base-line of information to assess the effects of upcoming funding cuts.

A collaborative effort between the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, Cambridge Community Systems Working Group and the Community Action Program for Children, this report provides a snapshot of the human services system in this community based on a January 1996 survey of 48 Cambridge agencies. Forty-two respondents provided information on their current and expected funding sources, staffing, and program status and strategies to address funding changes.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Survey respondents serve a wide variety of clients including children, youth, adults and seniors. They reported the following:

- Agencies employed 3721 staff in October 1995, and lost 131 by January 1996 -- a net loss of 5%
- Human services reported a large pool of volunteers in relation to their paid staff -- approximately 3500

Funding data affirms what many of us already suspected:

- The four levels of government combined represent 90% of all investment, yet the full impact of provincial and federal spending cuts will not be felt until 1997/1998
- The investment in Education -- 76% of the total -- surpasses that of any other type of investment in human services
- Fundraising comprises only 1% of all funding

January 1996 has only seen the tip of the iceberg:

- A few programs have been canceled, with more cancellations anticipated
- So far, Prevention/Outreach programs have been affected more than Crisis/Treatment programs
- Fundraising appears to be a main coping strategy, however the energy required may make it a less viable alternative to some agencies, particularly the smaller ones
- The most commonly reported strategies relating to program delivery were developing new partnerships, sharing services/programs and recruiting more volunteers

Even in the preliminary stages of massive cuts to social programs in Ontario, agencies have felt the impact. However, the predominant impression is that this is only the beginning. Service providers share a gnawing uncertainty about their ability to continue to meet the needs of their clients.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Connections! welcomes your agency's or associations contributions to its bulletin board. Share your issues of interest, upcoming meetings or forums, recent publications, and report updates. Details for corresponding on Page 4.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Labour Council May 6
- Social Planning Council May 15
- Canadian Red Cross May 29
- Langs Farm Village Assoc. June 4
- Victorian Order of Nurses June 6
- Cambridge Volunteer Bureau June 12
- Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank June 18

**The Social Planning Council of
Cambridge and North Dumfries**

Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday, May 15, 1996
11:30 to 1:00 p.m**

*Preston Memorial Auditorium
Community Centre
1458 Hamilton Street
Cambridge, ON*

Guest Speaker:

Mayor Jane Brewer

*"Where is Cambridge Going?
Funding and the City's Pocketbook"*

*R.S.V.P. by May 10 at 650-4182
Lunch courtesy of IMC Consulting Group*

the YAP gap...

April 29, 1996 marks Cambridge's first of it's kind all day "Youth Forum", whose purpose is to raise awareness of youth issues and develop feasible strategies to address these concerns to a higher authority. Preceding these discussion groups there will be helpful workshops facilitated by local professionals, which include such topics as Youth Leadership, Career Planning, Self-Marketing and Teen/Parent Relationships. For more information, contact the Social Planning Council at 650-4182.

***Youth Action Plan Forum
National Youth Week '96
Cambridge***



By day, a mild mannered lip dude...



By night...

YAP MAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS : THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

April 21 to 27 marks National Volunteer Week. Therefore it is timely to acknowledge the important people in our organization who contribute many hours of their time, talent and expertise toward the successful operation of the Social Planning Council. Among our volunteers are the Board of Directors whose diverse background represents a cross-section of this community. Board Members meet monthly, sit on various committees according to their interests and abilities, and are, in general, a very dedicated, hard working lot! **Here is a glimpse of what they've been up to:**

**JAN 1995, BOARD MEMBERS
CONTRIBUTED 756
VOLUNTEER HOURS!**

Council. Among our Directors whose diverse cross-section of this meet monthly, sit on to their interests and

IS COMMITTEES: WHERE THE ACTION

POLICY & PLANNING

Chair Richard C. H. Green

Goals and Achievements

The job of this committee is to guide the organization in its mission to assist in the coordination of the planning and development of social services in the community. In order to do so, we must maintain awareness of the policies, programs, trends and legislation which affect the community, and make recommendations which set priorities for the Social Planning Council. This past year has been a year of major change in legislation and social policy. The committee has worked hard to be able to get a handle on the emerging outcomes and trends and to make reasonable interpretations of the information. The committee also struggled, in the face of major change, to identify its role. After careful reflection it was concluded that advocacy would continue, based on our role to assure the accurate collection and interpretation of the relevant information. Perhaps the most pleasant and easiest recommendation the committee considered was one in which it endorsed the continuation of the Youth Action Plan if funding can be secured.

FUNDRAISING

Chair Brian Carney

Goals and Achievements

In our efforts to develop and co-ordinate all fundraising initiatives, presentations and appeals on behalf of the organization, we are pleased to announce our recent success in securing 4 new bingo slots this year.

TOWNSHIP

Chair: Wallace Lake

Goals and Achievements:

Social planning could be termed a self-help movement that builds caring communities by providing support to people on health and social issues at the grass roots level. It is a way to keep pace with the changing population characteristics plus the economic and environmental stability that we have to maintain on the local level as well as the national level. As the Township of North Dumfries representative on the Social Planning Council, I am interested in what can be done on a rural or Township level. We have made headway with the proposed township-wide Directory of Social Services.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chair: Gayle Rivers

Goals and Achievements:

It is our objective to promote and inform the community of the activities of the Social Planning Council. Toward this end, this committee will be publishing three newsletters annually. We are also investigating various strategies of public communication.

Nominations are currently being taken for the 1996/1997 Board of Directors. If you would like to take an active part in a vital community organization, are interested in joining our Board, or know someone who is, please phone 650-4182 for a nomination form.

A Word from our Executive Director...

In a few short months we have witnessed a dramatic shift in government support for social programs. The impact has been so widespread that it is difficult to focus on one sector or service as being the most critical. In the immediate sense, it is clearly the most vulnerable who have been affected. However, based on our knowledge of what makes a community healthy, we expect that provincial cuts to social programs will have serious negative outcomes that will make themselves felt for years down the road, affecting every sector of society, and most likely, each individual.

For example, of the estimated 4,000 Cambridge children in the social assistance system, what will the reduced income mean? Increased hunger or malnutrition...health problems...poor school performance? And what will their future spell? Substance abuse...delinquency...criminal offense? As bleak as this sounds, actual studies support this picture. So the real issue in question is whether government cost cutting to social assistance will truly be a savings when the end result will potentially increase the burden on education, health care and law enforcement.

We are witnessing the tearing down of an intricate human service infrastructure whose very foundation has taken years to establish. Will we ever recover from the far-reaching repercussions of this devastation?

MEET THE NEWCOMERS

Brian Carney - Currently holding down the fort at Cambridge Literacy Council as Executive Director, Brian has an extensive history of participation in Cambridge organizations. He has proven to be an invaluable resource in the area of fundraising, public relations, and policy and planning.

Audrianna DeSouza - Formerly Executive Director of Argus Residence for Young People for 5 years, Audrianna has now moved on to the challenging new role of motherhood. She brings to the Board her skills in the area of public relations, fundraising and proposal development, as well as a welcome energy and enthusiasm!

Don Drackley - is the Managing Principal of IMC Consulting Group in Cambridge. He is a transportation planning consultant and has resided in the city for the past six years. He brings applied planning skills to the Board, as well as a network of contacts with the local business community, and city and regional governments.

Richard C.H. Green - A longtime resident of Cambridge, Richard is employed as a Community Worker at Community Opportunities Development Association. Richard has been involved in community development projects for over two decades. He has many contacts and strong networks in the social development field and is highly respected by associates.

Selma Webster - Selma comes to our Board with a background in Gerontology and experience working with frail elderly people. With an extensive history of volunteer service, Selma is a diligent and willing contributor and member of the Public Relations Committee.

1995/1996 Board

Members

Brian Carney
Victoria Clark, **Camb.City Council**
Audrianna DeSouza
Don Drackley
Sally Gladstone, **Vice-President**
Richard C.H. Green
Doug Harding, **Treasurer**
Wallace Lake, **North Dumfries**
Shirley Losee
Lillian Lummiss, **Secretary**
David Ridsdale
Gayle Rivers
Ade Salawu
Alison Sanders, **President**
Muriel Vandepol
Selma Webster
Sue Peterson, **City Liason**

ALL CORRESPONDENCE, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP, MAY BE SENT TO:

**507 King Street East
Cambridge, Ontario
N3H 3N4
(519) 650-4182 Fax: (519) 653-3429**

Our office is located on the second floor of the **Allan Reuter Centre**. We are wheelchair accessible!

Deadline for submissions for next Newsletter:
September 21, 1996