

Reconstructing group and residential care discussion

March 4, 2013

ATTENDEES

CaroleAnne Patenaude, Danica Frazer, Bruce Armson, Anton Roberts, Elden Block, Rhonda Barraclough, Bryan Huygen, Tina Hackett-Myles, David Tunney, Joni Brodziak, Al Balsler, George Ghitan, Jon Reeves, Chris Simonson, Rebecca Chahine

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

Reconstructing group/residential care in Alberta – A discussion paper (Rhonda Barraclough – AASCF – 2/12/2013)

CONTEXT SETTING

Beliefs and assumptions

About children and youth who are currently placed in group and residential care:

- there is a higher concentration of children and youth with complex needs,
- age change (younger),
- youth who would have been previously served under the Young Offenders Act,
- youth previously placed at Bosco ranch who were pressured into group care,
- youth who are more challenging to serve are cycling through agencies,
- some children medically fragile,
- treatment 'care' vs. containment, and;
- some require a level of Mental Health supports not currently offered

About the current sector:

- the funds are in the system,
- The funds are currently not applied and invested appropriately
- The contract agency sector has some of the potential solutions
- There is an opportunity to transform service delivery

Residential treatment has been used as the consequence of 'cascading failure', rather than a service or intervention at the right time in order to achieve successful outcomes. Need to rethink how we conceptualize group and residential care from a 'placement' to a 'service'. Given that the two primary keys to successful discharge are:

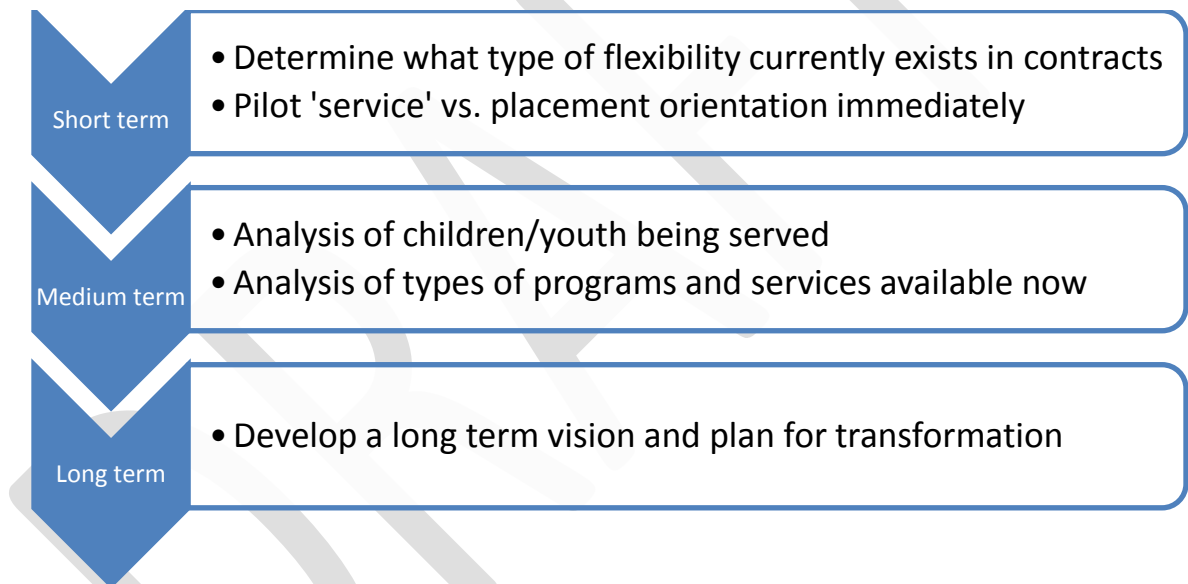
- family support and involvement,
- after care support;

we need a reconfiguration to better support those critical activities, rather than focus on placements, vacancies etc. There is agreement and consensus on the need for transformation.

OBSD becomes informative to this transformation as the potential models proposed are OBSD 'on the back end' based on the tenets of flexible funding, offering a full continuum of supports and ensuring that the agency has a significant voice in planning and service activities. It will be useful to use the lessons learned from OBSD Phase-in sites to inform this work.

TENTATIVE PLAN

Discussion ensued about how to proceed. Although longer term planning makes sense as a transformative exercise, there are some short term opportunities that emerged from both the discussion and the discussion paper that was table. Given this, the following strategies were proposed:



NEXT STEPS

- Joni to develop notes from meeting and distributed to participants and Mark Hattori
- Development of a steering committee (attendees from this meeting) for medium and longer term strategies
- CEOs reps will provide update to CEO counterparts
- Agencies to identify short term opportunities
- Joni to set up next meeting date

Note – use of 'residential' is still offensive to Aboriginal communities.