



rEal News

Potential Amalgamation

Willy Van Klooster

It has now been six months since the Boards of Directors for Craigwood Youth Services, Western Area Youth Services, Oxford Elgin Child and Youth Centre and Vanier Children's Services passed resolutions to enter into a serious dialogue about amalgamating our services into one new service. The four organizations committed to Phase One – Exploration of a Conceptual Model. A presentation will be made to all of the boards at a meeting September 15 at which time the boards will each decide to continue or not continue to Phase Two – Business Plan Development.

After a rigorous Request for Proposal process in which 14 consultants submitted plans, we chose The Centre for Organizational Effectiveness (Maria Sanchez-Keane, principal) as our facilitator. She is working with four committees who are guiding the process. The Executive Director Committee meet bi-weekly to consider process, communication, key stakeholder engagement, and other issues as they arise. The Governance Committee has established what is required by each of the boards in order to have sufficient information on which to make a decision in September. The Programs and Services Committee has been meeting bi-weekly to facilitate staff and community engagement through 17 focus groups (Discovery Sessions), produce an inventory of all current programs and services in our organizations, review best practices, and draft a conceptual model of a new service delivery system. The Infrastructure Committee has 7 Due Diligence task groups related to: Collective Agreements, Finances, Information Systems, Property, Human Resources, Legal Issues and Intangible Assets.

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So far the process has been invigorating, expansive and challenging. What we know is the landscape of children and youth services – and nonprofit services generally – is changing dramatically in London and elsewhere. New social and financial realities will require a new service system to respond effectively to children and families in a way that is sustainable. We will see whether amalgamation is that way for Vanier.



Third Annual Breakfast

Willy Van Klooster

After having Bill Wilkerson of the Global Business and Economic Roundtable on Addictions and Mental Health as our speaker at the inaugural breakfast in 2008 and Dr. Fraser Mustard, a pioneer in Early Childhood Development as our keynote last year, we wondered how we could maintain this caliber of speaker another year. We are pleased to announce **The Honourable Michael Wilson** has agreed to be our speaker September 30, 2010.

A stock broker and investment banker by profession, Michael Wilson was first elected to the House of Commons as a Progressive Conservative in 1979. In the early 1990s he held portfolios as Finance Minister and Trade Minister serving in the Mulroney government. During this time he was responsible for the introduction of the GST and NAFTA. In recent years (2006-2009), he was appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Wilson is also a member of the Order of Canada.

Of great significance to Vanier, Michael Wilson is a mental health advocate. He lost a son to

The Honourable Michael Wilson



depression and suicide and subsequently established the Cameron Parker Holcombe Wilson Chair in Depression Studies at the University of Toronto. He generously makes himself available, as his schedule allows, to address this important issue. His topic September 30 will be “Canada’s Mental Health Crisis – The Social & Economic Cost”. The event will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton at 7:00 am. Ticket information will be posted on the Vanier website (www.vanier.com) after June 3.

Dr. Bruce Perry Workshop

A conversation from the bridge table in early February...a true story – Judy Jones

"3 hearts...."

"So I hear Vanier is bringing back Bruce Perry"

"Yes, Barb, and we are very excited about it ...3 hearts"

"So when is it and how much"

"Well, there is a free event on Tuesday evening October 26th at the library and the all day training is on October 27th. It costs \$150.00. Did you hear me say 3 hearts?"

"Cool - is there going to be an opportunity to meet Dr. Perry...he is the leading researcher focusing on high-risk children - examining long-term cognitive, behavioural, emotional, social, and physiological effects of childhood neglect and trauma...I need to meet him!"

"Well come to the training. He has built in question and answer times throughout the day...they are we playing bridge?"

"Is there a group taking him out for a working breakfast...how can I get in on that?"

"No... the man needs some time to get ready for the day. The training will be awesome! Now ...I bid 3 hearts..."

"When is his flight coming in...? Maybe I can pick him up from the airport...lots of my colleagues are going and I would like the inside track...I mean I would love to meet him too".

"I am not telling you when his flight is Barb – he is our guest. Just come to the training"

"I have already signed up...I am just very eager as Dr. Perry is the best! I want to take any opportunity I can get to learn from him! I have read all his books and there is a new one coming out too. I am determined to meet him!"

"I kind of figured that out Barb...now are you going to bid?"

"Yes ...3 no trump"

"Arghhh"



Dr. Bruce Perry, Ph.D. has been an active teacher, clinician and researcher in children's mental health and the neurosciences. His book "The Boy Who Was Raised As A Dog" is based on his work with traumatized children.

Dr. Perry's Workshop Information:

When : October 27th 2010 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Where: Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre

Cost: \$150.00; after September 1 the price increases to \$175

How: Visit our website at www.vanier.com/about-vanier/spotlight-on.aspx to download a registration form

Parenting Tips

*Submitted by Trish Cranmer
Community Mental Health Services Team*

Most people who go through a separation share similar feelings. Here are some things one can do when experiencing a separation

1. Talk to someone: Talking to a family member or a close friend you trust can give you an outlet for your anger and frustration. Be careful not to burden your children with these feelings.
2. Keep a familiar routine for yourself, having a sense of stability at a time of major pain and change is important for both you and your children. The more your child's world stays the same the easier it will be for them to adjust.
3. Keep the lines of communication open with your children: They need to know they are not losing love and support of either parent and that they are not responsible for the separation or divorce
4. Stay healthy: Ensure that you eat well, exercise and get enough sleep. To neglect this could lead to loss of energy and illness at a time when you need to be at the top of things.
5. Keep in mind the old saying "One day at a time". Deal with the unexpected problems and feelings they create by asking yourself "What do I need to do to-day". Try not to worry about things you have no control over and cannot do anything about until the time comes.
6. Avoid making major decisions until your life has become more settled. Some decisions i.e. housing, work and school need to be made quickly.
7. Allow yourself the time you need to heal: Some may encourage you to "cheer up", or "get on with things" before you are ready. This is because they care and do not want to see you unhappy. You must take the time you need to heal.
8. Get professional help when you need it.
9. Look for support in your community.

For referral information, please contact the "Crisis-Intake Team" (C.I.T.) at 519-433-0334. Services d'accueil aussi disponible en francais: 519-433-3101, poste #228.

C.I.T. offers 24/7 supports to families: information, crisis counseling, waiting-list support and includes referrals to Vanier for children 0 to 14, and to Craigwood Youth Services and Western Area Youth Services for teenagers

Milestones...

Website - 1st Anniversary

- Nancy Miller

On May 1, 2009 Vanier officially launched its new website www.vanier.com. Created with Lashbrook Group, it put a new face for Vanier on the internet! Easily updated, the website committee keeps the information on the site as up to date as possible. Bonnie's Blog has contributed articles from helping parents to prepare their child for a new school year to enriching the discussion on 'spanking'. Her current blog is 'protecting our children from sexual abuse'. Here is a sample of the analysis we have on the website since its creation...a 12 month period:

- 16,953 visits to the site
- 11,295 new visitors
- Average time spent on the site was over two minutes (excellent!)
- 41% of the visitors came directly to the site/13% came from referring sites/47% came from search engines

A highly successful first year!

Newest Canadian Citizen

- Louise West

After fleeing a country at war and having to devise different means for staying safe, Doris Lewando finally made it to Canada. She arrived here over 10 years ago hoping to become a Canadian citizen. Doris had no idea the road would be so long and hard. She persevered and became a Canadian citizen in April 2010. It was a moving ceremony witnessed by several Vanier staff. Congratulations on becoming a Canadian Citizen, Doris!



iCase - 1st Anniversary

- Phil Kirchgessner

iCase went live May 5, 2009 after two years of development. Jeff Carter and I have spent countless hours designing a Case Management system that will help us track client-related service information in a superior way for Vanier. With the need for more accountability to our funders and Vanier's keen focus on data-driven practice, iCase's design is proving to be up to the challenge. The development process is far from over as new features and data fields are being added daily but we can already see some of the dividends from all of our work. Our accuracy in Ministry reporting is way up as is our internal feedback process. Kudos to all staff for their patience as we build this very complex tool.

Cornerstone

*Sandy Dobaczewski – Unit Supervisor
Gillian Kerr – Team Leader*



On January 27, 2010 Vanier opened their doors of the “Cornerstone” Residence to children and families.

Front row L to R:

Rachel Wathy; Angie Pearson;
Sandy Dobaczewski, Unit Supervisor

Back row L to R:

Gillian Kerr, Team Leader; Catherine Ramey; Jenn Skeggs; Spencer Lawton; Theresa Stock

Cornerstone is a long-term (2 to 3 years) residential treatment program that works with children (7-13 years of age) and their families. The name “Cornerstone” proposes that we use a “wraparound” approach to treatment planning and the child’s family is the foundation to building and creating individual treatment plans for each family based on their strengths.

As part of the treatment plan, there is a focus placed on skill development and growth. The goal for our clients and their families is to develop the ability to better understand and manage their lives in a more meaningful and productive manner. This is accomplished through role modeling and teaching with a consistent structured setting.

Treatment planning within the Cornerstone residence balances normalization with the treatment needs of each individual child and is based on “best practice” knowledge. This is achieved through a collaborative approach using a multi-disciplinary team, multi-systemic treatment model that includes family, community, residential care, specialized classroom, individual psychotherapy, family therapy, psychiatric and psychological services.

Support Vanier

Your support today provides real help and real hope to children and families who need it most.

With your helping hand, we can make a difference.

You can direct your donation to a specific program or contribute to Vanier’s highest priority needs. Donations can be made through:

- One-time donation
- Monthly or annual pledge
- In-memoriam of a family member or friend
- Planned gift
- Tribute gift in honour of a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary
- In-kind donations of toys, food vouchers or gift cards are also welcome

To learn more about Vanier Children’s Services and planned giving, please contact Gary Wood 519.433.3101 x 169 or gwood@vanier.com

To make a donation to Vanier through Canadahelps.org, [click here](#).