

**CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES
COALITION
OF
SIMCOE COUNTY**



Annual Report

2020 - 2021

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About Us

The Child, Youth, and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County is a countywide alliance of 40 organizations that collectively act to support and strengthen child, youth and family services in Simcoe County.

Formed in 1999, the Coalition evolved from a commitment by children's service providers to find ways to establish a streamlined, unified planning process that would lead to improved outcomes for children. This vision quickly expanded into a strategic, collaborative and integrated planning infrastructure, allowing members to work both together and independently to meet the shared vision of improving the present and future well-being of children, youth, and families.

We are now 40 members strong and one of only a few Coalition's of our kind in the province. We have continued to successfully grow and evolve as an impactful, inclusive voice for our members and the people they support and serve.

With the development of a new Strategic Plan well underway, we look forward to continuing to support and strengthen child, youth and family services in Simcoe County.



Our Mission, Vision & Values



MISSION

To maximize the capacity, effectiveness and cultural uniqueness of the child, youth and family services system through collective efforts.

VISION

All children, youth and families thriving in a strong, nurturing community.

VALUES

Integrity: We demonstrate honesty, transparency and fairness in everything we do as a Coalition.

Respect: We treat each other with mutual consideration and sensitivity, recognizing the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Innovation: We seek new approaches, capitalize on opportunities and amplify the impact of initiatives.

Collaboration: We work together through our Values to accomplish our Vision and Mission.

Message from the Chair

This year has certainly been a roller coaster ride, but there is finally some light at the end of the tunnel. As provincial restrictions begin to lift, I'm sure we are all looking forward to returning to some normalcy; being able to go back to working in the office, meeting in person and, dare I say, eventually not having to wear masks!

This has also been a challenging year, as every Coalition meeting took place virtually, and goodbyes and best wishes were given to both Julie McAlpine and Kathy Manners.

In spite of these challenges and changes, some great accomplishments have been achieved. We were also thrilled to welcome our new Executive Assistant, Robyn Pugsley and Coordinator, Jennifer Saunders to the Coalition.

As you work your way through this year's Annual Report, you will see more of my thoughts as I highlight some of the accomplishments achieved by our various committees, tables and groups throughout this past year.

As my term as Chair draws to an end and I reflect on the past year, I am thankful for the opportunity to connect with so many of my fellow Coalition members on a deeper level.

I would also like to welcome Christine VanderByl as incoming Chair this September. Having had the pleasure of working closely with Christine in her role of Vice Chair this past year, I know the Coalition will be in good hands as we operationalize our new Strategic Plan.

Your support of the Coalition's vision for all children, youth and families to thrive in a strong, nurturing community has been unwavering as we navigate the pandemic collaboratively and collectively. Thank you all for your support.

Stay safe and well everyone! I look forward to seeing you in person soon.



Claudine Cousins
Coalition Chair

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."

~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Celebrating 20 Years!



This year, the Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition (Coalition) is proud to celebrate our 20th anniversary as an organization!

From our first official Coalition meeting on September 7, 2001 through to today, our members have dedicated countless hours to collectively support and strengthen child, youth and family services in Simcoe County.

The Coalition was created in 2001 by children's service providers looking to work together and establish a streamlined planning process that would lead to improved outcomes for children. This vision quickly expanded

into a strategic, collaborative and integrated planning infrastructure, allowing members to work both together and independently to meet the shared vision of improving the present and future well-being of children, youth and families.

Each working group and committee has contributed to making a tangible, positive impact on the communities we serve. We are so proud of our past and what we have accomplished, and excited to see what we can achieve in the future, together.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Coalition's journey.

CYFS Member Agencies

The Child, Youth, and Family Services (CYFS) Coalition has 40 members from child, youth and family-focused organizations across Simcoe County.



A Coalition membership provides opportunities to exchange ideas and develop collaborative strategies to improve the well-being of children, youth and families in this region. We are committed to providing our members with the support, resources and technical expertise they need to

continue improving the well-being of our communities. Coalition members consistently go above and beyond to help us achieve our goals, and their support is the foundation to our success.



Learn how to [Join the Coalition](#).

Award of Excellence

“ The Coalition has been integral in providing a foundation for this shared vision, and for creating endless opportunities for collaboration and integration amongst service providers. ”



Lesley Watts

Catulpa Community Support Services

The Coalition's **Award of Excellence** is awarded annually to an individual involved with the Coalition who, through a substantial commitment to collaboration, has made a significant impact regionally that has contributed to the outcomes identified in the Coalition's Strategic Plan.

Lesley Watts from Catulpa Community Support Services was recognized as a mentor, collaborator and active participant in the work of the Coalition and was the recipient of the Coalition's 2020 Award of Excellence.

Lesley was nominated by last year's recipient, Roz Junke, and recognized for her work to advance the four priorities and goals of the Coalition.

Lesley is an ardent advocate for people impacted by poverty and food insecurity. Her dedication to raising awareness of the importance of infant and early childhood intervention and prevention is evident as she works diligently to advance the Coalition's vision for all children, youth and families thriving in a strong, nurturing community.

On behalf of the Coalition, thank you Lesley for your ongoing dedication and commitment to the Coalition's vision and mission. You are well deserving of the Coalition's Award of Excellence.

Coalition Claps

Coalition Claps provide an opportunity to acknowledge initiatives that require collaboration and have a positive impact on our community.

September 2020

The **United Way Simcoe Muskoka** collaborated with Canadian Tire and the Food Bank to organize the distribution of 20L jugs of hand sanitizer donated by Canadian Tire to our member agencies.

November 2020

The **Behavioral Health Science Team** identified a new system need and worked collaboratively with **CTN** on the launch of evidenced-based training sessions on the Foundational Elements of Telehealth: System Capacity Building. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to move to a telehealth service delivery model. This work is well deserving of recognition -

January 2021

The **Poverty Reduction Task Group**, in partnership with **SCDSB**, **County of Simcoe**, **SMDHU** and **United Way**, worked together on the data presentation at the Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Networks Poverty Simulation, sharing compelling stories about poverty in Simcoe County.

March 2021

The **Anti-Oppression Ad Hoc Committee**, comprised of Christine VanderByl, Ali Tuckey, Sandra Jeppesen, Michael Bowe, Brenda Jackson and Tibby Johnson, developed the CYFS Anti-Oppression Commitment Statement. This is challenging work which was done with respect, collaboration and hope for a compassionate future.

May 2021

The **Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership** (LIP) celebrated 10 years in Simcoe County! LIP is comprised of various community partners with the goal of improving outcomes for immigrant residents.



Our Impact

Over the past year, we have continued to work to create the greatest impact for our community – raising awareness with elected officials and government bodies about issues influencing our community, elevating the message of our Coalition with our elected parties, having conversations with MPP's, and holding election panels.

As we continue to use data to share our community story and highlight the gaps, the collaboration of 40 members has also provided resources and tools for the community to use.

A cultural competency tool has been developed and made available to other agencies, and we responded to the voices of racialized communities with the development of an Anti-Black Racism Statement and an Anti-Racism Indigenous Peoples Statement. Advocacy for paid sick days, vulnerable people vaccination, CERB repayments and the Black North Initiative were all taken on by our Advocacy Committee this year.

In addition, the launch of a Connection to Community Working Group will assist us to better connect with each other and the children, youth and families in our community.



Our Areas of Focus

FOSTER REPRESENTATION AND EQUITY



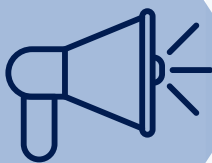
- Advance cultural competencies/ sensitivity as populations change in our region
- Ensure voices are heard
- Strengthen membership engagement and representation

ADVANCE COLLECTIVE ACTION



- Develop cross-sectional opportunities for solving issues
- Focus on prevention work
- Increase Coalition advancement and sustainability

ADVOCATE



- Identification of key community concerns
- Ensure appropriate resources for social services in our community
- Increase awareness of Coalition value proposition

BUILD ON THE KNOWLEDGE



- Profile emerging patterns to project service needs in future
- Identification of key performance indicators as a Coalition
- Advance the Coalition's knowledge portal

Executive Committee

Strengthen membership engagement and representation

Award and Recognition completed



Membership/Representation ongoing



Undertake 2021-24 Coalition Strategic Planning

Engage in strategic planning process ongoing

Identification of key community concerns

Briefing/Advocacy (key concerns of Coalition)

- > Pulse Surveys at Council
- > Position Papers
- > Identify "experts"
- > Attendance at Events completed



MPP roundtable completed

Hot Topic Plan completed

Ensure appropriate resources for social services in our community

Discussion and communication of key reports e.g EY government transformation, Coroner's report completed



Profile emerging patterns to project service needs in future

Identify key reports, documents, data and how to do it completed

Identification of key performance indicators as a Coalition (impact)

Finalize dashboard ongoing

Coalition 20th Anniversary September 9, 2021

Plan activities ongoing

Strategic Plan Integrated Planning Table

The Integrated Planning Table (IPT) worked diligently and achieved some real tangible outcomes. The Cultural Competency Tool was successfully piloted with the Executive Committee and has now been launched. The Lived Experience manual is almost ready for sharing as it undergoes final edits. Thank you to the IPT for creating these tools that will be available to members as a resource.

~ Claudine Cousins, Chair



We have all been challenged in the last year with the reality of COVID-19 and its impact on all of our various organizations. Some of us have been impacted more than others and yet we have accomplished things such as the Cultural Competency Tool, Manual for Including People with Lived Experience, and Early Childhood

and Mental Health. We've also looked at expanding our reach to include Muskoka due to the many coalition members who offer services in the Muskoka Region. It's been a busy year and much more work remains for the Coalition membership in the upcoming year.

~ Gerry Croteau, IPT Co-Chair

Integrated Planning Table

Advance cultural competencies/ sensitivity as populations change in our region

Promote "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion-EDI"
process to coalition partners.
ongoing



Inventory "EDI-Cultural Competency" training
and awareness assessments/documentations
covering: Immigrants, LGBTQ+, Indigenous,
Francophones and other identified minorities
complete

Share introduction and terminology document
Propose self assessment tool process
Define baseline format
ongoing

Conduct pilot testing and release final
assessment to partner organizations
complete

Align competency development with County
profile
ongoing

Ensure voices are heard

Develop manual on how to engage people with
lived experience/develop a working group
ongoing



Develop cross-sectional opportunities for solving issues

Identify Coalition's role in Transition Aged
Youth Initiatives
complete

Continue to support child and youth mental
health initiatives
complete

Increase Coalition advancement and sustainability

Review of tables/networks and their impact
ongoing

Profile emerging patterns to project service needs in future

Network/Working Group Updates
ongoing



Identification of key performance indicators as a Coalition (impact)

Identification of success indicators
for actions
ongoing

Strategic Plan

Advocacy Group

The Advocacy Group also had a busy year. Virtual meetings were held with MPPs Jill Dunlop and Doug Shipley to talk about the Coalition and the advocacy issues the group has been working on. An ad hoc Anti-Oppression Framework Committee was established through Advocacy, resulting in the creation of an Anti-Oppression Statement and they continue to produce position papers on the issues that affect children, youth, and families. Great work!"

~ Claudine Cousins, Chair

The Advocacy Committee has been working hard for the last year to continue to represent the members of our coalition and our community. We have worked to ensure that you are kept up to date on topics of advocacy relevant to our mission and in alignment with our strategic plan.

The challenges facing those we serve, and identifying

strategies to support vulnerable and marginalized children, youth, and families, has been the focus for the Committee this year. Changes brought on by the pandemic only heightened the need for us to better understand the importance of community connection and connecting to people and services. Along the way, we recognized that for us to be successful in connecting our clients to our services, we need to first understand how we are connected to each other, and how we connect back to the community.

Your support and feedback has been inspiring. We will continue to engage, learn, and share with each other to build stronger, more effective, positive partnerships and community connections to meet the needs of children, youth, and their families in Simcoe County. Together we will build a brighter future for all!

With my heartfelt thanks to the members of The Advocacy Committee for your guidance and support!

~ Lucy Gowers
Advocacy Committee Chair



Strategic Plan Early Mental Health Committee of Simcoe County (committee of Best Start)

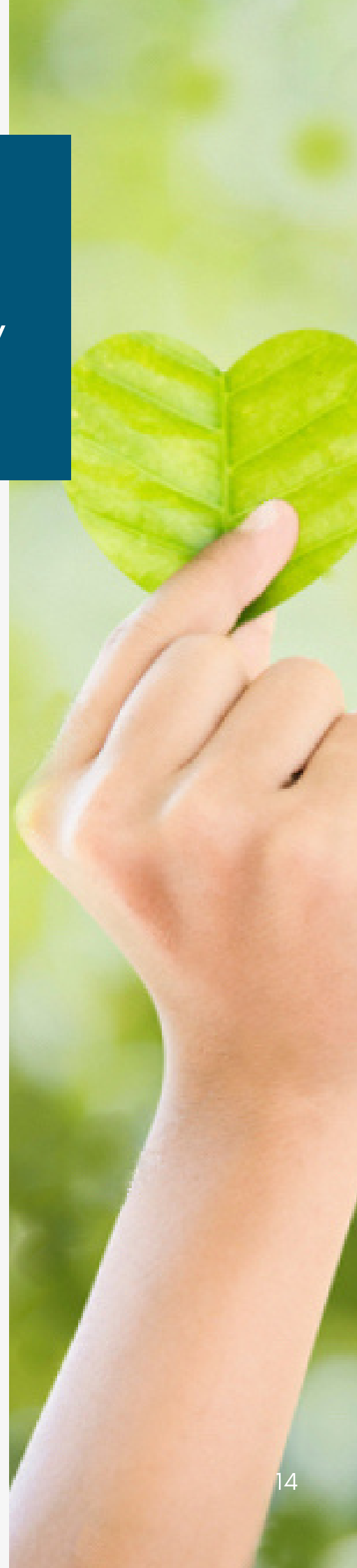
The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child & Youth Mental Health and the Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion/Hospital for Sick Children facilitated 2 full-day planning sessions with 60+ participants from various sectors/agencies within Simcoe County who work with children and families. More recently, a smaller implementation team was established, and surveys were distributed to participants in the Pathways Pilot at Simcoe County.

Results from the sessions and surveys indicate that the focus for the Simcoe County Pathways are as follows:

1. Engaging in tangible work while waiting for services
2. Ensuring children are on the right wait list
3. That there must be a single point of triage.

Additionally, there have been over 150 who have completed or are participating in the Pathways Pilot training, which included Infant Mental Health Basics, Ages and Stages Questionnaires 3, and Social Emotional, and Developmental Support plans.

The Centre and IEMHP are currently working on a summary and visual illustration of the Early Mental Health Pathway. The date of the project completion is December 2021.



Working Groups

Despite the challenges presented to us this year, many working groups continued on. We asked what their greatest accomplishment and greatest challenge was in 2020/2021 and their responses are below.

SIMCOE COUNTY TRIPLE P IMPLEMENTATION TASK GROUP

Accomplishments: Conducted a PD day to support Trained Triple P providers in maintaining fidelity while being flexible in service delivery to meet the needs of families. It was a collaboration between agencies that provided families, particularly in rural and remote locations, with online options.

Challenges: Adapting to virtual platforms and access to technology for some families to participate virtually. Some Triple P trained staff were unavailable due to redeployment and unable to prioritize Triple P service delivery.



SIMCOE COUNTY LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Accomplishments: Disseminated multilingual pandemic information and resources to immigrant residents and stakeholders. Supported local efforts to engage immigrant residents and racialized residents in vaccination efforts. 2021 #ITSTARTS campaign to reduce racism and discrimination.

Challenges: Community-based planning in an online format.

COMPASS CO-MANAGEMENT

Accomplishments: Developed a Tiered Services Chart to be used by school boards/community partners to help them better understand the tiers of services available within each school board.

Challenges: Membership attending consistently and generating agendas.



Working Groups

EARLY MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE OF SIMCOE COUNTY (COMMITTEE OF BEST START)

Accomplishments: Selected as one of 3 sites for the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child & Youth Mental Health and the Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion/Hospital for Sick Children. Participated in the Pathways to Early Mental Health Pilot: Simcoe County.

Challenges: Continued to work and maintain momentum with the Pilot work while breaking down silos.



SIMCOE COUNTY FASD ADVISORY



Accomplishments: The Advisory was instrumental in the advocacy for a new FASD Diagnostic assessment service in Simcoe County with service beginning Q4 of 2020-21. Parent/caregiver training was provided provincially through the MCCSS initiative and locally through the Catulpa grants. The Advisory Chair participated and the group contributed curriculum

Challenges: Membership retention was challenged by virtual meetings.

POVERTY REDUCTION TASK GROUP (PRTG)

Accomplishments: Two very successful Poverty Simulations were completed with Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board and Simcoe Muskoka Literacy Network to increase awareness of poverty related issues and resources for the community. An advocacy letter was submitted to elected officials encouraging the government to transition CERB to a Basic Income for the long term.

Challenges: Staying connected as a group was challenging with many roles/responsibilities changing due to COVID.



Learning Together

Training and Professional Development Budget



Each year as part of our commitment to providing training and professional development opportunities to our member organizations, the Coalition sets aside dedicated funds in our budget. These Professional Development funds are available throughout the year to support staff requests for courses, workshops, or conferences to support and deepen their work in community. For the fiscal year 2020/21, \$9280 was set aside for this purpose. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, these funds were not used and will be rolled over to our next fiscal year.

While no training and professional development were supported this past fiscal year, it did give us the opportunity to look at how we could

build on this to ensure that more opportunities could be provided moving forward.

With the start of our next fiscal year, along with the Professional Development funds, the Coalition has also committed to providing \$20,000 to support the hosting of 4 workshops and speaker series that will provide insights in key community trends, challenges and opportunities. Most importantly, it will bring our member organizations together in focused conversations on actionable responses to support our community.

~ James Thomson
CYFS Trustee, and President and CEO
New Path Foundation

Stronger than Covid

In a time of uncertainty and fear, our members pulled together to let everyone know that they were not alone. We changed not just how we work together as a Coalition, but also how we work with our community. By providing resources, sharing knowledge with our members and the community, and helping to make the shift to working differently in a new environment, we let people know that we were here to help.



As we begin to move out of this memorable and challenging moment in time, we are hopeful that the worst is now behind us.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to provide support and reassurances to the children, youth and families in Simcoe County and responding to the needs of those impacted most.

Financial Report

April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Member Fees	\$106,640.95	\$115,908.40
Other Revenue	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$106,640.95	\$115,908.40

EXPENSES

Independent Contractors	\$103,845.18	\$96,758.80
Contract Services	\$1157.00	\$320.00
Meeting Expenses	\$0.00	\$2136.42
Communication, Promotions & Others	\$0.00	\$1647.71
Office Expenses	\$131.27	\$87.28
Other	\$50.00	\$50.00
Web Site Expenses	\$808.00	\$3,872.80
Total Expenditures	\$105,991.45	\$104,873.01
Current Year	\$649.50	\$11,035.39

Planning for the Future

2021-2024 Strategic Plan

The Executive Committee sent out an RFP for a consultant to lead us through a new strategic planning process for 2021-2024. HSC Vision, led by Gary Sandor, was hired to guide us through the process.

Focus groups and strategic planning retreats were well attended by Coalition members who took the opportunity to share their thoughts and suggestions for the future direction of the Coalition. The Executive Committee looks forward to sharing the draft Strategic Plan with Council in September.

~ Claudine Cousins
CYFS Chair



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

~Helen Keller



The Child Youth and Family Services Coalition would like to acknowledge the contributions of our members and their continued commitment to providing supports and services to the children, youth, and families in their community.

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