

Implementing the Seniors Policy Lens

May 5, 2007

- Main Issues for Moose Jaw and Region
 - Transportation – poor and inaccessible public transport – other option is taxi – expensive
 - In winter sidewalks are hazardous because of ice and snow – poor snow removal
 - Disconnect with others resulting in loneliness and Isolation
 - Poor support for people at a level 1 and 2. No funding to move into supportive residence and no support for people choosing to stay in their own homes.
 - Rural area – travel is very difficult. Once you no longer drive you become more isolated.

Strategy

- We began with supported living for seniors with mental issues

Resulted a referral to Mental Health Director

Met and was referred to Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Committee

As a result of meetings not able to meet quorum it took a number of months before I was able to meet with them.

At that meeting it was well received and the Mental Health Director decided that it would be referred to Home Care Director.

Strategy

- Approached – Housing Authority to introduce this into their programming for their Seniors
- They have 4 high rises for Seniors
 - Housekeeping
 - Assisted living
 - Social programming (social activities, trips, pot lucks, etc.)
 - It was determined that in order the MJ Housing Authority to use the lens it would have to be sanctioned by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation

Métis Local

- They received a contract from New Horizon. I met with them and we used the Mental Health Lens when they set up the programs for the year.
- This worked well for them as it introduced them to a perspective they had not considered.

Healthy Living Action Team for Depression

- As I am on this team I have recently introduced the lens to the coordinators and hope to have discussions with them in the near future.

Home Care

- There was poor communications that led to them feeling that it was redundant. They felt that because they had 25 years of experience and already used a number of screening mechanisms this would be replication of what they were already doing.

Home Care

- As a result of the many layers that this lens needed to go through in the bureaucracy the intent was lost.
- There is a system of funneling information which results in confusion and frustration on both ends. The funnel was with Mental Health Services.

Métis Local

- Worked well for their small projects. As it was a 1 year contract it was short term. Since then the staff and Board have all changed as well as their funding base and they no longer run programs as they had done at that time

Outcomes

- **Mental Health Services**
 - Haven't made any concrete headway

Home Care

- Still waiting for reasons why it can or isn't moving forward
- Housing
- Needs to be done on a provincial level

Outcome

- The outcome of our investigation into the barriers is that we have had an opportunity to reopen the lines of communication.
- The Director of Home Care is anxious to meet with us upon our return from the conference to see if there is an opportunity for us to use the lense.