

High Risk Youth Community Conversation 2018

Initiative Background , Vision, and Mission

The High-Risk Youth Steering Committee is composed of people from a diverse array of community organizations, as well as provincial and municipal government representatives, who have chosen to work collaboratively on a strategic, community-wide approach to address the needs of high risk youths in our community. The Committee came about as a result of a High-Risk Youth Initiative Planning day, which was a regional initiative that was first introduced by Child and Family Services and intended to lead to more positive outcomes and community support for all high risk youth in the Red Deer area.

Vision: That Red Deer is providing a coordinated, effective and consistent support to high risk youth.

Mission: The High-Risk Youth Committee will work together to increase the community's capacity to meet the needs of high risk youth.

Definition : *High Risk Youth are young people whose family circumstances, lifestyle, genetic characteristics and/ or behaviours create a higher than average risk of significant harm, including those youth are homeless and who may or may not be receiving services from Alberta Child and Youth Services.*

On January 14, 2009, brought together youth, front line staff, policy and decision makers, and business people to develop a vision and action plan that will better support High Risk Youth (HRY) in the Red Deer area. At that time, High Risk Youth were identified as young people aged 12-22 years whose family circumstances, lifestyle, genetic characteristics and/or behaviors create a higher than average risk of significant problems. Funding was provided by the Community Partnership Enhancement Fund.

Each group participating was asked to identify the top issues faced by the youth they work with. Housing, Education & Awareness, Prevention/Early Intervention and Services.

With the support from the High-Risk Youth Coalition, Sub- Committees were formed. The Youth Resource Guide was completed, The Youth Winter Inn was supported with Youth and Volunteer Center and Vantage Community Services provided Youth and Young Adults with a One Stop Shop with POWER Youth and Multi-Disciplinary Case Conferencing.

On May 5th, 2011 the HYRI held another Community Conversation at The Westerner Park where the group shares outcomes of the last community conversation and review the 4 goals that were identified at the January 2009 Conversation. The Vision and Mission for the Red Deer High Risk Youth Coalition were briefly reviewed. Community Members and other Youth Serving Agencies were invited to participate in the HYRI and some practical envisioning exercises with a focus on a 2-year timeline.

The High-Risk Youth Coalition has been meeting monthly and sub committees have been formed throughout the years, such as Supporting Youth Coming Out of Jail, Exergaming, and Education and Early Intervention. some groups were limited in the projects that could be completed due to lack of funding and commitments required.

The Multi-Disciplinary Case Conferencing continues as well as new Sub Committees and groups have been derived from the High-Risk Youth Initiative such as Youth Drug Strategy Committee, Youth Strategy Collective Impact, and The Red Deer Youth Counsel. The Youth Handbook has been recently updated.

The goal for the Community Conversation 2018 is to celebrate the last 10-year accomplishments, have more youth and young adult involvement through composing a video and panel presentation for them to express what has worked well for them, what has been challenging and what they would like to see for the future.