

Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region

2015

Family violence team overview history

- 2003 – FACS hired a lone clinician to provide service and program development on DV issues
- 2005 – Reallocated staff to create a specialized FV team
- 2006 – Co-locate two intake workers at Family Violence Project
- 2007 – Reallocated staff to create 2 more FV teams; 1 in Cambridge, 2 in Kitchener
- 2008 – Reallocated staff to create one more FV team; 1 in Cambridge, 3 in Kitchener
- 2012 – Reallocated staff to a complement of 6 FV teams; 2 in Cambridge, 4 in Kitchener

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT

Waterloo Region

History

- Established in 2006 based on the model of the San Diego's Family Justice Centre

Vision

- The vision of the Family Violence Project of Waterloo Region is to end family violence in our community

Mission

- The Family Violence Project of Waterloo Region provides a coordinated, compassionate response, through the provision of services, from a centralized location to people affected by family violence

Child Protection Workers

On-site at shelter

Purpose

Residents of WCSWR, whose children are in need of protection, to experience case coordination and have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibility of both Shelter and FACS worker

- 2012 – one child protection worker housed at each of the Kitchener and Cambridge women's shelters
- Child protection worker and staff from the shelter meet with mothers to develop joint service plans

Collaboration with Probation and Parole

Purpose

To enhance victim and child safety through a coordinated response to engaging and managing offending individuals who are involved with both child welfare and probation and parole

- Have been meeting with Probation and Parole for several years attempting to finalize a Best Practices Guidelines between the two agencies
- Regular joint meetings with probation officer, FACS worker and parents who have offended to ensure consistent services and expectations between the two systems

Collaboration with Justice System

- Influenced the wording of terms of recognizance in regards to fathers' access with their children
- Provides an immediate avenue to engage with fathers

F&CS Waterloo Region Clinical Services Treatment Team

Sexual abuse and Family Violence
Treatment Specialists

Services offered by the Family Violence Treatment Specialists

- Clinical program established in 2004
- Caring Dads and Partners for Healthy Relationships program offered in collaboration with John Howard Society (PHR run 3x/year and Caring Dads run 3x/year in Kitchener & Cambridge)
- Spanish and Arabic group program Elab Elhanoon and Papás Cariñosos and individual counselling adapted from Caring Dads pilot started January 2015 (collaboration with F&CS, JHS and Carizon Promise of Partnership)

Clinical services offered contd.

- **F&CS FV Treatment specialists** offer individual family violence counselling/treatment and/or counselling with a focus on Caring Dads concepts for Men to help improve men's relationships with their children and families.
- Couples Counselling is for offered to couples who have experienced family violence and who want to stay together to build a safer, healthier relationship. Services appropriate for couples who have both previously attended either individual and/or group counselling for issues related to family violence and both individuals agree to couple work. Couples counselling is only appropriate if safety has been explored first.

Additional FV partnerships/supports

Clinical Support Worker

Short-term, individual counselling and safety planning for women experiencing family violence. In collaboration with Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region.

Child Witness

Individual therapeutic supports for children who are experiencing emotional trauma due to witnessing family violence. In collaboration with Carizon (Mosaic) and Family Counselling of Cambridge and North Dumfries. (Cambridge and Kitchener)

Engaging Men

F&CS has an internal committee focused on engaging men in services and are currently working in partnership with Conestoga College to review our practices as well as conduct literary review to inform practice and next steps in engaging men in child welfare service