



Healthy Communities Partnership

Lanark, Leeds & Grenville

Stewardship Group

Terms of Reference

Governance Model

The Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville (LLG) Healthy Communities Partnership has decided to use the Constellation Model to guide its approach to governance of the partnership work in the following six action areas: to promote mental health, healthy eating and regular physical activity, and to prevent injuries, tobacco use, and alcohol and drugs misuse in Lanark, Leeds and Grenville.

“The Constellation model is a complexity-inspired governance framework for multi-organization collaboration.”¹

“A Stewardship group sets strategic direction, monitors the partnership’s overall health, and aligns constellations with the partnership’s purpose. Small self-organizing action teams of partners work together on a particular task or issue within the partnership.”²

This approach makes sense within Lanark, Leeds and Grenville because several existing networks and coalitions already exist. The Constellation model will allow these existing organizations to find a place for themselves within the partnership by focusing on a priority recommended action that fits within their existing mandate. In addition, many organizations are interested in participating but they have varied interests. They will be able to self-select to a particular constellation that attracts them or create a new constellation to respond to an issue they want to address. Finally, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville is a large geographic area, mostly rural with towns and small hamlets, and people identify with their own geographic area. Constellations can form that are specific to a geographic area if the interest is there.

Several of our municipalities are currently developing Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP). The LLG Healthy Communities Partnership sees direct relevance between this work and ours as the ICSP plan must include a social component that includes health and well-being with an obvious link to the six action areas. This governance model will encourage the municipalities to be part of the partnership as a constellation identifying how to address the social needs of their communities, and this will facilitate links to other activities going on in the community.

¹ Surman, T. Constellation Collaboration: A model for multi-organizational partnership. Centre for Social Innovation, <http://s.socialinnovation.ca/files/Constellation%20Model%20Description%20June%209'06.pdf>

² Surman T, suramn M. Listening to the Stars: The Constellation Model of Collaborative Change. <http://www.lcsi.smu.edu.sg/downloads/MarkSurmanFinalAug-2.pdf>

Responsibilities of Stewardship Group

The Stewardship Group will have the following responsibilities:³

- Develop vision for the community and a broad framework for their work together (This includes the Francophone community under the provisions of the French Language Services Act);
- Ongoing assessment of the current assets, successes, gaps and needs in the community for the six action areas;
- Management oversight of specific projects e.g. priority policy action area
- Promotion and engagement of the community regarding the Healthy Communities Partnership priorities and recommended actions
- Partner asset mapping – how each partner wants to relate to the partnership
- Engage organizations and individuals in the work of the partnership as part of a constellation action group
- Scoping the nature of how and why the partners can work together
- Communication among partnership members and others

Values of the Stewardship Group

- Openness and transparency
- Sharing of power
- Innovation

Principles of the Stewardship Group

- Community participation
- Focus on areas where there is willingness to move forward
- Activities respond to a community need
- Evidence-based approaches
- On-going evaluation
- Dynamic response to community issues
- Builds on community assets
- Addressing root contributors to wellness
- On-going leadership development within community
- Shared decision-making, leadership moves among the partners on a project by project basis

Membership

The following networks, organizations and individuals have agreed to be members of the Stewardship Group for 2011. Others will be welcomed as they become aware of the partnership and decide to participate in it.

³ Based on T. Surman, Constellation Collaboration: A model for multi-organizational partnership, CSI

- Brockville & Area YMCA
- Brockville & Area Community Foundation
- Brockville Ministerial Association
- Child Development Centre
- Communities ALIVE
- Community and Primary Health Centre
- Country Roads Community Health Centre
- Every Kid in Our Communities of Leeds and Grenville
- Food Matters Coalition
- French Language Health Services Network
- Lanark Mental Health Services
- Lanark Planning Council for Children and Youth
- Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
- Municipal :
 - Beckwith Township
 - Town of Smiths Falls
- Merrickville and District Community Health Centre - Smiths Falls site
- North Lanark Community Health Centre
- Upper Canada District School Board
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Rideau Valley Diabetes Services
- S.A.I.L. Services to Assist Independent Living
- Safe Communities Coalition of Brockville, Leeds and Grenville
- Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport: Regional Advisor

All members will contribute to meeting discussion, decisions and communications in a positive and professional manner. Travel and meeting costs to participate/attend working group meetings will be provided by the member/respective employer.

Decision making

Members will share responsibility for decision making. Decisions will be made by consensus as much as possible. If consensus cannot be reached, then disagreement will be noted. Each member will identify any potential conflict of interest to the group when they feel one might exist with regard to the position they hold outside of this working group.

Accountability

The Stewardship Committee is accountable to the community members of the Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Counties. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit has administrative responsibility for the funding, and reports in this capacity to the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport.

Meetings

Approved: February 1 2011

Meetings will be held monthly for the first 6 months and then quarterly or by the call of the chair/facilitator. Teleconferencing will be available at every meeting. Smaller task specific meetings may be held as agreed upon by the larger working group.

Chair/Facilitator

The Chair will be chosen through consensus by the Stewardship Group members for a one year term. The chair will function as a facilitator for working group meetings, as determined by working group members. He/she will also be the spokesperson for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Community Health Partnership.

Resources

The Stewardship Group will be supported by the Healthy Communities Coordinator. He/she will receive direction from the Stewardship Group to support the work of the partnership. The LGL District health Unit is providing this in-kind contribution to the partnership to support its work. It is expected that all partners will also contribute in kind resources to support the work of the Stewardship Group as they are able.