



Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa
Bureau des services à la jeunesse d'Ottawa

**Community-University
Engagement:
Youth Services Bureau
and UOttawa**

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www.ysb-bsj.on.ca



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YSB Services

- Not-for-profit agency serving youth aged 12 and older
- Every month, 2,500 people come to YSB for help
- Supports range from emergency shelters to mental health crisis support, from employment programs to custody facilities, from drop-in centres to permanent housing, from school programs to individual / family counselling

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YSB Facts

- Annual budget of more than \$22 million
- Employs over 350 dedicated staff members
- Operates at two dozen locations across the City of Ottawa
- Has numerous funders including the Province of Ontario, (80%) the City of Ottawa, (15%) and other donors including the United Way. (5%)



uOttawa – Youth Services Bureau: Prospects for Collaboration

- YSB: constraints imposed by funding realities – support for services, but less for infrastructure ... plus no core funding increase in mental health for 12 of last 15 years
- YSB and UOttawa: we each need what the other has ...
 - YSB – a living lab that accumulates much data
 - UOttawa – a hub of learning and research



A very timely idea...

- A number of people on the same wavelength – it just makes sense
- YSB: *50 and Beyond Action Plan*
 - A commitment to strategic planning
 - Includes focus on leading-edge quality and tools to excel
 - An awareness of some of the gaps in capacity in terms of knowledge (evidence-based research), skills and resources
 - Look to building partnerships to help address these gaps



The current situation

- YSB & uOttawa - Memorandum of understanding (March 2009)
- At this point:
 - Completed Phase I of the feasibility study (Report by S. Green and P. Cleary)
 - uOttawa engaged in Phase II
 - Important to have some early “wins” in the near future in order to fuel the optimism the MOU has generated



1(A). Feasibility study : YSB

	NEEDS	OPPORTUNITIES
Community Services		
Employment		
Mental Health		
Youth Justice		
HQ/supports to action		



YSB results

- Short term – focus on access to services and developing protocols for collaboration
- Longer term – focus on:
 - Research, especially on promising practices
 - Evaluation projects (including benefit-costs analyses)
 - Student placements
 - Career development opportunities



1(B). Feasibility study: uOttawa

	NEEDS	OPPORTUNITIES
TEACHING: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Training•Education•Development		
RESEARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Access to data•T/E/D		
CTY SERVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Identity•Impact on youth		



1(C). Feasibility study: A basis for collaboration

	YSB = NEEDS	YSB = OPP'TY
uOTTAWA = NEEDS		
uOTTAWA = OPP'TY		



Conclusion

- We're just starting out together ... but tremendous enthusiasm from all quarters
- Creating a “culture of learning” at YSB and a “culture of service” at UOttawa
- A meaningful way to address the erosion of budgets ...
1+1= more than 2
- A model to be replicated?