

Person Centered *focus*

IMPLEMENTING PERSON CENTERED PLANNING WITH
CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MUSKOKA, PARRY SOUND,
ALMAGUIN AND NIPISSING

Project Update

I am very excited to announce that the Person Centered Focus project has been extended to June 15, 2012. This gives us an extra five months of workshops, planning and creativity that hopefully makes a difference for some.

An exciting partnership has bloomed in the past few weeks. Our project has joined with Community Living Parry Sound's L.I.N.C. employment services to add a transition, visioning, and employment focus to one page profiles. Our plan is to focus our energies on all Grade 8 classes in the West Parry Sound area to offer a one page profile and visioning workshop so that each student will enter Grade 9 with a clear vision and profile that will assist teachers and supports to understand who they are, how to support them and what they plan to achieve during their high school years. The vision

will be added to the profile and focus on seven key areas in life; personal goals, relationships, health, career and education, recreation, financial and contribution. We **HOPE** to reach every Grade 8 class by mid June.

There are some exciting workshops coming up. Alyssa is back from a short hiatus and will be working on offering some great training. Please watch your email for invitations and registration forms or see information below. At our last regional committee meeting we agreed to look at reaching out to the education system to offer one page profile training to teachers to ensure sustainability following the close of our project.

I will keep you updated around our progress in this area. Hope everyone is having a great start to 2012!



Upcoming Training Offered

Disability is Natural's Kathie Snow—Dream Big Dreams February 9th @ The Log Cabin
Disability is Natural's Kathie Snow—Living Real Lives, February 10th @ The Log Cabin

Contact Alyssa @ 705-746-9330 ext. 243 or akoenderink@clps.ca for further information or to register for an upcoming workshop.

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Testimonials

The profiles have been an effective tool for self-advocacy which helps students identify and communicate their individual strengths, challenges and preferred supports with whomever they wish to share the information. - Bonnie Smith, Educator, Parry Sound High School

My students thoroughly enjoyed completing the One Page Profiles. They particularly enjoyed the part where they were able to write positive statements about their classmates, and also receive positive statements from their peers. All students came away feeling great about themselves. The entire process was a win - win, very worthwhile activity.—Jeff Thomas, Educator, Whitestone Lake Central School

I was fortunate to have Barb work with my students to create One Page Profiles last year. It was a great opportunity for the students to learn more about themselves and each other as they completed the activities under Barbs excellent guidance. The students were very receptive to the conversations that arose and were quite supportive of one another. It was a great chance for me to see what the students identified as their strengths and needs as well. An excellent workshop, one I would highly recommend. Thanks for letting us be part of this! - Velda Ferguson, Educator, Whitestone Lake Central School

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www.facebook.com/personcenteredfocus

Person Centered Innovative Success

I have been eluding to a plan that I have been working on for a young woman who has been accessing our services around long term home planning and funding. She has really inspired me along with her family home provider. She has decided to stay in her family home placement so long term funding is the focus currently but something else developed this Fall that was a huge change for her. Living with Autism, this change proved to be a challenge. Upon returning to high school the same old struggles ensued. Restraints, behaviours and dangerous situations for her and everyone around her. Instead of staying in school and trying to address these issues, she and her family home provider decided school was just not appropriate for her anymore. After all she was turning 18 and she was not gaining anything in the school environment. It was time to move on to adult life. Her family home provider; knowing her so well and being very person centred; took a long look at her strengths and areas of success, things she loved and what was important to her in life. This led to a very innovative idea. They created a home business opportunity that fit with one of her greatest loves; dogs. They named it Brenna's House after their family dog. The doggy day care business is not only therapeutic for her but she has a very detailed and structured plan outlined that builds on essential life skills. This is not a huge money maker but it brings in some income and provides her with a daily routine that contributes to her community, meets her needs and gives her a feeling of success. Her success is mostly attributed to her family home provider being creative and working hard to ensure that the opportunity fit with what is important to her. She didn't just try to fit her in at Walmart, she created something that she knew would be successful because she has taken the time to truly learn what is important in her life. Congratulations, you are both an inspiration.



Almaguin Highlands Community Living

