

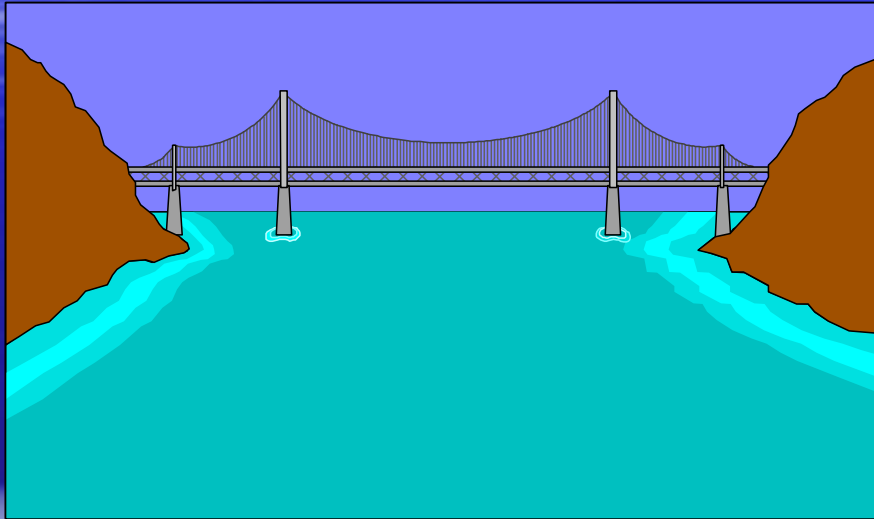
Senior Link – A Sustainable Cross Sector Model



One outcome
of the
Huron
Trillium
Partnership

Presentation by Connie Dawson

Huron Trillium Partnership



Building
bridges
between
Sectors

Huron County table for cross sector dialogue

Huron Trillium Partnership

47 organizations in Huron County:

- Planning Bodies
- Older Adult Support Services
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Community Living Associations
- Generic Agencies serving OA and DD
- Funding Ministries

Huron Trillium Partnership

- Application for Trillium Foundation Grant
- Successful Grant application established the Trillium Partnership
- This formalized the cross-sector information sharing and mutual problem solving
- The need for collaboration between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community and Social Services was identified

Huron Trillium Partnership

- Cross sector workshops
- Newsletter
- Solutions to cross sector referral issues
- Support development of new models of support for older adults with developmental disabilities

Genesis of Senior Link

- Wingham & District Community Living Association sought access to local Midwestern Adult Day Services
- Day Services had challenges based on space and staffing levels

Genesis of Senior Link

Issues discussed at Huron Trillium
Partnership Table

Members at the table included:

- Midwestern Adult Day Services Wingham
& District Community Living Association

Genesis of Senior Link

Both agencies made a commitment to dialogue:

- Understand one another's point of view
- Seek possible solutions

Genesis of Senior Link

Midwestern Adult Day Services agreed to accept adults

with developmental disabilities based on:

- Selected times and dates
- Subject to re-scheduling if required by adult day services

Growing Challenges

- Continuing growth in demand for adult day services
- Growing numbers of people with early signs of dementia
- Capacity of program reached

The Cross Sector Relationship

The two partners began to dialogue on how to deal with the growing demand on the adult day services

An idea emerged to create more space on the site of Wingham and District Community Living

Partner Problem-Solving

Midwestern Adult Day Center

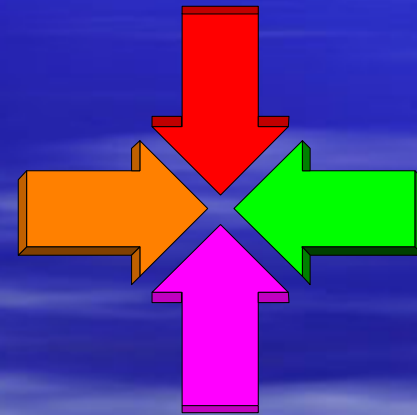
- Staff expertise
- Understand dementia
- Program resources

Community Living

- Space in newly renovated building
- Understand structured programming models
- Willing to allocate staff resources

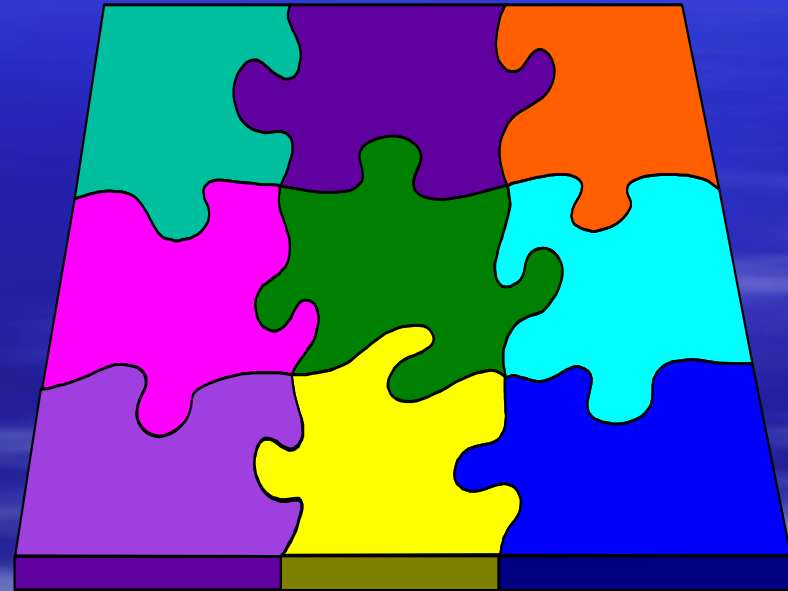
Partner Problem-Solving

- Proposed idea to senior management
- Obtained support
- Designed new program
- Lengthy period of planning and training



Senior Link is Born

The cross sector
relationship
provided the basis
to find and
assemble the
pieces to solve our
problem



Senior Link

- Additional spaces in the adult day services system
- Serving special population – dementia
- Structured programming
- Fully inclusive

Seniors' Link

- Senior Link Services was developed through a willingness among partner agencies to share in the work
- It was named as a result of the “link” with the Midwestern Adult Day Services.
- Throughout its existence, the Senior Link remains committed to a cross sector approach

Seniors' Link

- Maximizing the use of limited resources, quality of life and independence are maintained as long as possible
- Sharing services and resources helps to make these scarce funds go further
- Stimulating activities, in familiar settings, with consistent peer groups, staffing and volunteers may avoid premature placement in LTC facilities by providing alternative community activities

Seniors' Link

- *“It’s not just a partnership it’s a relationship”*
- Relationships growing out of the Huron Trillium Partnership Table; that led to the formation of the Seniors' Link, have ensured that there is greater understanding related to the needs of individuals who are aging and who have a developmental disability
- Their right to live in their community, with dignity, as long as possible is being recognized as valid

Seniors' Link

- Services are available to 10 individuals once per week on the premises of Wingham & District Community Living Association
- There are individuals with intellectual challenges who are at least 50 years of age or are experiencing symptoms of dementia; individuals with dementia from LTC facilities who may or may not have an intellectual challenge

Seniors' Link

- There are two staff and an assistant paid to support the individuals
- There are currently two volunteers assisting (one of the individuals who volunteers actually lives in a LTC facility)
- The service runs from 11-3 and there is 1 hour of preparation prior to each session and 1 hour of planning time after each session to prepare for the next week(s).
- The average cost per annum for this service is \$18,000 (or \$1,800 per person).

Seniors' Link

- Individuals who are associated with Wingham & District Community Living Association now attend the Midwestern Adult Day Services independently
- Communication between staff of these two organizations remains fluid; ensuring that there is ongoing, beneficial collaboration that supports individual needs

Capacity – Building

Two adult day services
now exist in the community

Both are fully inclusive



Capacity – Building

Access to Appropriate “Aging-related”
Services for Individuals:

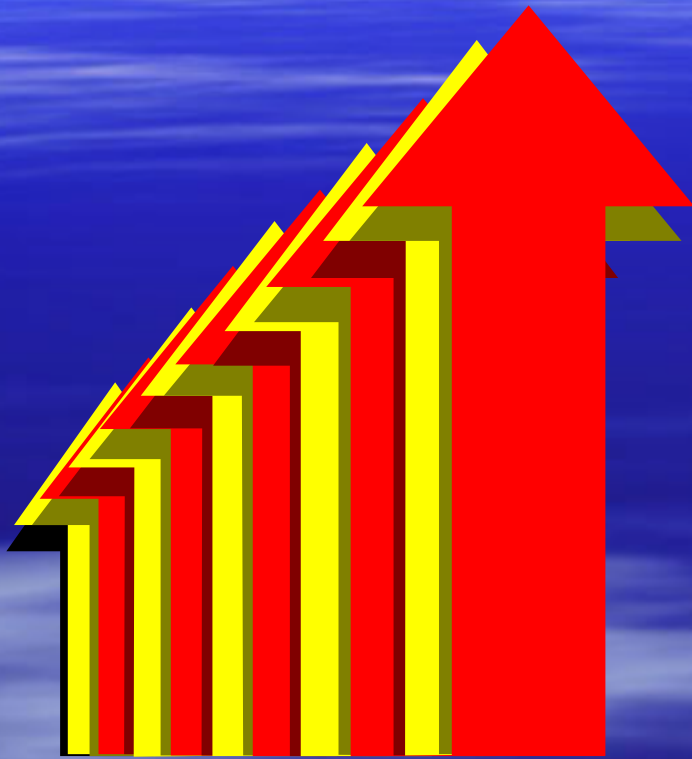
- right individual participating; in the right service
- reduce agency risk
- effective stewardship of resources

Impact - Agencies



- Credibility with families
- Trust from individuals
- New knowledge and skill of front line staff
- Positive “evaluation” by funders

Impact – Service System



- Credibility of cross sector planning model
- Reinforces cross sector working relationships
- Influence with funders re systemic issues and fiscal allocations

It's Only the Beginning!



Hello!

Let's talk together
about a mutually
beneficial
partnership!