

October 27, 2009

Westlock hosts annual consultations for Central Zone

Region provides input for Child and Family Services Authority Business Plan

Westlock... Representatives of organizations from Westlock, Barrhead, Whitecourt and points in between met at the Ramada Inn in Westlock on Friday October 23rd to provide valuable insight in the area for the North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) 2010-2013 Business Plan.

Those in attendance included representatives from: Town of Mayerthorpe, Town of Westlock, Westlock RCMP, Pembina Hills Regional Division #7, Evergreen Catholic School Regional Division #2, Blue Heron Support Services, Healthy Families, Spirit of Our Youth Homes Inc, Northwest Central FASD Network, and several others.



Pictured above: Working groups partake in a brainstorming session

Conversation included topics such as FASD support, mental health and addictions, community issues, access to services, employment and governance. Participants first identified issues within their communities and worked together to provide possible solutions.



“The feedback provided by our community partners is essential to our work with the children, youth and families across our Region,” says North Central Alberta CFSA Co-Chair, Brian Broughton. “The thing that makes our business planning sessions successful is the opportunity to hear the thoughts and opinions of those in the communities we serve. There was a lot of positive discussion generated during this consultation and we look forward to incorporating some of what was said into our future goals.”

The consultation was the last of a series of four that are held in the Region every year. Once the information has been gathered from community partners, the feedback will be used to help develop the 2010-2013 Business Plan.

The North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority is one of 10 such Authorities in the province. It delivers a wide range of services and programs to keep children and youth safe and strengthen families. The Authority serves a rural, culturally diverse region with nearly 140 communities, literally stretching from border to border (Saskatchewan to British Columbia). There are 14 school divisions, 38 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) districts, 4 Métis Settlements, and 5 Delegated First Nations Agencies within its boundaries.

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