

Medicine Hat Family Service

Friends of the **Family** since
1966



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Established in 1966

- Private Not for Profit Society
- Governed by a Voluntary Board of Directors
- Professional Supports and Counselling Services
- Economically dependent on Grants and fees for service

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Mission:

MHFS responds to changing community needs to enhance the quality of life for individuals, couples and families through counselling, family life education and professional support services.

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Collaborative Models are evolving as a critical way of working within the not-for-profit sector.

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Innovation usually needs collaboration to be successful but collaboration doesn't have to be innovative to be successful

Heather Graham, Ontario Non-profit Network

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MHFS has a history with:

- Incubating fledging organizations
- Providing Board Governance for short term circumstances
- Acting as a fiscal agent until an organization can be established as a society
- Bridging new services to government base organizations

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Most recent Collaborative Project occurred in 2016.

- Families In Transition Project. F.I.T.
- Created for families impacted by extensive business closures over the past 18 months in the Medicine Hat region.
- This consisted of three separate agencies integrating their approved proposals through the City of Medicine Hat FCSS grant to offer specific expertise.

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The common issue (for three agencies) was that unemployment for these families was a new experience and as such, they had limited knowledge of what was available to support them

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The “Y” as the point of
intake provided
employment assistance and
Wellness

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- MHFS provided individual/family counseling and weekly support groups

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- McMan provided the Outreach and Systems Navigation – helping all members of the family connect and follow through with existing community supports

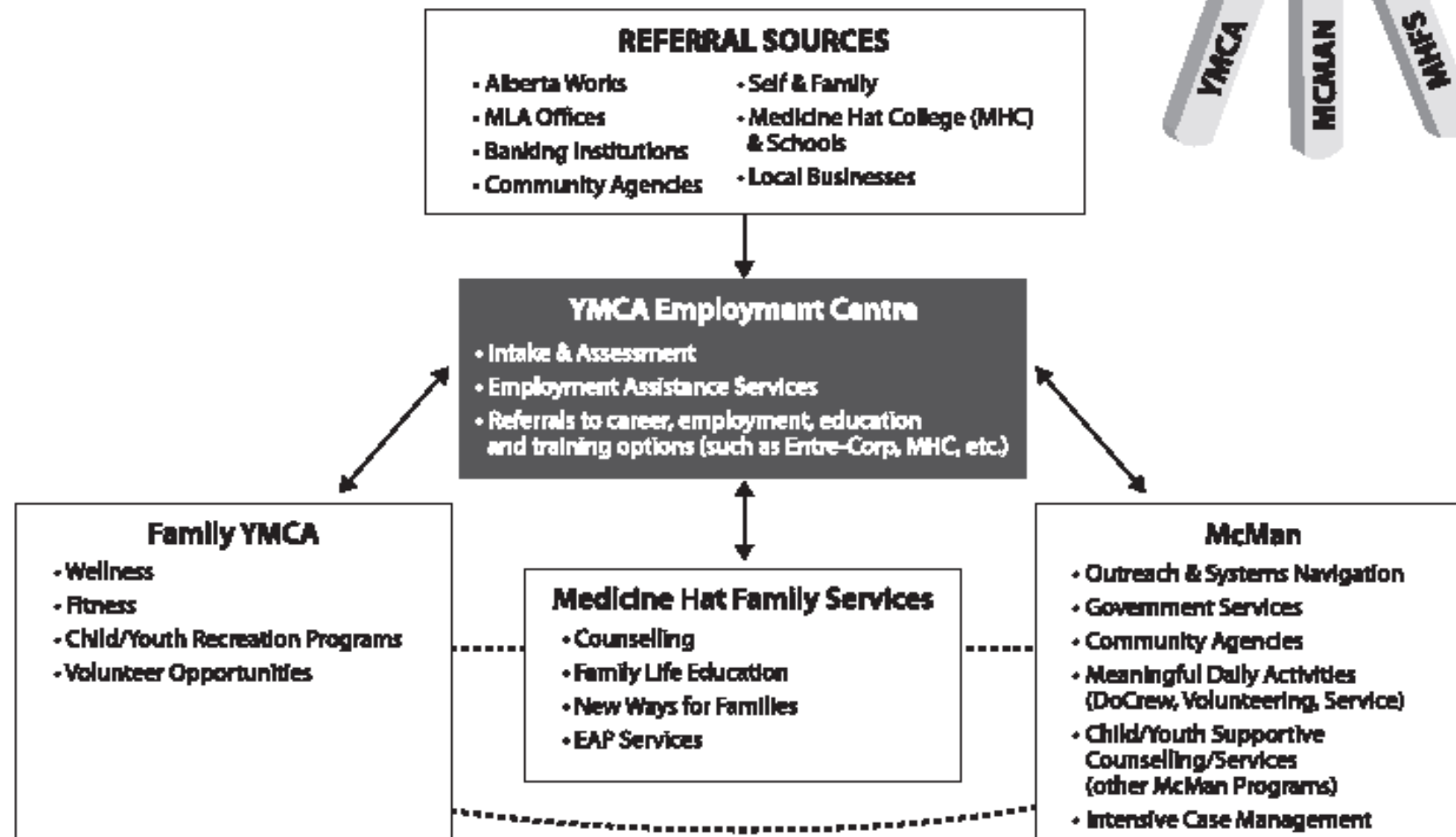
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Next slide showcases the Flow Chart

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FAMILIES IN TRANSITION FLOW CHART



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The overarching goal of this collaboration was to provide an immediate wrap around support for a short period of time with a fairly seamless referral system.

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Benefits:

- Funding shared with experts doing what they know best
- Steering Committee set-up enhanced problem solving challenges. (No shows/follow-ups)
- Increase knowledge of respective agencies. Referrals have continued.

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Challenges For Boards:

- Recognize the shared responsibility for the project but remain accountable to their respective parts.
- Maintain/implement policy and procedures for reporting on collaborative projects. i.e. Monthly reports, changes in delivery model