

The Healthy Child Manitoba Strategy:

A Model for Horizontal Policy Management and Integrated Service Delivery



Our Challenge:

Bridging the gap between
what we **know**
and what we **do**
to build what we **need** for
children and youth

Leadership: Manitoba's Premier and Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet

- Established in March 2000 by Premier Gary Doer (1999-2009)
- Only legislated Cabinet committee in Canada dedicated to the well-being of children and youth



Greg Selinger
Premier of Manitoba



HCCC members:

- Jim Rondeau, Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors (Chair)
- Eric Robinson, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
- Flor Marcelino, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism
- Nancy Allan, Minister of Education
- Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services and Consumer Affairs
- Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health
- Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Housing and Community Development
- Andrew Swan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- Jennifer Howard, Minister of Labour and Immigration, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Healthy Child Manitoba Vision

The best possible outcomes for Manitoba's children and youth
(prenatal – 18 years)



Healthy Child Manitoba Mission



Healthy Child Manitoba works across departments and sectors to facilitate community development for the well-being of Manitoba's children, youth, families, and communities.

With a priority focus on early childhood development (ECD: prenatal to school entry).



- *Parent-Child Coalitions*

- *PAX*

- *Healthy Schools*

- *Roots of Empathy*

- *Triple P*

- *FASD Prevention Strategy*

- *Families First*

- *Healthy Baby*

COMMUNITY

**PRESCHOOL
& SCHOOL**

**Socially Engaged
& Responsible**

FAMILY

**Successful
Learners**

CHILD

**Safe and
Secure**

**Physically &
Emotionally
Healthy**

***CHILD-CENTRED
PUBLIC POLICY***

HEALTHY CHILD MANITOBA

Putting Children and Families First



Challenges

- 1. Reaching all** children, youth, parents, and families that need support
- 2. Reducing inequities and inequalities** towards child and youth outcomes (flattening gradients)
- 3. Improving developmental trajectories** of child and youth (prenatal to adulthood)
- 4. Building an integrated information system** to measure cross-sectoral progress in child and youth outcomes

New (Old) Policy Tools

1. Government-community partnership (community development)
2. Cross-sectoral structures (community level to Cabinet level)
3. Coordinated, “concentric” policies (ecologies of child development)
4. Long-term, longitudinal investment (prenatal to adulthood)
5. Evidence and evaluation (linked to resource allocation)

How Do We Bridge the Gap?

Bridging the gap requires us to **understand** the importance of political and community structures/partnerships and **reinvent** societal institutions through coordinated culture change:

- **Culture change in government**
- **Culture change in community**
- **Cross-cultural exchange: Bridging government and community**

Bridging Government and Community: Intersectoral Structures in Manitoba

KNOWLEDGE

- Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet
- Healthy Child Deputies' Committee
- Healthy Child Manitoba Office
- Interdepartmental Committees



- Citizens and communities
 - Parents and families
 - Children and youth
 - Community agencies
- Provincial HC Advisory Cttee
- Parent-Child Centred Coalitions and Council of Coalitions

ACTION

Horizontal and Vertical Policy Structures: Finding an Optimal Balance

- Child-centred public policy needs flexible and dynamic collaborative networks (*horizontal*) that are empowered by the hierarchical authority and mandate from the highest levels of government (*vertical*)

4 Conditions for Successful Horizontal Collaboration

- Political will
- Outside pressure
- Inside engine
- Resources

(Even when all 4 conditions are present, it is still not easy – the challenges are many)

The Healthy Child Manitoba Act

- Enabling legislation for Healthy Child Manitoba, the Government of Manitoba's long-term, cross-departmental prevention and early intervention strategy for children and youth (prenatal – 18 years), proclaimed in December 2007
- Purpose is to achieve best possible outcomes for Manitoba's children (policy emphasis on early childhood development)
- Legislated cross-sectoral government and community structures for children and youth
- Authority to collect and link data across sectors and across time (horizontal and longitudinal)
- Requirement for regular public reporting on progress in child and youth development

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/h037e.php>

Toward a Best Policy Mix for Children and Youth

Policy goals = flattening socioeconomic gradients and improving trajectories over time

- Promoting positive development (*universal*)
- Building resilience (*targeted*)
- Preventing new vulnerability (*targeted*)
- Helping long-term vulnerability (*clinical*)

= “best policy mix” for children and youth

Successes:

- **Child- and Youth-Centred Public Policy**
 - *The Healthy Child Manitoba Act*: enshrined the Healthy Committee of Cabinet (HCCC), the Healthy Child Manitoba Strategy, Healthy Child Deputy Ministers' Committee, Healthy Child Manitoba Office (HCMO), Healthy Child Provincial Advisory Committee, Parent-Child Coalitions, HCMO Annual Report, 5-Year Report on MB Children & Youth (December 2012)
 - **Child-centred estimates process**
 - Increased priority and investment in early childhood development (ECD), e.g., from 2000 to 2012, HCMO budget increased from \$12.8M to \$30.8M (141% increase)

Successes:

- HCMO-led programs (“incubation”)
- HCMO longitudinal evaluation, research and data linking
- HCCC shared understanding and culture change across departments

A Call to Action

- Children's outcomes are the product of multiple determinants. We need **government structures** that reflect this reality
- Families are best served and their needs best identified together with local service providers. We need to support **community structures** that recognize this
- Sufficient **scientific evidence** is now available to combine with political will and inform cross-sectoral action to improve the life course outcomes of our children and youth
- The most important task of this decade:

A Call to Action

**Bridging the gap between
knowledge and action
to build a comprehensive, effective,
multilevel service system
for all children
supported by
convincing evaluation evidence
to help protect
the system in the future.**

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Thank You

For More Information, Please Contact:

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