

Item IV.B.



# Juvenile Welfare Board

Investing in children. Strengthening our community.

---

**JWB LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

**MARCH 12, 2015**



# What is a Learning Community?

---

**Creates synergy of collaborative action**

**Creates a culture of collaborative inquiry**

**Four Critical Pillars of Professional Learning Communities:**

- 1. Collaborative Teamwork**
- 2. Staff capacity for evaluating effective practice and outcomes**
- 3. Leadership capacity to support organizational inquiry**
- 4. Professional development**

[Ontario Principals' Council, 2008]



## ***Overarching purpose***

***Evaluation capacity building in partnership with our providers***



*“... is the process of improving an organization’s ability to use evaluation to learn from its work and improve results. Organizations that are adept at learning from mistakes and adapting new challenges are more likely to be successful...”*

*Funder Initiatives to Strengthen Grantee Evaluation Capacity and Practice. Innovation Network: Transforming Evaluation for Social Change. Washington, DC [www.innonet.org](http://www.innonet.org).*

## Evaluation

- *Utilization Focused Evaluation*
- *Guided by actual intended use and needs of intended users*
- *Focused on helping primary intended users select the most appropriate content, model, methods, and theory*

# Learning Communities

---

School  
Support

Quality  
Early  
Learning

Out-of-  
School  
Time

Home  
Visiting

Mental  
Health



*What are our  
insights so far  
through our  
Learning  
Communities?*

- Sharing of promising practices in our community
- High engagement by funded providers
- Commitment to value of process moving forward
- Using data to provide information
- Learning from each other to improve



# Next Steps

---

- Provider team to identify topics of interest for discussion quarterly
- Sharing of best practices among providers
- Identify core measurements
- Summaries of each session are documented and available.