

Moving and Choosing Collaborative CHARTER



Purpose

Our mission is to be a strong community collaborative that fosters healthy environments and promotes healthy eating, active living and positive well-being in Southeast Alberta. We envision a community where children and youth thrive leading healthy, happy and active lives where they live, learn work and play.

Scope

This initiative encompasses communities and schools located in the SE zone of Alberta Health jurisdictions; and, while targeting children and youth, it is not limited to the school environment. Utilizing a community-based, population health promotion approach Moving and Choosing initiatives may impact households, parents, families, community programs or the built, recreational, social or natural environments that impact the health and well-being of children and youth.

Initiatives and Sustainability

Moving and Choosing works collaboratively with school and community stakeholders to achieve the collective vision of realizing a community where children and youth thrive leading healthy, happy and active lives by:

- supporting the collaboration of related community stakeholders to promote collective action and collective impact;
- sharing evidence-based practices and local success stories for increasing understanding of best practices collectively;
- mapping community assets and establishing baseline data in the SE zone for the purpose of understanding the key issues, influencers and opportunity for change;
- identifying, monitoring and celebrating collective impacts resulting from interventions throughout the SE zone communities;
- utilizing both marketing and social marketing strategies to promote community change in working towards key issues and solutions.

Originating in 2003 with a grant from the Canadian Diabetes Association national funding program, Moving and Choosing was later sustained with an additional grant in 2005 from the National Population Health fund. From 2008 on dedicated grant funding was no longer available but Moving and Choosing has continued and grown as a network largely reliant upon in-kind staffing contributions from Alberta Health Services and the Be Fit for Life Centre; and the numerous community/school partners throughout the SE AHS Zone. Currently, 4 School Jurisdictions comprise the School Advisory Group and are engaged in varied health promotion activities pertaining to healthy eating, active living and positive well-being; utilizing the Comprehensive School Health Model and population health promotion approach.

Structure & Membership

In 2013, Moving and Choosing formed a Stewardship Group to implement a loose network structure following a collaborative governance model. Unlike a typical board that directs and manages its committee activities, this is a unique structure that provides a supportive and promoting role towards increasing community collective action on issues relevant to child and youth health and well-being. In this instance, the common thread amongst the Moving and Choosing Collaborative members is a shared vision and collaborative work towards creating healthier communities for children and youth.

Components of the collaborative include the Stewardship Group (backbone organization); Core Constellations (equivalent to standing committees) that carry out core activities. Additionally, a number of Issue Constellations (Ad Hoc Committees) are also underway and continue to evolve to reflect the changes, growth and priorities of the network members and the communities in which they serve. Moving and Choosing Collaborative members are empowered to participate in specific constellations to work with other community members on issues they are concerned about, or they may participate in the Stewardship Committee to support the broader goals of the collaborative, or both.

Resources

- Moving and Choosing Web-site
- Moving and Choosing Resource Lending Library
- Healthy Opportunities for Children Group – intermittent fund-raising to support school
- Moving and Choosing Stewardship Group is not funded through any organization/grant initiative. New funding is being sought to enhance our capacity to strengthen the community network and achieve the goals determined by the Stewardship Group. However, given the MC Collaborative is not a legal entity, future funding will be secured via a neutral fiscal agent.

MC Core Constellations (Committees):

- MC Stewardship Group (Coordinating Committee)
 - * MC Collective Measurement Initiative
- MC School Advisory
- MC Community Network
- MC Website
- MC Healthy Opportunities for Children

MC Issue Constellations (Committees);

- MC MCFAN SCAN (MC Food and Nutrition Environmental Scan)
- MC PLAY Partnerships
- *Others may be formed at the will of the MC network members

Contact: For information regarding the Moving and Choosing Stewardship Group please contact Marcia Stodalka at (403) 502-8209; to contact one of the MC project leads or see the Moving and Choosing web-site at: www.movingandchoosing.com.