

ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 10, 2020
10:00 – 11:30am
Barrie Common Roof, 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie

Attended	Guests :	Regrets
Suzanna McCarthy (Co-Chair) Sarah Papple (Co-Chair) Kathy Manners Julie McAlpine Lucy Gowers, Youth Haven James Thomson Carol Yandreski, SMDHU		Lesley Watts

Item		Minutes	Action
1.	Approval of Minutes: January 20/20	A roundtable introduction took place and Lucy Gowers and Carol Yandreski were welcomed to the meeting. The minutes of January 20, 2020 were approved with no changes.. The agenda was changed to flip Safe Sleep and Connection to Community.	
2.	Position Paper: Safe Sleep	Kathy provided background relating to the Coroner's report requesting the Coalition advocate for safe sleep practices. Since this request, there has been a decline in infant deaths occurring due to unsafe sleep practices and to wrap this issue up, a position paper is being created. Melanie McLearn will start the paper and Mary Jean from the Health Unit will be asked for input also. The paper will then go to the Executive Committee for recommendation to take to Council for approval.	Send Melanie McLearn position paper template.
3.	Connection to Community/Safe Shelter	Lucy and Carol were invited to today's meeting as "experts" to provide input how to shape/direct moving the work forward on "connection to community". Kathy provided an overview of how the poll at Council, related to poverty issues, resulted in safe shelter and connection to community being identified as advocacy issues. There is currently a lot of work underway on safe shelter	

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	<p>and we do not want to duplicate that work. This resulted in discussion around the importance of social connection.</p> <p>Much discussion ensued with regards to the need for supports being in place for someone experiencing homelessness and the need for community connections; teaching the community how to come together to support anyone at risk eg. Habitat Humanity Grey Bruce. Being able to house someone and wrap around them to help them make successful decisions, benefits the community in the long run. When someone has an address they can apply for benefits/work - make money, pay taxes, put money back into the community.</p> <p>An education piece around connection to community is needed, starting internally first; some agencies know each other but we don't always know what other relationships a person may have outside our own organization. Assist Coalition member agencies to make connections to work together better, support people, then community advocacy eg. i.e. neighbours. Kathy suggested a journey map to see how many Coalition members a child/youth/family interacts with in a day/month and why - present to Coalition for input where connections can be made. Could bring lived experience to the Coalition eg. how many agencies have interacted with the person.</p> <p>Discussed understanding the root causes what brings people to homelessness/poverty.</p> <p>James spoke about asset based community development which had been presented to the Coalition four years ago and the possibility of doing some professional development to help members look at what we can do better collectively.</p> <p>We could become the leaders in community development and building strong communities, develop/nurture potential assets in the community; increase awareness of connection to community.</p> <p>Bridges out of Poverty is an initial step to understanding the experience of people who struggle with low income and we could build on this. Lucy spoke about a Telus grant to put together a speaker's bureau. A symposium of youth was also suggested.</p> <p>In a "culture of lack", what are the guiding principles? Hold our members accountable and have a truthful conversation are we collaborating, how to do better.</p>	

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		Connection to community and addressing social isolation as determinants of health and what research there is on how the impact of having a strong connection to community impacts health, was discussed (Grey Bruce/RentSmart, City of Orillia Strategic Plan, Wellness Index).	Carol will look for relevant research.
4.	Advocacy Group Mandate and Membership	<p>Lucy confirmed she will join the Advocacy Group. Carol will advise if she is able to join this group.</p> <p>Kathy reviewed some of the work of the Advocacy Group. It was questioned if we know if anyone has actually used the position papers.</p> <p>The Advocacy Group can support other advocacy work going on as long as it is in scope of the Coalition. It was suggested doing a presentation to some of the other tables.</p> <p>The Advocacy Group will continue to maintain current monthly meetings so as to not lose momentum.</p>	Julie to check the website analytics.
5.	Next Steps	<p>Discussion will take place at Executive around doing some professional development for members re education/awareness to help move connection to community forward and possibly having someone with lived experience attend. Need to determine breadth of training i.e. staff members as well as Council members?</p> <p>Other suggestions included having a facilitated training experience at each meeting, touring other agencies prior to a Council meeting and giving Coalition Claps when an agency is living one of the values of the Coalition.</p>	

Next Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2020, Barrie Common Roof, 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie