

**ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 16, 2020**  
**10:00 – 11:30am**  
**Barrie Common Roof, 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie**

<b>Attended</b>	<b>Guests :</b>	<b>Regrets</b>
Suzanna McCarthy (Co-Chair) Kathy Manners Julie McAlpine James Thomson		Lucy Gowers, Youth Haven Sarah Papple (Co-Chair) Lesley Watts

<b>Item</b>		<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	Approval of Minutes: February 10/20		
2.	COVID-19	<p>Suzanna and James updated on their current operational situation related to the COVID-19 situation.</p> <p>A discussion took place around asking Coalition members what the impact is on their individual agencies at next week's Council meeting i.e. what are the issues, what can the Coalition/Advocacy Group do to help. This discussion would take the place of the Hot Topic. It was suggested the Council meeting take place virtually and videoconferencing platforms were discussed.</p> <p><u>Brainstormed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creation of a One Pager with an update from all organizations what their operational status is</li> <li>• Collect a list of social media groups - publish list for service providers to share with their clientele. Members send us what they see on Facebook and share on our website. (Needs to be vetted by Advocacy first.)</li> <li>• Organizations have food pantries - maximize pantry shelves. How can we support them to stay open - can we mobilize as a Coalition, put together packages to make deliveries?</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coalition could offer an Urgent Needs Fund for its members. United Way Simcoe Muskoka has an urgent Needs fund - likely will see an increase in requests.</li> <li>• Mental health walk-in clinics are closed. Is there a phone number for people to call re anxiety?</li> <li>• Shared service opportunities - if offices are closed can we use people in other ways? What resources can member agencies provide during down time to help especially re gaps in system. Cross pollination of agencies.</li> <li>• Mobile some Coalition resources to help Health Unit eg. drive-in assessment centres; remove some of the burden off hospitals.</li> </ul> <p>A list of advocacy discussion items for Council were created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Contract Targets</li> <li>• Fee for Service</li> <li>• Contract staff - advocate for EI insurance</li> <li>• advocacy for smaller agencies losing revenue</li> <li>• what are the advocacy issues surfacing that need support</li> <li>• what are the essential services, how do we keep them open eg. food scarcity - closure of food pantries</li> <li>• closures and impact</li> <li>• connection to community - how communities can help each other; some groups advertising through FaceBook eg. Barrie Families Unite</li> <li>• Collective response from the Coalition eg. shared resources, Urgent Needs Fund</li> <li>• How to support agencies to respond to, or enhance their capacity.</li> </ul> <p>For the next Advocacy meeting will discuss what we should be sharing as a Coalition; what are organizations are doing ie coordinated list of what is open/closed for member agencies.</p>	<p>Suzanna to bring forward to Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>Add COVID-19 Advocacy Response to next agenda.</p>
2.	<p>Position Paper: Safe Sleep</p> <p>The Safe Sleep Practices for Infants position paper, created by Melanie McLearn, was reviewed. No input was received from the Health Unit due to the impact on them as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>The paper will be taken to Executive for recommendation to Council. Some Fast Facts still need to be included</p> <p>Kathy reported there is a new advocacy Issue to be considered. EarlyON is getting \$250,000 less funding this year. A position paper will be created.</p>	<p>Take to Council after approval by Executive.</p> <p>Kathy and Julie to add Fast Facts.</p> <p>Suzanne to reach out to Christine at EarlyON</p>
3.	<p>Connection to Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from Executive Committee</li> <li>• Pulse Poll</li> </ul> <p>We had spoken about going down a more education/awareness route in relation to Connection to Community. With the current COVID-19 situation, we will have to leave this on the agenda for future planning. This could be a case study how well we did this during the pandemic.</p>	

Item	Minutes	Action
4.	<p data-bbox="235 121 646 147">Website Analytics-Advocacy Page</p> <p data-bbox="751 121 1644 207">Julie provided the results from the analytics on the number of hits to the Advocacy page. It was noted that people had access to the position papers before they were posted on the website.</p> <p data-bbox="751 245 1262 331">To March 12th: 4 views out of 273 (1.47%) February: 5 views out of 461 total (1.08%) January: 14 views out of 297 total (4.71%)</p> <p data-bbox="751 368 1665 454">A suggestion was made that a link from the home page to the position papers could be added. Members could also be reminded to use their social media account to promote the papers.</p> <p data-bbox="751 492 1665 605">A discussion took place around asking members to engage in an annual satisfaction survey. We do ask members to complete an exit ticket after each Council meeting. We also recently conducted a Value for Service poll through the Member Relations Officer.</p>	
5.	<p data-bbox="235 612 373 638">Next Steps</p> <ol data-bbox="751 612 1644 727" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get position paper for Safe Sleep out.</li> <li>2. Connect with Christine Vanderbyl re EarlyON's decrease in funding</li> <li>3. Recommend to Executive that a discussion take place at Council on the Corona virus.</li> </ol>	

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2020, Barrie Common Roof, 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie**