

**ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, January 20, 2019**  
**10:00 – 11:30am**  
**Barrie Common Roof, 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie**

Attended	Regrets
Sarah Papple (Co-Chair) Kathy Manners Julie McAlpine James Thomson	Suzanna McCarthy (Co-Chair) Lesley Watts

Item		Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome/Introductions		
2.	Review of Minutes: November 18, 2019	Reviewed ok.	
3.	Advocacy Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Shelter/Connection to Community</li> <li>• Safe Sleep</li> </ul>	<p><b>Safe Shelter/Connection to Community</b></p> <p>It was noted at the November Council meeting that members feel Safe Shelter does not need additional advocacy support and attention should be given to Connection to Community which links back to safe shelter.</p> <p>A discussion took place on what a connection to community looks like. When this is lacking, the experience of poverty is greater. When there are housing issues, connecting to neighbours, community, supports are affected. All agencies are dealing with not having access to proper housing, not just homelessness, how people are housed eg. living in motels, rooming houses, etc.</p> <p>Social capital and developmental assets, creating a connection to an individual, and creating healthy communities was discussed. There are some groups out there now that support this eg. library, EarlyO N, CAPC. How can we create more opportunities for people to connect and create more connections?</p>	

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	<p data-bbox="751 120 926 147"><u>Position Paper</u></p> <p data-bbox="751 180 1373 207"><b>Target Audience:</b> membership of Coalition, funders</p> <p data-bbox="751 240 1646 362"><b>What:</b> As a Coalition and a community, seeing lots of emphasis on trying to get housing but the main gap/breakdown in the system is connection to community. Without permanent housing, families lose the opportunity to build connections so at risk of falling deeper into poverty.</p> <p data-bbox="751 394 1654 545"><b>So What:</b> What are the advantages to reducing the effects of poverty by being connected to your community: feel connected, safer, less police/CAS involvement, monetary benefits by not moving people, transition trauma (every time kids moves, loses half year of schooling, relationships), relieving some of the burnout of service providers.</p> <p data-bbox="751 578 1661 699"><b>Now What:</b> Educate/promote what is currently out there supporting connections to community, look for programs/spaces to add more community connection, create spaces conducive to connecting to community, collectively support connection to community, keep people from moving around.</p> <p data-bbox="751 732 1661 911">What can organizations do to build knowledge on the importance of connection to community, support programs in the community: work better together to promote/encourage/create new programing, get funding, educate each other on what's happening, promote each others' programs and look for more opportunities for connection; ask others (funders) to join in on the conversation i.e. banks, Trillium.</p> <p data-bbox="751 943 894 971"><b>Fast Facts:</b></p> <p data-bbox="751 976 1623 1032">How many EarlyON, CAPC locations/program are out there? What we are doing as a Coalition? Tell each other what we are doing.</p> <p data-bbox="751 1065 1667 1243">Connection to community could be a strategic direction. Melanie also suggested a social media campaign. If we could map out where everything is, get funding, develop an app/map. Create a sense of a "village" within Simcoe County for kids/families to connect to their community better. Coordinate a funding application on behalf of the Coalition. Organizations are doing a bit but collectively, it could be very powerful.</p> <p data-bbox="751 1276 888 1304"><b>Safe Sleep</b></p> <p data-bbox="751 1308 1640 1422">A recommendation was made by the Coroner in 2016 for the Coalition to undertake an awareness campaign on safe sleeping as a result of an infant death. This was not an issue that came from the Pulse Polls but is an unfinished recommendation that needs to be actioned.</p>	<p data-bbox="1696 152 1919 180">Present to Council.</p>

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	<p>This may still be on the radar of some agencies but if this is trending down, we need to consider what effort is needed i.e. position paper or awareness campaign through the Coalition or specific agencies.</p> <p><u>Position Paper</u></p> <p><b>What:</b> There is a lack of awareness in infant safe sleeping. This can be a result of not being able to afford or have access to a crib/bassinnet.</p> <p>Action: fundraising, collaborative work (maybe include in the strategic plan)</p> <p><b>So What:</b> tracking of safe sleep data (coroner's report), include stats, number of infant deaths in Simcoe County .</p> <p><b>Now What:</b> Increase awareness/bring about more community awareness, possibly raise funds for an awareness campaign, link information to Coalition website.</p>	<p><b>Post Meeting Update:</b> An update will be given at Thursday's Council meeting that a position paper is being created to close the loop. Ask for information/data/actions around safe sleep.</p>
5.	<p>Preparing written submissions</p> <p>The government is looking for help with next iteration of consultations re ending poverty. The PRTG is going to complete the survey and do a submission and asked if the Coalition should send a collective response. A decision was made that this will be send out through the weekly updates.</p> <p><a href="#">poverty reduction strategy consultations</a></p>	<p>Send survey out in weekly updates for organizations to complete on their own behalf.</p>

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2020, Barrie Common Roof, 165 Ferris Lane, Barrie