

COALITION COVID-19 UPDATE MEETING

Thursday, April 9, 2020

12:30 – 2:00pm

Videoconference

MINUTES

Attended		Regrets	
McLearn, Melanie/SMFC (Chair)	Harris, Jim/New Path	Adams, Linda/Waypoint	Leworthy, Jocelyn/Gilda's Club
Cousins, Claudine (Vice Chair)/ Empower Simcoe	Kennedy, Joan/Seasons Centre	Berard, Mandy/Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag	Lutes, Aaron/Gilda's Club
Greenwood, Kimberley (Past Chair)/ Barrie Police	Junke, Rosslyn/United Way	Bernard, Sylvia/La Clé	Mansell, Tracy/Kerry's Place
Bergin, Michelle/CFSSC	Levesque, Yves/ CSC MonAvenir	Carney, Patrick/SMCDSB	McKeeman, Liz/New Path
Blue, Danette/MCCSS	Manners, Kathy (Coordinator)	Carter, Tracey/Child Advocacy	Nielsen, Hanne/SCDSB
Clarke, John/Mackenzie Health	McAlpine, Julie (Recorder)	Collins, Joy/NSM LHIN	Norris, Michael/CS Viamonde
Dooley-Phillips, Geraldine/SMFC	McCarthy, Suzanna, John Howard	Croteau, Gerry/Gilbert Centre	Papple, Sarah/Orillia Library
Forget, Laura/BANAC	Mink, Danielle, Georgian College	D'Ambrosio, Lora/County of Simcoe	Sandy, Theresa, BANAC
Gowers, Lucy/Youth Haven	Schroeder, Alison/Barrie Public Library	Eisler, Karen/CTN	Shoreman, Carolyn/SMDHU
Grdisa, Valerie/CMHA	Vanderbyl, Christine/EarlyOn	Fisher, Michelle /211	Simmons-Physick, Chris/Kinark
	Watson, Mary Jean/SMDHU	Hirstwood, Karen/Catulpa	Smith, Shirley/YMCA
		Jackson, Brenda/BANAC	Sontag, Kim, NSM LHIN
		Jeffery, David /Chigamik	Thomson, James, New Path Foundation
		Lacky, Nicole, RVH	Vallis-Page, Christine/E3 Watts,
		Leduc, Rhonda/Elizabeth Fry	Leslie/Catulpa
			West, Kelly/Kerry's Place

Thank you to Catulpa for allowing the Coalition access to their Zoom account.





Item	Status	Action
1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	Members were encouraged to turn on their cameras to see each other. Melanie reviewed videoconferencing etiquette and tools. Julie did a roll call.	
2. COVID-19 Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMDHU Mental Health Social Support Task Force 	<p>COVID-19 Updates</p> <p>Melanie advised there were some specific reports to be presented and that others will have the opportunity to provide updates later in the meeting.</p> <p><u>Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)</u></p> <p>Melanie acknowledged the great work being done by the Health Unit and Mary Jean Watson provided an update on the impact of the pandemic at the SMDHU</p>	

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	<p>which included the current cases in Simcoe County and provincially. It is projected public health measures will be in place for a prolonged period of time, possibly for 18 months to two years and spoke of the ramifications on the community.</p> <p>Many SMDHU staff have been redeployed to assist with the Health Connection line. The Health Unit continues to provide vaccine clinics, Healthy Babies Healthy Children services via phone, case identification, self isolation support and quarantine management. Services will be assessed based on length of time and expected waves.</p> <p>Mary Jean responded to questions regarding COVID-19 screening measures for health workers and the waves of the pandemic. It is expected the peak of the first wave to hit in the summer and hopefully next waves will be lower.</p> <p><u>Mental Health</u> Jim Harris provided an overview related to child and youth mental health including the Ministry of Health's release of Roadmaps to Wellness document, funding from the provincial government to expand online and virtual mental health supports and to hire psychologists and other mental health workers to support the OPP. This funding will also be used to expand services such as BounceBack, Kids Help Phone line, online CBT services including support for front-line health care workers, and training for brief CBT-based interventions.</p> <p>Jim also spoke about the main providers involved in the effort with the Centre of Excellence related to a provincial COVID-19 response.</p> <p>Jim also advised the Ontario Health Team for Specialized Populations, Mental Health and Addictions Working Group, with its first focus on children and youth mental health, will be meeting April 17th.</p> <p>Jim reported that New Path is providing services remotely. Walk-in service is still being provided through call-in or intake. They have seen increased uptake in the last week. Offering same day sessions. Brief service has no wait list; there is a wait list for family/youth therapy counselling. The treatment home is operating well.</p> <p>Valerie Grdsia added that if they were to receive a ministerial order related to the addictions/mental health sector they will need a redeployment strategy to support other sectors. They are offering critical essential services which may not necessarily be meeting the needs of community partners. They are in the process of developing an approach if they need to redeploy staff.</p>	

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		<p>Michelle Bergin updated that Catholic Family Services has transitioned to remote services and is continuing to support all registered clients, and the Partner Assault Response Program. They will be providing same day call-in counselling services through a 1-800 # and some on-line workshops on self-care, social media/impact. They are exploring how to offer video calls.</p> <p><u>Social Support Task Force</u> Alison Shroeder from the Barrie Public Library provided information on the City of Barrie's Economic Support Task Force and Social Support Task Force. The Barrie Library is connecting social agencies with businesses that have donated items with the exception of food which is going through the food bank. Contact the Barrie library for information on accessing the Social Agency Hub. The biggest bottleneck is getting business aware this is available.</p>	<p>See Resources below for flyer. If you have something to share, connect with the Library.</p>
3.	PPE and Supplies for Local Health Care Providers/County of Simcoe	<p>Homemade masks were discussed as there are some groups keen to help make these. Only medical masks are being used in hospitals. Homemade masks can be used as an additional measure for protection when physically distancing in the community.</p> <p><u>Post Meeting</u> - Mary Jean advised there is a provincial website that can be accessed to apply to.</p> <p>The Barrie Library is doing 3D printing of headbands for face shields and making clips for masks if anyone can use these. Mary Jean referenced some cautionary information related to 3D printing which she will try to get.</p>	<p>See Resource Section on last page of minutes.</p>
4.	COVID-19 Member Issues	<p>The results from the poll last meeting related to the concerns organizations are facing due to COVID-19, were reviewed. The poll was launched again today resulting in the same top three issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety of Staff/People Supported 2. Communication to External Clients and Community 3. Physical Resources and Supplies <p>Technology and Human Resources concerns have a minor increase.</p> <p>A question was raised with regards to how things are going at the temporary shelter in following the COVID guidelines.</p> <p>Lucy reported youth from Youth Haven have been moved to a local motel along with David Busby and Elizabeth Fry clients to minimize the risk of COVID-19 and to exercise social distancing. They have been purchasing supplies; lacking hand sanitizer and only have a small supply of masks. Food is now being received through the food bank. They are taking every step to minimize risk for staff and clients.</p> <p>Roz provided an update on the work being done by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness re resources, best practices, etc., monies being provided to</p>	<p>Mary Jean to follow up on this.</p>

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	<p>women and children's crisis centres, and staffing pressures on people supporting the emergency shelters. Funds seem to be coming into the community and they want to make sure these are being coordinated so not duplicating efforts. Also aware of the impact on children who were receiving support through school breakfast programs and are trying to address this gap.</p> <p><u>Post Meeting Addition to Minutes from Mary Jean Watson:</u> SMDHU response to homelessness during COVID-19 Pandemic: Our Emergency Management Team is working as part of the community planning for this. County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka are leading with moving homeless to hotels. A final guidance document was developed and just posted to the website.</p> <p>UWSM is continuing its Emergency Fund in partnership with 211 and are looking at connecting with people remotely/virtually. Access to phones, computers is a barrier for low-income families. Working with Ontario Works around assessment criteria, discretionary dollars.</p> <p>Geraldine reported child welfare is noticing a drop in referrals which is concerning and spoke about addressing the risks related to increased online exploitation, violence partner, neglect, lack of basic needs. Geraldine called out to child/family service partners to come together in a small group re how to collectively pool resources around this and give reassurance to the community. They have partnered with the police and will reach out to some others to come together to plan re this.</p> <p>There has been some help through the Covid residential relief fund for some kids in care with complex needs. Continuing to provide services 98% remotely. They have had good technology donations/support for families so can keep connected.</p> <p>Danielle Mink provided an update on Georgian College. Courses are being done remotely and have worked hard to get technology to students so they can finish their courses on line. Increased stress is being supported by counsellors providing telephone supports and accessibility advisors. They had a backlog of 200 students for food locker program and have continued by giving gift cards. In Barrie, they have partnered with food bank services. School boards have providing technology and will be dispersing laptops to some families. Schools have reached out to some families who need additional supports.</p> <p>Danette reported on the Residential Relief Fund announced this week providing \$40 million for resident service providers with MCCSS in respect of pressures delivering services in residential settings. There will continue to be annualized</p>	<p>See Resources below for links.</p>

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		<p>funding based on last year's funding which can be applied flexibly in light of the pandemic. Service Providers will not be held to existing service targets; address greatest needs. Exceptional additional costs include: staffing, residential respite for caregivers, supplies, PPE, costs re physical distancing (eg. hotels), transportation, other costs organizations may identify. They are still working through the specifics of the application process.</p> <p>The Health Unit is looking to have information on technology/policies are being used by community partners for services</p> <p>The issue of lack of access to technology by our vulnerable sector was discussed last meeting and work has been taking place with the Advocacy Group. Issues related to privacy when using devices/platforms are a concern. It would be helpful to gather any resources related to what applications members are using, including successes and pros/cons.</p> <p><u>Post Meeting Update:</u> Seasons Centre for Grieving Children continues to be available to families and the community, through phone and emails. They have been sending activities and caregiver tip sheets to families on their group nights and have been posting support ideas and children's activities to deal with stress on social media. Next week, they will be offering virtual support groups to adults via Zoom.</p>	<p>MCCSS programs to direct questions to Program Supervisor.</p> <p>Send information to Julie/Kathy.</p> <p>Share resources with Kathy/Julie</p>
5.	Member Resources: Need/Share	<p>Needs:</p> <p><u>Youth Haven:</u> hand sanitizer, face masks.</p> <p>We will continue to have this item on the agenda but members can reach out to Julie/Kathy to get out earlier through the weekly updates if necessary. send out more frequently with wekey updates if needed.</p> <p>Melanie suggested looking at a way to pull together around basic needs and . consolidating a list to support families.</p> <p>Melanie and Lucy both shared good news stories.</p> <p>Melanie once again thanked all our healthcare workers as well as front-line staff for human services acknowledging their challenging work during this time.</p> <p>In place of an Exit ticket survey, a poll was taken for members' feedback on the meeting. Everyone reports finding these meetings helpful and plan to continue participating.</p>	<p>Contact Lucy Gowers</p>

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<p>Resources</p>	<p>Home Made Mask Information: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/activities/announcements/covid19-notice-home-made-masks.htm</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Child Advocacy Centre SM Online Acti </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Social Support Task Force Flyer.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  SCC_COVID19_SIGN_ SERVICECANADA_CO OUTREACH_ENG_V6.pVID19_SIGN_OUTREAC </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p>http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/covid-19-public-health-guidance-for-shelters-weba1eee75f97be6bc38c2dff0000a8dfd8.pdf?sfvrsn=2</p> <p>http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_homeless_shelters_guidance.pdf</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/covid-19-unconventional-manufacturing-personal-protective-equipment.html</p>	

Next Update Meeting: Thursday, April 23, 2020, 12:30 to 2:00pm