


ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 20, 2020

10:00 – 11:30am

Videoconference

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

Item		Minutes	Action
1.	Approval of Minutes: March 16/20	Moves by James Thomson, seconded by Suzanna McCarthy that the minutes of the March 16 th , 2020, Advocacy Group meeting be approved.	
2.	Safe Sleep Position Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMDHU Revisions 	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has some revisions to the Safe Sleep position paper. The revisions were discussed and no concerns were noted. The revised document will be taken back to the Executive Committee for direction on how to proceed as the initial paper had been approved by Council. The suggested process is to identify the document as a revised version and have it approved at Executive.	Take to Executive for direction re process when revisions to position papers are received.
3.	COVID-19 Advocacy Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free WIFI hotspots • Digital Access 	<p>At the last meeting we had discussed looking at how to assist with access to the internet, cell phones/tablets for vulnerable or low income people/families.</p> <p>Julie and Kathy compiled a list of locations in Simcoe County where free wifi is accessible and will post this on the Coalition Resource webpage. Roz Junke also provided Suzanna with a contact from a legal clinic re digital access projects in other counties and Suzanna will be following up with them Wednesday and will bring information back to the group.</p> <p>Kathy will followup with a contact from Lakehead who was attempting to loan the hospital 15-20 ipads for patients to connect with families. If the hospital can't use them, Kathy asked her to come back to her as there may be agencies of the Coalition that could use them. Georgian College and school</p>	 Simcoe County WiFi Free Resources.pptx

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		<p>boards may have some resources also. Suzanna also spoke about connecting with Telus after the Legal Clinic as this is where CAS' phones came through.</p> <p>Lesley spoke about the challenges people are experiencing trying to access assistances. 211 is a good resource and Service Canada has Service Navigators but not everyone has minutes on their phone.</p>	
4.	EarlyON Funding	Suzanna reached out to Christine Vanderbyl who advised the media mis-spoke and there was no cut to their funding; therefore no advocacy is required.	
5.	Food Insecurity	<p>An email was received from Christine Bushey, SMDHU, around household food insecurity and the effects of COVID-19 likely resulting in even more people struggling to put healthy food on the table. There was a request for advocacy from the Coalition that during this time people have the money needed for adequate, healthy, culturally appropriate food.</p> <p>Some of the support people are getting right now is more than they would normally and this shines a light on inadequate funding and may improve the "Basic Income" conversation/platform.</p> <p>PRTG is at its capacity and unable to take on extra planning but there is a meeting this Friday to talk about a coordinated effort and who has what capacity to offer. It would be a great opportunity to focus on what's out there, what is missing and what can be done to respond to gaps.</p> <p>A discussion took place around how to advocate around this including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an infographic for donations - where and what the need is i.e buying power of the food banks • education - persona stories - judgement of parents going out with their children • coordinating some of the food services/reallocating funds (Eat Well to Excel) to support a breakfast hamper to address the gap for families who relied on the school snack program • volunteers not all being utilized - seniors more vulnerable but college/university students coming home to no jobs, could they be mobilized, create a packaged volunteer role (need to consider liability) - shop/deliver food • collecting data for a case for Basic Income <p>Food banks were discussed. There are equity issues by location. There is a gap in Coalition membership from the food banks. They may possibly have some infographics and could be a good resource for this. They are also good</p>	<p>Bring forward to Friday's PRTG meeting.</p> <p>Kathy to follow up with Food Council.</p>

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		at getting things out to people. Michelle Marchand is also a good connection re the Food Council.	
7.	Next Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask Executive Committee how to utilize some of its reserve funds 2. Bring discussion to Friday's PRTG meeting. 2. Bring Food Insecurity forward to the next Advocacy agenda. 3. Talk with 211 re volunteer hub - is there a better way to coordinate them right now. 	Suzanna to followup.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2020