

## ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

10:30 – 12:00am

Videoconference

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

Item	Minutes	Action	
1.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b> May 11/20 June 15/20</p>	Lucy chaired the meeting in Suzanna's absence and shared her excitement to be involved in the great work of this group. The minutes from May 11 <sup>th</sup> and June 15 <sup>th</sup> were accepted as received.	
2.	<p><b>Advocacy Group Co-Chair</b></p> <p>Lucy has accepted the position of Advocacy Group co-chair, which was approved by Council, replacing Suzanna who is taking on the co-chair position for IPT. Suzanna will remain as a member of the Advocacy Group. We have not heard from Sarah since the pandemic started and are unsure of her availability to continue as co-chair and remain on this table.</p> <p>Lucy, Suzanna, Kathy and Julie will meet in September around the Advocacy Group and co-chair role.</p>	<p>Email Sarah to confirm if continuing as co-chair/member.</p> <p>Julie to schedule meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>COVID-19 Advocacy Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDH Survey Results</li> </ul>	<p>The results from surveys being taken at Council meetings on the Social Determinants of Health during Covid-19 were reviewed and discussed.</p> <p>Concerns were raised this was more of a "snapshot" and based on perspectives. A tool that focuses on a specific area of impact e.g. mental health would be more meaningful. It would also be more relevant if the clients' voices were also included.</p>	<p>Recommend to Executive to discontinue survey and look for a better way to capture SDH.</p>
3.	<p><b>Digital Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Position Paper</li> <li>Championing Access to Technology</li> <li>Funding Program: Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Program</li> </ul>	<p><b>Digital Access</b> <u>Position Paper:</u> As a result of the pandemic, it became apparent that not everyone had access to digital Wi-Fi, especially those experiencing low income (this was an issue even before COVID-19). Suzanna made a connection with the legal clinic in Thunder Bay who were doing some advocacy work around this and they created a position paper for us. The position paper was more from their</p>	<p>Suzanna, Kathy and Julie to work on position paper then take to Executive to bring to Council.</p>

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	<p>perspective and needs work before we can use take it to Executive and Council for approval.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the impact member agencies are seeing with regards to a loss of contact with some clients, assumed to be related to technology issues. A suggestion was made to have a discussion at the next Council meeting around technology and its impact on the people they support.</p> <p>Questions (dialogue) to take to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What % of people served by your agency are negatively impacted due to insufficient technology (i.e. no tech or poor connectivity)</li> <li>• % of services that have shifted to virtual due to covid19 and challenges encountered</li> <li>• what post COVID-19 virtual services are you considering</li> <li>• what skills, resources are needed in the future (skill set) - consider possible skill development opportunities through the Coalition</li> <li>• capacity for virtual services (for people using technology)</li> </ul> <p>Some additional suggestions including following up with a more detailed survey re people's needs, offering a Hot Topic on the shift to technology/ virtual meetings.</p> <p><u>Funding Program: Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Program:</u> The criteria and eligibility for this funding was reviewed and discussed. It is unlikely we can apply for this as we would need to partner with a Technology Champion to work with us to apply before the August 21<sup>st</sup> deadline and would also need Coalition approval. It was suggested using this as a guideline to apply for the TELUS Community Fund in the future. Chief Greenwood and New Path Foundation would be great resources for this.</p>	<p>Recommend a Hot Topic on technology and services to Executive.</p> <p>Consider applying for TELUS Community Grant related to digital access.</p>
4.	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer Coordination</li> <li>• Basic Income Advocacy</li> <li>• SCATEH-Recovery for All Campaign</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><u>Volunteer Coordination</u> James reached out to Michelle Fisher who was going to take it back for discussion. Still awaiting a response.</p> <p><u>Basic Income Advocacy</u> SMDHU requested the Coalition's endorsement of a letter of support for Basic Income. A letter of support and position paper was created and approved by Council. Both were sent to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. A response confirming receipt of the documents and that they are being forwarded on to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development was received. The position paper is posted on the website.</p>	<p>James to follow-up and advise outcome.</p>

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		<p><u>SCATEH-Recovery for All Campaign</u>            Lucy spoke about the Recovery for All Campaign at the last Council meeting and invited members to sign up. Lucy provided an overview of the campaign and about the related impact of trying to find housing for clients as they transition out of the motel model.</p>	<p>Send link out to members  <a href="http://Recoveryforall.ca">Recoveryforall.ca</a>.</p>
5.	Anti-Oppressive Framework	<p>A Coalition anti-black racism statement was created, approved by Council, and added to the Coalition's website. During this process, some members voiced concern about the lack of recognition around the oppression of indigenous people, especially within Simcoe County. The development of an anti-oppression framework to include individual statements, specifically for indigenous people in collaboration with our two indigenous member agencies, was suggested.</p> <p>Advocacy members discussed there are many groups facing oppression and we need to be clear which groups we are developing a response for. The Coalition has always had a specific focus on francophone and indigenous communities. Our Simcoe County profile looks at diversity by culture which could assist with identifying other groups to address.</p> <p>It was felt it was a good idea for the Coalition to have a framework. There are many examples on the internet. Michael Bowe is also another good resource and a request has been made for him to join the Integrated Planning Table. Building on our values around the importance of being respectful of everyone in our community, being inclusive and working as best we can to meet everyone's needs, was also suggested. A suggestion was also made for an annual refresher on how to commit to working from an anti-oppressive lens; how to build this capacity with the Coalition.</p> <p>A recommendation will be made to Executive for the creation of a statement for the indigenous population to be created with our indigenous partners, followed by the development a higher level framework/guideline.</p>	<p>Take recommendation to Executive for IPT to take on creation of a framework.</p>
7.	Next Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow up with Sarah re intention to continue as Co-Chair.</li> <li>2. Schedule a meeting for Co-Chairs, Kathy and Julie.</li> <li>3. For September Executive meeting:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recommend discontinue SDH survey, look at other tools</li> <li>• recommend IPT take on anti-oppression framework</li> <li>• Hot Topic on Technology and Services</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. James to follow-up with Michelle re volunteer opportunities.</li> </ol> <p>Lucy did a quick check in on Advocacy members' wellbeing.</p>	

**Next Meeting: September 21, 2019**