

ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2020

10:30 – 12:00am

Videoconference

Attended		Regrets
Lucy Gowers, Chair	James Thomson	Suzanna McCarthy
Kathy Manners, Coordinator	Lesley Watts	
Julie McAlpine, Recorder		

Item		Minutes	Action
1.	Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 19, 2020 	Moved by James Thomson that the minutes from the October 19 th meeting be approved.	
2.	Digital Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter Campaign 	<p>The Digital Access letter that was drafted to be sent out to MPPs by individual members of the Coalition was reviewed and the content approved. The goal is to promote this letter to our membership and have them go to the Coalition website and click on it to send a copy to the MPP on behalf of their organization. How to do this on the backend still needs to be figured out.</p> <p>Lesley advised she received information from Public Health that speaks to the inequities that exist which cause vulnerable individuals to be disproportionately affected by COVID-19. It includes an engagement kit that individual organizations can use with their own social media platforms.</p>	<p>Lucy and Julie to investigate how this can be accomplished.</p> <p>Lesley to send information to group. Julie to share with Coalition members.</p>
3.	Connection to Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position Paper Council Facilitation Questions Linkage to Community Safety Plans 	<p>Connection to Community</p> <p><u>Position Paper</u> The Connection to Community position paper was reviewed and with some minor edits, approved</p> <p><u>Council Facilitation Questions</u> The Executive Committee approved a discussion at the November Council meeting, facilitated by the Advocacy Group, on what Connection to Community means to organizations individually and as a Coalition.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the facilitation questions to be asked and the need for collective buy-in by the membership. The “Now What” section of the</p>	<p>Julie to make edits and format to one page.</p>

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	<p>position paper outlines some actions that could be taken. Members to look inside and outside of their own organizations how to connect the people to the community. What can the Coalition do to support the process and what would it look like. Want to get a baseline of what people believe are the key elements of connection and how to impact connection as organizations and as a Coalition collectively.</p> <p>Lucy, with the assistance of Lesley and James, will provide Council members with an overview of the work being done on Connection to Committee which includes the creation of a position paper as well as reaching out to MP/MPPs. Emphasize want to do something in an urgent and positive way to bring on the conversation. A conversation will take place with members to talk about what individual organizations are doing to connect people to the community, followed by a 15 minute breakout session to discuss what the Coalition should be doing. When members return to the larger group, will reflect on the discussions that have taken place. Members will be asked to take the information back to their organizations and a final discussion on how to proceed will take place at a future meeting.</p> <p>Discussion ensued around organizations' accountability. The issues agencies are dealing with that prevent them being available to provide ongoing services or remain open will also be discussed during the Council meeting i.e. challenges and barriers and how the Coalition can help support them. Being a receptive community, having a COVID-19 pathway, being able to move resources to where most needed and service providers in a class system (service inequity) were also discussed.</p> <p>Kathy advised the Anti-Oppression framework is going to Executive with recommendation to strike an ad hoc group with key participants and a March 21st deadline. A person from Lakehead is interested in participating in this work.</p> <p><u>Linkage to Community Safety Plans</u> John Clarke had suggested making this linkage as he sits on the Barrie Community Safety Plan committee. Karie Warnar gave a presentation to Council on the Simcoe County Plans. It would be timely to get an update on where the plans are at.</p>	Kathy will follow up with John and Karie.
4.	<p>MPP Roundtable</p> <p>Jill Dunlop had previously reached out to Melanie McLearn, as Chair of the Coalition, with regards to setting up a meeting which ultimately did not occur due to scheduling issues. Kathy called Jill Dunlop's office and spoke with her scheduler (jacqueline.bayley@pc.ola.org) who would be happy to schedule a January meeting. We need to be clear on what the outcomes expected from this meeting are.</p>	

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		<p>The chart with a list of Simcoe County MPPs and MPs was reviewed. A discussion ensued as to what type of meeting we envision i.e. all candidates, COVID-19 issues, and whether to open it up to all Coalition member.</p> <p>A decision was made to invite Jill Dunlop to meet with Advocacy members, provide her with our position papers and respond to her questions. The position papers are indicative of what are members consider key issues based on polls taken at Council. An agenda with key discussion items will be created closer to the meeting. This will provide us the opportunity to build a relationship with her; we would be an excellent resource for her, providing access to 40 organizations. Council members will be made aware of this meeting should they want to connect back to us on Advocacy issues.</p> <p>We will try to schedule the meeting with Jill Dunlop for the January 18th Advocacy Group from 10:00-11:30pm if this works for Claudine Cousins.</p> <p>A discussion took place around wanting to forge a relationship on the Federal side also. Lucy spoke about attending a round table discussion with John Brassard and will reach out to him re his interest in a meeting. If he is not available, Doug Shipley could be an alternative.</p>	<p>Lucy to discuss with Executive.</p> <p>Julie and Kathy to schedule meeting with Jill Dunlop.</p> <p>Lucy to reach out to John Brassard first, then Doug Shipley if necessary.</p>
5.	Letter from Minister Hussen	The letter from Minister Hussen was in response to the Coalition's letter to PM Justin Trudeau, DPM Chrystia Feeland and Minister Moreau re Basic Income and was sent out as an FYI.	Add back to agenda if a meeting with MP/MPPs occur.
6.	Next Steps/Meeting	<p>Take Connection to Community, meetings with MP/MPPs for information/relationship building to November Council meeting.</p> <p>Reach out to John re Community Safety Plans.</p> <p>The next Advocacy Group meeting is scheduled the week of Christmas on December 21st. Members agreed to not change this date and will meet as scheduled on the 21st.</p>	

Next Meeting: December 21, 2020