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**Youth Engagement Core Group**

**Minutes**

**September 5, 2012, 3-4:30 p.m.**

**The Common Roof (165 Ferris Lane), Barrie, ON**

**Present:**

Pamela Thorne (UP program with CMHA), Sarah Stea (YMCA), Deb Woods (Coalition Coordinator), Kristina Veenstra (Coalition Executive Assistant and recorder), Brendan (UP Youth Leader), Chenoa LeCaille (BANAC), Aleta Armstrong (CMHA), Lisa Cluett (New Path).

**Regrets:**

Noelle Bickle (consultant ), Sandra Mawby (CONTACT South Simcoe), Kristi Pitkin (Simcoe Community Services),Laurie Nicholson (Simcoe County District School Board), Kara Thomson-Ryczko (Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit), Jessica Wolfe (City of Barrie), Cathy Barlow (United Way), Alicia Henry (E-Fry), Amanda Meawasige (BNFC), Pauline Robillard (La Cle), Richelle Vorsiuk (CAS).

1. **Welcome and Introductions** roundtable introductions were done including background and initiatives Aleta leads as Manager of Community Awareness including Suicide and Anti-Stigma. Lisa Cluett, supervises youth home and youth engagement for New Path. **ACTION: Lisa to e-mail the Art of Youth Engagement book to members for their information.**
2. **Youth Engagement Core Group: who we are, where we came from, how we fit into Coalition (Terms of Ref, The Art of YE harvest documents):** documents distributed prior to meeting.
3. **What we mean by youth engagement (video)**: projector not available for today’s meeting. **ACTION: Kristina to book the projector, screen and speakers for our October 3 meeting.**
4. **Brainstorming Groups over the summer (review results)**: Four brainstorming youth groups ran over the summer; copies of the results were distributed for information and discussion. Pamela and Sarah engaged youth to run these groups and walked through the results: language, age groups, format of open ended questions, judging youth, communication of services available, clarification and correct information from teachers re services in the community. The biggest message learned from the brainstorming is that it is important that youth know someone and able to approach someone to get the questions and services they need; human contact, relationships are the most important to youth; physical environment less so. Agencies need to connect more effectively with the school boards (i.e. COMPASS). Need help business cards were distributed for information. **ACTION: have the Youth Engagement video come to COMPASS groups. Group mentioned that youth would prefer another form other than a business card; a florescent (green, pink, black, orange) bracelet with a USB was very positively received; Kristina to obtain quotes and maybe do the help cards in this format via SSLI.**
5. **Shadowing Project:** Sarah explained the process out of the brainstorming sessions: to have students brought into an agency/organization to gauge how youth friendly it is. This can be done by shadowing staff or into a program to see how it is done. This could be one full day and see what they are doing well or not doing well and providing feedback. Brendan provided feedback: have an online and paper options for the feedback or interview following , which may be more impactful. Training would be provided ahead of time for the youth before going into an agency/organization to ensure they are comfortable, understand elements of an agency/organization, what youth need to be mindful of, does an adult need to be there to help and facilitate (maybe have them both train one another – learning on both sides), it was felt that staff should not be told why the youth is visiting, provide options to the agency/organization of what the youth can do during the shadowing. **ACTION: Lisa to forward standards to the group for information and to help develop guidelines for youth doing the shadowing.**
6. **Next Steps:**
* **Training for youth going into the Shadowing project:** start with one group of 8-10 youth in Barrie from several schools; Lisa to train. Start with one agency and pilot. **ACTION: the shadow training “manual/blueprint” needs to be developed; what do youth need to know before shadowing in an agency/organization in a youth friendly way; utilizing the standards and brainstorming results.**
* **Consider connection to the Anti-stigma Task Force:** discuss this possibility as both groups are moving in similar directions on some areas for children, youth and their families. **ACTION: Deb and Aleta to connect on options.**
* **Deb to contact Cathy Dandy at Kinark as well to join this group.**
1. **Next meeting:**

Wednesday, October 3, 3-4:30, The Common Roof (165 Ferris Lane, Barrie)