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**Youth Engagement Core Group**

**Minutes**

**April 17, 2013, 10-12 p.m.**

**YMCA, Barrie, ON**

**Present:**

Sarah Stea - Chair (YMCA), Deb Woods (Coalition Coordinator), Kristina Veenstra (Coalition Executive Assistant and recorder), Tracey Burnett-Greene (SMDHU), Lia DePauw (CAMH).

**Regrets:**

Aleta Armstrong (CMHA), Noelle Bickle (consultant ), Alicia Henry (E-Fry), Kara Thomson-Ryczko (SMDHU), Chenoa LeCaille (BANAC), Cathy Dandy (Kinark), Amanda Meawasige (BNFC), Josee Lefavre (La Cle), Kristi Pitkin (Simcoe Community Services), Nancy Stratton (City of Barrie), replacement for Richelle Vorsiuk (CAS), Jennifer Summerfield (SCDSB), Shelley Generoux (BNFC), Lisa Cluett (New Path), Melanie Cooper (United Way), Pauline Robillard (College Boreal),.

**Guest:** Natasha Manzone, BSW Laurentian Student (with Coalition until May on an internship)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** no replacement for CAS provided as yet; need to follow up with members to see who is still interested in participating.
2. **Discuss the principles in depth and finalize:** Last meeting members went through the principles last meeting and today we are to finalize these. Members referred to the minute notes from the principles discussed in February.

Youth engagement principles as follows:

1. **Inclusiveness:** this is a value of the YMCA already; remove barriers, including economic; $ commitment for e.g. transportation; time away from paid employment; social determinants of health, LGBT.
2. **Positive Youth Developments:** healthy adolescent framework (Y); asset development (Devel. Assets); use framework that works for you; youth engagement = a tool to help develop positive framework.
3. **Accountability:** job description, clear outcomes and methods; accountable to youth; feedback at many points; youth accountable also, clear expectations; adult ally provide feedback to youth.
4. **Operational Practices:** organizations readiness; policies and procedures to support youth engagement; mind shift of adults and youth = partners; SCS youth retreat planned by youth but supported by adults; mutual learning; Y adult mentors and youth; interview prospective new staff Y – Skill development, see from other side, employment seeking skills; less face to face time now a-days; peer to peer Youth Quest at Y; sharing experience, presentation, work on tobacco; value youth contribution – not token (e.g. co-decision-making) – pay them, gift cards, giveaways, community hours, awards, certificates.
5. **Strength-Based Approach:** ID needs, build on strengths; skill development, training; opportunities for feedback; focus on what youth are good at, development skills through training, build self-esteem (conferences, workshops); using youth strengths; self-reflection, confidence builder; kids breaking into cars example – now used as an expert for police consultation.
6. **Flexibility and Innovation:** challenges of social media (e.g. HU). Y allows twitter but not Facebook – control issues for organizations, liability, school boards and cell phone rules, what’s rude/what is not, always on cell phones.
7. **Space for Youth:** caring, supportive, safe; HU – own phone, office, desk, computer etc.; welcoming – how received at organization, staff know names.
8. **Transparency:** clear re purpose, keep in the loop; youth friendly approaches e.g. World Cafes, snowball opinions, voting with sticky dots etc.
9. **Sustainability:** plan for maintaining youth engagement efforts; HU – not able to pay for youth efforts – change on Hart’s Ladder.
10. **Cross Sector Alignment:** Coalition = asset; can help energize efforts.
11. **Collaboration:** knowledge and resource sharing.

**ACTIONS: Lia to provide more principles (OPHEA) for additional consideration and comparison;** [**www.getpluggedin.ca**](http://www.getpluggedin.ca) **is a resource. Once finalized these will be sent out via e-mail or teleconference for final vote so we can move forward.**

1. **Review the Readiness Survey Results**: Members reviewed the survey results. There is one percentage that can be used for the presentation to Council. **ACTION: Deb to follow up with The Centre of Excellence and/or Lisa Cluett regarding obtaining the raw data.**
2. **Schedule with April Planning Table and May Council agendas:** due to timing the group booked May 14 Planning Table meeting (Sarah and Tracey to attend from 2-2:30 p.m.) and May 23 Council meeting as the Hot Topic for 45 minutes with break out and discussion time. **ACTION: Kristina to add to the agendas. Look for agreement to have these principles as something every Coalition member aspires to; starting the dialogue and good timing as the Coalition is moving into the planning of their next Strategic Plan.**
3. **Understand TIP more effectively and what their expectations are for this group:** Lia spoke to the group about TIP and clarified questions.

Provincially the System Improvement through Service Collaboratives (service collaboratives) are one of 21 projects under the Ministry of Health strategy that is being rolled out. The first 3 years are focussed on children and young people’s mental health and addictions. The Service Collaboratives look at access to services and supports within a mental health and addictions system in a specific community with an eye to, identifying and closing gaps within systems. SISC is using Implementation Science and evidence based practices.

Initially, the Service Collaborative was intended to focus on Penetang but agencies here wanted to work together as a region. This is why we have the Simcoe-Muskoka Service Collborative, while other Service Collaboratives focus on a specific community (e.g., Hamilton, London, Kingston, etc.). The Service Collaborative was initially made up of mental health and addiction agencies as the SISC project focuses on this system. The Simcoe-Muskoka Service Collborative has been connected to the LHIN’s Steering Committee on mental health. The Simcoe-Muskoka Service Collaborative coordinated by the CAMH office in Penetang. Waypoint and a children’s mental health agency will eventually become the champions for the Simcoe-Muskoka Service Collaborative.

The Collaborative in Simcoe/Muskoka chose to focus on improving access and quality of services for transitional aged youth. TIP (Transition to Independence Process) was selected as the evidence-based practice for Simcoe-Muskoka. This model has resulted in positive outcomes among youth with emotional and behavioural difficulties in the United States. Rather than focussing on the emotional or behavioural problem, TIP focused on the goals of the young person for their future and works with them to reach these goals; which often means addressing emotional or behavioural issues that may get in their way. Outcomes have been very good.

The TIP Pilot is working in Barrie and Midland. The involved agencies come from the mental health and addictions sector as well as other sectors (like Youth Justice, schools, employment, CAS, etc.). The idea is that we are able to pay for the TIP trainers to come first and then have a train the trainer model across Simcoe/Muskoka. There will hopefully be networks that use TIP as an approach that can connect in their community and regionally to keep efforts to improve service access and quality flowing.

There is a clear fit between the goals of the Coalition and the current work to implement TIP in the region. Firstly, a great number of the people involved in the TIP training are Coalition members. Secondly, TIP includes a focus on youth and family engagement which are also priorities for the Coalition. TIP fits in very nicely with youth engagement due to the strength-based approach and is very empowering.

In keeping with the TIP model, the Simcoe-Muskoka Service Collaborative will work with TIP-trained agencies to increase youth engagement at the individual, agency, community and regional levels. So far, the CAMH staff in Penetang have coordinated a youth summit along with community partners. The report from this summit will be used to tailor the TIP model to our region. It will be shared with agencies soon. A family engagement summit may be developed one in Barrie and one in Midland as well in the coming months. Agencies will also be supported to look at ways they can incorporate youth engagement. **ACTION: Lia asked us to support TIP and to attend the training in the Fall. She will also take things from this group back to the working group and evaluation team so we can continue to collaborate and not duplicate work from a youth engagement viewpoint. CHEO may come back and do more training in our community.**

1. **Look for video of youth engagement:** members watched some of the rants from the youth that participated in the “Talk Back Summit” done by the Centre of Mental Health and Addictions (thanks Lia) to utilize in our Council presentation.
2. **Discuss the presentation to Council:** to be used as the Hot Topic for approximately 45 minutes with break out groups and discussion/questions.
3. **Next meeting (3rd Wednesday of the month):**

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 10-12 p.m., The Common Roof (165 Ferris Lane, Barrie). **ACTION: Kristina to send out notice to all members and book a room.**