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**Youth Engagement Core Group**

**Minutes,**

**December 10, 2013, 10-12 p.m.**

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

**Present:**

Tracey Burnet-Greene (SMDHU, Co-Chair of this group), Lia DePauw (CAMH), Deb Woods (Coalition Coordinator), Sarah Stea (YMCA, Co-Chair of this group), Kristina Veenstra (Coalition Executive Assistant and recorder), Nancy Snow (Catulpa), Amber Shaw (E-Fry).

**Regrets:**

Aleta Armstrong (CMHA), Noelle Bickle (consultant ), Chenoa LeCaille (BANAC), Cathy Dandy (Kinark), Amanda Meawasige (BNFC), Laurie Nicholson (Simcoe County District School Board), Nancy Stratton (City of Barrie), Jennifer Summerfield (SCDSB), Shelley Generoux (BNFC), Lisa Kalfus (New Path), Kristi Pitkin (Simcoe Community Services), Nancy Smith (United Way), Josee Lefavre (La Clé).

**Guests:** Courtney Evans, Sarah Holden – Laurentian BSW Students.

1. **Introductions and welcome**

Members introduced themselves and discussed the youth engagement programs and initiatives their organization is involved in. Members discussed youth employment initiatives and honorariums. Most do have process and may be able to pay youth at approximately $12/hour. Some instances gift cards are provided depending on the organization and situation. CAMH hopes that organizations will work these into their budgets for youth. Community hours may not be counted if youth are paid so sometimes gift cards are preferred.

Welcome to our guests Courtney Evans and Sarah Holden from Laurentian who are observing the Coalition to research youth development, engagement etc.

Members discussed the member list and possibly having to change the date from the 3rd Wednesday of the month 10-12 p.m. to accommodate members moving into 2014. **ACTION: Some members are unable to attend starting in 2014 on Wednesday mornings. Members felt moving to the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10-12 p.m. would work.**Deb spoke to the group that she and Kristina may not be able to continue to support this group after January 1, 2014. They are moving to 21 hours per week. Secretariat will be informing Deb and Kristina soon on their priorities starting January 1.

Minutes from October 16 were approved as circulated with change to the Catulpa second last bullet. **ACTION: Kristina to redistribute to members.**

1. **Updates from Members:**

**CAMH:** LHIN has provided more funding for TIP training and TAY-SOS support. An e-mail will be distributed to organizations to get involved. TIP additional two days training has been moved from December to January with a total of 35 seats available. There are 9 organizations on track with Implementation Plans (via Implementation Science) and many more organizations trained thus far. A new position is beginning to work in Muskoka for a few months. **ACTION: E-mail to be distributed shortly. Kristina to provide this information to Crown Wards Executive Committee.**

Transitional Aged Youth (TAY-SOS) was discussed and the motion to have this as part of the Coalition as a “network”. They also have a youth engagement group and it may be beneficial for these two groups to have a joint meeting to discuss work plans and vision due to lack of resources. Members have been asking Kristina for information on how the TAY-SoS may work in conjunction with TIP and for information on upcoming training.

**YMCA:** hiring for Youth Outreach Worker position full-time for newcomer youth in Simcoe County. They are also working with CAS working with youth from transition out of care.

**Coalition:** Deb spoke to the Supporting Resilience for youth as one of the new themes of the Coalition Strategic Plan. This may be something that this group should be aware of as Youth Engagement will likely fall under this theme. **ACTION: Copies of the final plan to be distributed to this group for information.**

1. **Review Survey Responses re: Youth Engagement Principles**

Copies of the responses document and Youth Engagement Principles were provided to members for information. These principles were presented at the Coalition Council meeting held in May. Council members were to take them back to their organizations for response. Deb put all the responses in one document and members discussed last month and continued this month. There are many other member organizations who have not responded (there are 11 received out of 40 possible). Members discussed the possibility of going back out to members for more responses and/or revising the questionnaire to make clearer. The group would like to have more indication of what the gaps are in Simcoe County and what are some successes so we can share with everyone. Most issues were financial impact and lack of resources to run youth engagement programs. We have to be sensitive also to members who work with kids with complex needs and the need for family buy-in requirements and asking the right questions to get the answers we need as it is the belief that all children know what they want. **ACTION: Nancy Snow to look at DSO requirements for Person Centred Planning at Catulpa. We need to research definitions of youth engagement and bring them back in January to place in a continuum with different levels. Definitions to go to Tracey and Sarah for a draft. Members discussed that it may be a good time to have a youth participating at this table. Kristina to resend the questionnaire to this table for redistribution.**

1. **Review Updates to Resource List on Youth Engagement:**

Members discussed the idea of a resource list on youth engagement to be distributed to members including websites, manuals etc. **ACTION: If anyone has any further resources that may be of interest to Coalition members on Youth Engagement, please provide to Sarah and Tracey as soon as possible. Sarah and Tracey to draft a list and post for continuous changes and updates. This can eventually be posted on the Coalition website.**

1. **Terms of Reference:**

Copies of the Terms of Reference from March 2012 were distributed for review. Members discussed the need to revise the Terms of Reference for this group. There is no definition of Youth Engagement in the Terms as yet. Deb spoke to the 4 new themes of the Coalition Strategic Plan:

* An inclusive, integrated service model across system of supports and services for families, children and youth. **SYSTEM INTEGRATION**
* Resilient children and youth in Simcoe County. **A COMMON FOCUS: RESILIENCE**
* Strategic priority projects are identified, successfully implemented and sustained. **ENABLING ACTION TO PROMOTE CHANGE**
* Advancing evidence-based knowledge and practice for continuous improvements. **DEMONSTRATING OUTCOMES**

Youth Engagement will be included in much of this plan. Members need to figure out resourcing, training and honorariums as they are the biggest stumbling blocks. **ACTION: All members are comfortable with the purpose statement in the Terms but need to include the new strategic plan themes, next year’s work plan and dates. Discuss next year’s work plan (SWOT analysis) at the January meeting.**

1. **Next Meeting (3rd TUESDAY of the month):**

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

10-12 p.m.

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