******

**Youth Engagement Core Group**

**Minutes,**

**July 3, 2013, 10-12 p.m.**

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

**Present:**

Tracey Burnet-Greene (SMDHU, chair), Lia DePauw (CAMH), Nancy Smith (United Way), Jessica Davis (student, United Way), Deb Woods (Coalition Coordinator).

**Regrets:**

Aleta Armstrong (CMHA), Noelle Bickle (consultant ), Alicia Henry (E-Fry), 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), Pauline Robillard (College Boreal), Lisa Kalfus (aka Lisa Cluett from New Path), Sarah Stea - Chair (YMCA), Josee Lefavre (La Cle), Kristi Pitkin (Simcoe Community Services), Kristina Veenstra (Coalition Executive Assistant and recorder).

1. **Introductions and welcome**
2. **Background on Youth Engagement Core Group** Tracey updated new members Nancy and Jessica on work of this group: originated in Centre of Excellence two day workshop on Youth Engagement, focus groups of youth summer 2012 to surface issues for youth in accessing services, review of literature on youth engagement principles and development of power point on our own list of principles which was presented by co chairs Tracey and Sarah Stea from the Y to Coalition Planning Table and then Council in May. Very well received, Council members agreed that youth engagement brings value to youth, their agencies, and the community and pledged to review principles with their staff and ask how well they are realized in their organizations. Invited to participate in provincial conference November 18 with New Path staff. **Action:** Deb will connect Sarah with Lisa Kalfus (Cluett) at New Path re potential role at conference.
3. **Healthy Living program at Health Unit** has used youth engagement principles since 2005, Tracey has done in-service training, produced manual, healthy schools grants, anti-tobacco program led by youth. Has learned you can't assume all staff "get it" even if organization is committed ie need refresher, look at youth engagement as something you can pursue through your partners.
4. **Next Gen at United Way** Nancy recently moved from Homelessness Partner Strategy to Community Impact and has been overseeing Next Gen since March. Four projects funded $1500 each (New Path, RVH, Chigamik, SCS). Jessica is student intern reviewing paper work, application, deadline process. Sept call with 6 week deadline, funding through school year available for 15-17 year olds. Contributes community volunteer hours for high school students, student needs connection to organization. Theme of healthy living. Next Gen youth council reviews proposals. Jessica also associated with Canadian Community Economic Development Network which promotes social entrepreneurship workshops where youth learn how to help non profits increase revenue to meet their missions. **Action:** Nancy and Jessica to get new Next Gen grant info to Kristina Veenstra for distribution through Coalition (**kristina@simcoesountycoalition.ca** )

United Way also operates Eat Well to Excel breakfast/lunch/snack program in every school . Two coordinators, volunteers deliver program with help of youth; high schools and elementary.

1. **TIP (Transition to Independence Process)** Lia reported on the TIP program supported under System Improvement through Service Collaboratives by CAMH, part of provincial three year focus on child and youth mental health strategy. Gap identified for Transition Age Youth (TAY)14-24 ish in our area. Building system of care for this group, using implementation science framework, trained 100 providers from 20 agencies in Simcoe Muskoka. Part of TIP is youth and family engagement. YE group forming which includes many Coalition members. July 16 meeting. Trillium grant will help support additional training for youth and families, self help alliance. TAY network across Simcoe and Muskoka. Gave input into YE Core Group YE principles.
2. **Next steps for Youth Engagement**
* CEOs of Coalition member organizations will be reminded in a summer memo to take YE principles to their organizations and bring feedback to Council meeting in September
* YE Survey: may re-survey organizations after they have had a chance to explore YE principles (original survey prior to Centre of Excellence workshop). Should coordinate with the TAY YE group
* Resource List: Core Group could research useful tools for Coalition organizations to use: YE policies, frameworks, manuals, program planning checklist (update Council presentation later this year or next?)
* YE Summit: share what's working: AM could do Centre YE training (Lisa), include youth advocacy training for adults (Health Unit); share best practices; student to document (United Way?)

**7) NEXT MEETING Wednesday September 18 10-12, Common Roof 165 Ferris Lane Barrie.**