

**Community Youth Initiative**  
**MEETING NOTES**

*Tuesday June 23, 2020, 1:00-3:00*

*Location: Cyberspace (Zoom)*

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**In attendance:** Sue P (Chair, RNJ), Greg F (Co-chair, Brockville Police), Marg F (EKIOC), Tom F (Brockville Police), Victoria R (Connect Youth), Emily F (Brockville Public Library), Louise M (UCDSB), Don L (UCDSB), Michelle N (CDSBEO).

1.0 Review and additions to agenda – no changes

2.0 Review of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes – no changes, nothing for discussion

3.0 Minutes

Shared the poster that was created by Jeremy. Discussion on the 12-18 age range. Decision to keep it at 18. Maybe “CAS” and “CMHLG” should be changed to be clearer. Remove “CALL US NOW” Marg to note the changes and have Jeremy make the changes. What about adding 211? Part of the issue is that some agencies aren’t keeping their info up to date. Usage for 211 is low right now. Some work needs to be done on the 211 service. Also changes to CAS phone number. Great job Jeremy! Changes will be made prior to sending out to the group for distribution within the community.

Reaching out to youth was discussed for this group. We do not believe anyone has any active youth engagement groups. Does anyone want to work at bringing the youth engagement groups together? Marg will follow-up with Lorena re: Kristina H. possibly working to pull the groups together.

Library – program staff member is back at the library now and things should be happening in the very near future. LGBTQ2S+ will be a huge focus.

Don – funding announced from the ministry about higher needs student engagement. Exact plans how it will look across the board will come out in the next while. Will likely be a focus on reengagement of those students we really need to focus on in preparation for back to school.

What will the fall look like for school? Most boards are still in planning process. Boards have to have plan back to ministry by Aug 2 (plan a,b,c etc). Hybrid approach is likely at this point, given COVID numbers, re-opening stages, etc. 30-40% of kids will be allowed to be transported, which creates a huge challenge. We will really need to focus on the social piece/reintegration regardless of what plan is adopted. We are all in the same boat across Ontario. Regardless of what is planned, there will still be a parent choice as well to choose whether or not their kids return to school.

Activity Project update – application went into UW last week. There are a few more questions to answer. Eighteen agencies who have indicated interest are participating. There has been an increase in

social media presence, ie kids sharing posts and photos, etc. If we don't get the grant we only have one more week to go. We received a donation from Brockville soccer club – 50 soccer balls and online soccer lesson. Donation from Making Play Possible for sports equipment. BBBS coordinated an online dance class. A few other neat things happening. One of the challenges is trying to spread the word around these activity kits. Posters have been created and posted. Please share! If able to get activities to Hope (RNJ) sooner than later it would be great.

Police – still not a huge uptick in youth crime. With restrictions easing and hot weather, wait and see how the summer months go.

MDS – Tom F. had conversation with Counc. Wales re: discussions with the City. Jen Adams now back in harm reduction role. Shelter is closing/closed. We anticipate calls for service increasing for some of the homeless population.

Connect Youth – update. Two emergency apartments are now funded through UCLG for youth. We also have a private donor that funds longer term rentals. Numbers have been busy. Apartments are always full. Service Canada Reaching Home Grant had extra funding. Applied with RNJ/EEC as a collaborative. Approved for 2 more apartments in Brockville. The hope is to have apartments for August 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 through to March 2021. Hoping to hire a coordinator to keep things going. Reminder that the youth program goes up to the age of 25.

Michelle – Wanted to let everyone know that Sue GIFF (CDSBEO) passed away. Very special to many, many people. She will be missed by everyone.

Co-chair role – Don Lewis has agreed to step into the role of co-chair. Sue will send Email about it and try to solicit another co-chair. It would be a worthwhile effort of the group to go over our successes and reminder of the amount of work that we have done so far.

Roundtable – no discussion!

NEXT MEETING – July 7, 2020 Sue to send invite.

Next meeting theme - Looking back, looking forward.