

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

*Friday May 1, 2020, 1:00-3:00*

*Location: Cyberspace (Zoom)*

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**In attendance:** Sue P. (RNJ Youth Services; chair), Greg F.(Brockville Police; co-chair), Lorena C. (CMHLG), Jeremy Z. (YAC), Michelle N. (CDSBEO), Marg F. (EKIOC), Tawnya B. (Health Unit), Erin Lee M.(FCSLLG), Laurie B-M(ARCC), Victoria R. (Connect Youth), Louise M.(UCDSB), Cameron W(City of Brockville), Harold H.(Volunteer Centre), Jane H. (Health Unit), Don L (UCDSB), Rob A. (YMCA), Trish B. (United Way).

- 1.0 Review and Additions to Agenda – Approved
- 2.0 Review of March meeting notes – Approved, no discussion.
- 3.0 Minutes

Info sheet. Is it worth it? Are people actually looking at poster boards? Who are we directing people to? (Rob Nolan is a good resource through the City of Brockville, Economic Development). 211 is also a good resource – must ensure it is up to date. We cannot, however, put “50” organizations on one sheet – it would be far too cumbersome. Three resources could be posted (211, Health Unit, EKIOC).

Marg – the social media list has been updated. Almost 100% of the info is complete and up to date. Thank you to everyone who provided us with the info. We need to remember to share each other’s social media info.

CMHLG – Ministry is wondering why local referrals are down, but continue to promote Kids Help Phone instead of local programs and services. We must continue to promote each other’s services locally. Access to a means of contact is still an issue. Kids don’t always have a means of reaching out – this is where the schools have generally played a significant role.

Action Item – Jeremy (with Marg and Sue) will work on drafting an info sheet. Marg will help with communication and suggested we continue to reach out to municipal staff as they have been sharing links and helping to provide information. Remember, sometimes we have to post things several times for people to bite.

YAC – “Only in Brockville” Instagram – reach out to the person who runs this site as they might have a better chance of connecting with youth through this platform.

Cam – A living document with contact info is good, but it must be easily digestible. The issue would be too many links and difficult to navigate. Maybe look at changing the layout to allow people to figure out what each group does.

Marg clarifies that this list was originally meant for partners; however a list could be tweaked and expanded for a larger audience if there is an appetite for this.

Health Unit – will look into whether or not their graphic artist has time to draft something. How do we want this to look?

ACTION – discuss how we can make this list user-friendly. Maybe look at linking this list somehow to the info poster. Encourage partners to ensure their information is up to date on 211.

Moving Forward – this group must focus on what activities for youth will look like, and how we can work together going into the summer months. We need to address the immediate needs and pressures on youth, whereas EKIOC can discuss the overarching impacts on each agency.

RNJ – things like the Stingers After School Program, park pop-ups, etc. are not going to look the same moving forward. We need to reach out to BBBS, Girls INC, etc. to see how we can work together.

Virtual classrooms were brought up. These could be used for activities, etc. however tech and supplies are recognized as being an issue. There is money (and interest) available within the community that can be tapped if we have a plan. With that said, is this even of interest to youth??

Do we have contact info? Can we solicit youth and get their input on how they want things to happen?

Cam – Also, just try something and see! You might even access or pick up new youth.

Louise – It's all about relationships – these kids want to see those faces they are familiar with and to have those face-to-face connections.

CMHLG – positive feedback from youth on their virtual forum. There could be options for peer support moving forward. We must also recognize and prepare for a whole new group of youth who we never thought of before – those youth who used to be involved in organized sports or activities that are now unable to participate due to emergency orders and restrictions.

Cam – the problem will be where to send youth who are involved in unstructured activities. There are many unknowns about what will be permitted so we cannot plan specifics... but we need to plan something.

Marg – we must focus on what's happening with youth now, and programming moving forward.

Rob A. – discussion has to happen surrounding the blending/joining of resources. We cannot avoid those sustainability talks at this table. We will need to figure out how to reach youth in a very unconventional way because it's likely going to be a long time before we see things open up again.

Trish – It will be how we as a group can collaborate in terms of stabilization. Where does everyone stand over the longer-term plan? Maybe look at using graduate students to explore recovery planning moving forward.

Rob – If we created a template we could start plotting numbers, and look at how agencies can combine if they cannot function separately.

EKIOC will be having these talks about service delivery over the short, medium and longer term.

Sue P – is there anything in particular we need to look at or plan for with kids being out of school for 8 weeks?

Lorena – we need to expect and plan for a “tsunami” of MHA problems in the near future when things start to open up. Many kids have access to phones and computers, but not always access to private space and/or face-to-face connections.

Don – can an initiative of this group or EKIOC be to look at ways to communicate where those in need can go to access support?

Next Meeting Date & Time determined by Doodle Poll

....and the winner is.....

**Tuesday May 26, 2020 from 1:00pm-3:00pm – via ZOOM**