

Community Youth Initiative
MEETING NOTES

January 10, 2020, 1:00-3:00

Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville
438 Laurier Blvd. Brockville

In attendance: Sue Poldervaart - RNJ Youth Services; Greg Francis - Brockville Police; Erin-Lee Marcotte - FCSLLG; Jennifer Labelle - Health Unit; Lorena Crosbie - CMHLG, Trish Buote - United Way, Rob Adams - YMCA; Jeremy Zeran - YAC; Lis Meyer - EEC; Victoria Robertson - Connect Youth; Alison Inglis - UCDSB; Tom Fournier - Brockville Police; Don Lewis - UCDSB; Jane Fullarton - BBBS

- 1.0 Review and Additions to Agenda – No changes
- 2.0 Review of Dec 13, 2019 meeting notes – No changes
- 3.0 Review of Work plan:

Youth Activities and Programming in the Community

Follow up with Don Lewis and Emily Farrell re Calendar – have not had a chance to connect. The idea is to have a variety of activities and nights for youth to access. Sunday night is still a gap for youth.

Action: Emily and Don to connect to form subcommittee.

Discussion: Lorena was asked if it is possible to use Making Play Possible (MPP) funds for a group of kids, for example music lessons instead of individual kids going in and applying for a specific activity. There is an advisory committee on this. Definitely worth further discussion. There is an ebb and flow for funds depending on where it comes from. Transportation can be included in the funds, taxi, gas cards, etc. MPP is in good shape right now. Sue asks about ideas and what activities we could use it for. Can we tailor something for the Stingers ASP, the YMCA, the library, etc.? There is plenty of appetite for more than just physical sports...definitely a place for the arts. Sue referred to the Youth Let's Talk Survey – lots of different activities that we can explore based on youth feedback. Transportation is still identified as a barrier and would be good to get funding for.

Rob indicated that youth feedback has told them that free Wi-Fi, safe place, food are the most important. Would be nice to have discretionary cash to go get what they want when they ask for it. What avenue would we be accessing this funding? The YMCA, this table, EKIOC? Sue Kennedy has guidelines to operate within so decisions aren't arbitrary, but lots of flexibility. One question, should it be the same night or different nights as Tuesday and Friday? Can connect as an organization or as a group...

Jane F. – submitted for Trillium grant for a drop-in program at the library. Emily provides space, BBBS provides staff and meal. Occurs on Wednesdays. On the days they don't have drop-in they

still attend the BBBS office to grab a bite to eat. The idea of the grant is to grow up to five times a week, part of the funding would go towards the Stingers program. Two BBBS staff members would be committed to the Stingers program. A possible schedule would look like Monday at office, Tuesdays would support the Stingers ASP, Wednesday at library, Thursday would have a program at RNJ office for drop in, another time during the week would be a pop-up ie dance, karaoke, etc. Fridays would be 2:30-5:00 so as not to overlap with any other program. Asked for 200K + over 3 years. Activities are generally unstructured. The kids that usually drop in are not the same kids that fit in to the structured events. Average age is 11-14. Rob indicated there are some youth that show up at 3:00 and wait for 4 hours until the facility (YMCA) becomes theirs. Jane – kids have nothing to do right from the end of school at 2:20. They come right from school because they have nowhere else to go. They know they are welcome at the library. Lorena – Thursdays are youth engagement at CMHLG, something to be mindful of. Jane – one of the points of the drop-ins is geography, we want the locations to be where kids live and can easily access, not all in the south for example.

Stingers ASP registration – felt by staff that it wasn't a huge barrier now as staff have taken steps to alleviate the problems. Also talked to Andrew about Fair Notice as discussed.

Advocacy and Transportation

Discussion: School day start time – Alison continues to speak with people about the issue. It is likely far bigger than something we might be able to shift as a group. Erin Lee - might be worth a letter or other advocacy right now. Start times for school is difficult. Is this a opportunity to engage with the trustees. The current time table goes against everything we already know about adolescent development.

Action – as a group we should approach the trustees. The decision has been made to keep times the same, but we can also ask if that has been carved in stone. Transportation costs are contributing factor. A decision was made to write a letter. Jane also suggested getting on agenda to speak with trustees to engage with them and ask in person. You will get more of a response in person. (Erin and Marg to be involved, *also to involve some of our youth voice*).

Discussion: Marg – transportation. Met with Cameron and Nathalie Lavergne. Asked what conversations have been had about public transit and youth. Answer...not a lot. The suggestion is to make an ask – i.e. free passes, passes to a specific event, regular discounts, etc.. Bring the “ask” to the City and the Youth Advisory Council. Action – put something in writing. Reach out to surrounding municipalities as well. Reach out to youth and ask what their perception of public transit is in Brockville.

Jennifer – consider other forms of transportation i.e. bicycles. Could this question go out to youth?

Jeremy - Is there a way to link your student card to the transportation system. Don - The cost of the student card is still barrier though.

Rob – if transportation isn't on the radar at city hall, would like to know what IS on the radar for youth at city hall?

Action: Alison – can we find a municipality somewhere else in the province that has the same need, being getting the rural kids into activities, etc.?

Marg – how can smaller municipalities use their budget money to support activities in larger centers to allow their kids to participate? The more townships see these kids coming in and going to these activities the more will we will see. We need to track and show numbers to present.

Tom – maybe we need to bring activities to the youth instead of bringing them to us as it would likely be cheaper. Talk to municipalities – is it easier to come to us, or easier for us to come to you.

Rob – talking to youth, they are often looking to get somewhere outside of their usual surroundings.

Action: Come up with a transportation advocacy presentation/ask. Invite Matt Locke to this meeting to ask him these transportation questions.

Jane – maybe design a pilot to see about youth ridership and if it would actually be used.

Sue – need for a subgroup to discuss transportation. What other transportation pieces are outstanding.

Lorena – need to think about others we could invite, traditional or not, who would be willing to help out as we are all stretched thin.

Safety

Discussion: Municipal Drug Strategy (MDS) – Community Consultation and information session on what MDS is. Jan 29 Health Unit, registration at 8:30. 9-1130ish. Eventbrite for sign up. Looking for input from youth organizations as that is a big part of the MDS.

Tom – talked about harm reduction with city staff. Liability is an issue. Best to have staff pick them up instead of volunteers for safety issues. Looking to have grant money to hire a coordinator for this. Trying to get private partnerships in place to have boxes paid for. Shelter and youth homelessness is an issue that will require a coordinated effort.

Action – connect with existing areas who have homeless shelters, etc. (Tom?) RADAR - Alison – keep an eye on Planet Youth in Lanark and see how it plays out.

Lorena – Have been offered one day a week with LLGAMH to support youth addictions and mental health – looking at what is the best use of this resource – an addictions AND mental health youth walk-in? What would the group like to see? How best can we shape this service to meet the needs of youth? Money available from CMHLG for training of the addictions and mental health protocol...next step – who would be the right people to do the training. Lorena and Alison to take the lead on this and determine next steps.

Education – Sue to put a call out to see who wants to do this, ie. Facebook live, etc.

Next Meeting – Friday February 21st. Location TBD.