

**Community Youth Initiative
Meeting Notes**

**Friday November 15, 2019 1:00-3:00
25 Front Avenue - Boardroom**

In attendance: Erin Lee Marcotte, Tom Fournier, Emily Farrell, Marg Fancy, Jennifer Labelle, Jane Hess, Don Lewis, Louise Mulder, Greg Francis, Sue Poldervaart

Regrets: Victoria Robertson, Alison Inglis, Shawn Souder, Debbie Blair, Sue Watts, Jane Fullarton, Lorena Crosbie

Notes:

-opening remarks from Sue – keeping it informal, today will be to discuss where we are at and where this group should be going, open dialogue today and to review what is happening in the community right now.

- review of the work plan compiled at last meeting

- Emily, activity calendar, got something on paper over the summer. Not sure how successful it was. Wanted to do a google map overlay. Issues including school age children and fees for the activities. Print version was difficult and crowded. Don – talk of having both versions. Try to tie it to the bus routes. Different things are at different times, locations, etc. and it was difficult. There was a time crunch as well which created problems. This is where youth could be helpful in how to present the plan moving forward.

Sue. Last day of stingers lots of agencies attended which was awesome. It would be helpful to continue to have agencies attend Stingers and continue to advertise and recruit for their programs. Also to attend at the YMCA Friday night youth night. All the youth have to do is show up with their friends and relationships can be formed with adults.

Emily – youth drop in is anywhere from 5-20. Free food is a huge draw, they come in to eat, then leave. Youth are coming in and spending full days on the weekends. They are looking for something to do. Have been some complaints from other customers. Nothing currently in place in terms of programming for the youth. They are in the library on the weekends but with few resources to do anything with them. Jane – why not have the programming come to where the kids are hanging instead of setting up programs elsewhere.

Sue – Jane looking at putting together a Trillium grant to expand programming somewhere uptown, and maybe elsewhere like Prescott. This would be good to look at weekend programming as well.

Next steps – subgroup about coordinating resources for continued youth programming (information gathering). Need to get feedback from youth on what platform would be best to get the word out.

Marg – talking to Rob Adams (YMCA) re: the first night was 40ish kids and second week was 80ish.

Emily – Library has limited capacity to host (30ish kids) due to noise zoning within the library and not wanting to disrupt other customers.

Jane – in talks with TKOK and 4 community conversations are going to happen – if we have some questions/information this might be a good opportunity to gather more info.

Emily – What deters youth from going to certain places? Good question to ask...

Sue - Need to ensure we are filling gaps vs duplicating events

Emily – what exactly is our definition of youth? What is the age range? Broader definition is better.

Tom – City has done work on tree trimming, improved lighting, expanded wi-fi throughout the downtown area. Wi-fi access would be good info to share with youth. MDS, meeting this morning about Harm Reduction. Good progress on harm reduction, needle pickers, education. Police Services Board had been in support of it (passed in June). Cameras at Hardy Park. The drug problem is the worst it has ever been.

Sue – a smaller group has recently come together to do a community VTRA. What we learned was that by sharing information we discovered a lot more that if we weren't able....good things, to make sure the youth we are dealing with all have someone attached to them, we know that communication is key and brings everyone to the table. Everyone has a piece of information that in itself is not big, but when all the pieces are put together we can see a bigger issue that needs to be addressed. There is a need for education on healthy relationships as concerns have come up about sexual activity, HT, etc.

Don – education needs to happen at an earlier age as some of the youth we are dealing with are getting younger. Tom – drugs are a concern.

Emily – could host for public info sessions. Could reach out to other libraries as well.

There is far-reaching access to the Facebook Live forums. Sue – important to have different way to disseminate these messages. Also a need to ensure the youth are accessing the services in a way that they can. Very important that youth have access to those healthy adult connections otherwise they will seek out unhealthy relationships/contact.

Jennifer –what was the impact of those previous messages? Did we see a reduction? Something we should look into before simply putting out another message about Meth. Maybe we should put out a more generalized message that encompasses all the drugs. Tom – the issue with that is we don't want to clump certain drugs together ie cannabis edibles and fentanyl.

Sue – Jane to lead another group on drug education.

Erin Lee – there is a need for a tool for front line workers to access all this information ie drug info, HT signs, etc.

Would be good to gather info on who is doing what in terms of programming.

Don to take the lead with Victim Services on the education piece.

Emily – winter places to be should be something we are prioritizing.

Transportation – Sue P. issue came up about bussing for youth night from the north end of the city.

Jane – discussions have been had. Leigh Bursey is putting it forward that city provides access to transportation.

Marg – review of June meeting – Cam was to take the request of bussing to the task force that was supposed to report in September in order to get it into the next budget. *Marg to follow up with Cam and Jane Fullarton about where that conversation and request stands.

Sue P – After School Program (Stingers) – we have a grant put in. We have funding until Christmas and have a grant that would allow us to run it for a longer period of time in the interim while other groups are figuring out their things. It has been very useful that agencies have been showing up to support. Lots of contributors like library, etc. YJC will be bringing VR to Stingers.

Louise – Terry G started “Google Club”. Kids sign up for a couple activities each time. First time had about 46 kids. Terry will be looking at tapping into different agencies to drop in and mingle and offer support for the program. It just started 2 weeks ago.

Jane – there is money available that hasn’t been tapped. It sounds like there is a need and enough stuff going on to create some sort of “menu” about what’s going on.

Sue – question, what if we can use some of the money out there for a group (ie Making Play Possible) that can be used to sponsor a group of kids to do something as opposed to just one youth to do one activity.

Jane – looking at the ‘triangle’ we need to focus more efforts and funding to the programming piece as opposed to the higher tier.

Sue – there is a place for us to look at the funding. As a collective these is an opportunity to fundraise, etc in a collective way.

Sue – is aware of other communities that have a Youth Outreach Worker.

Sue – addictions services for youth has been an ongoing discussion – still barriers to access services ie waiting in the waiting room, not being able to access services right away. Can reach out to Shawn Sauder who can “make things happen” if this issues comes up.

Emily – not a lot of support/long waits, etc about private health care providers for mental health support. Disruptive for people as it is not always the same person they see.

Sue – so many groups popping up on everyone. Is there a way we can be more efficient and reduce duplication? Is there a need for this group to exist or can we fit this group somewhere else?

Tom – this committee serves MDS prevention pillar. There needs to be this committee to identify the issues and solutions. Is there a need, yes? Can we narrow the focus? Yes.

Emily – there is a need to have a place to have these candid conversations. What sometimes limits us is our want to support clients but the limitation to share info because of confidentiality. Sometimes it is nice to have agreements in order to share info. There is a need to connect people to supports and we need a formalized place to speak freely about individual needs.

Tom – this committee can service multiple purposes.

Jane – the right people seem to be around the table here. There are certain people that Jane only sees here.

Erin Lee – There is a flow up to EKIOC.

Questions about the Youth Justice Committee. What is it? Front line staff talking about the issues.

If there are broader issues we can bring the discussion to the EKIOC table. We can feed back and receive input from all sides.

Marg – still seems very Brockville-centric.

Erin-Lee the “brewing” seems to be most imminent in Brockville.

Emily – has been hearing increases in addictions and mental health at libraries in broader urban centers.

Sue – there is a need to continue this group. Can be fed from all sides and also work with MDS, EKIOC, etc.

Youth Justice Committee – Sue explains what it is. Can we disseminate info on this? Brief history.

Discussion on frequency of this group. Second Friday of every month at 13:00h.

