

Community Youth Initiative

Minutes

April 26, 2021, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Teams Meeting

In Attendance: Don Lewis UCDSB (chair); Tom Fournier BPS; Naomi McNeill Brockville MDS; Robyn Holmes Connect Youth; Sue Poldervaart RNJ Youth Services; Jane Hess Health Unit; Alison Inglis UCDSB; Lesley Hubbard Girls Inc.; Cameron Wales Brockville City Council; Louise Mulder UCDSB; Michelle Neville CDSBEO; Trish Buote United Way; Kim Charbonneau-Speck FCSLLG; Rob Adams YMCA; Victoria Roberston EEC; Margaret Fancy EKIOC

1.0 Review and Additions to Agenda

No additions

2.0 Review of March 15, 2021 Meeting Notes

Approved

3.0 Discussion Items

3.1 Municipal Drug Strategy – Naomi McNeill

Naomi outlined the 5 pillars of MDS. Prevention pillar promotes early intervention, recreation. CYI is already giving some of these messages. How can we work with MDS? Looking for community members around treatment, harm reduction pillars.

What is happening now through CYI and other initiatives?

- Activity Kits Project
- Identifying other opportunities to keep kids engaged
- School Boards offering awareness sessions for students and parents

The voice of youth is needed as part of prevention pillar. Alison commented that this is an opportunity to reach out to older youth.

Jane pointed out that the target audience is broader ... e.g., look at church groups
CYI chair has seat at MDS table

3.2 Youth Homelessness

Robyn reported that from July 1 to the present there have been 98 referrals for youth up to age 25

34 housed in apartment units (2 apartments in Brockville)

Youth are getting into dangerous activity – basic needs items not considered essential

Warming centre now open in Brockville

Kim reported that FCS is seeing the same issues

Transition house is full -- 60 day stay often extended

Also issues in temporary shelter for adults

Brockville Housing Committee

Working with United Counties to provide affordable housing. There has been a long-expected exodus from cities

Brockville Housing Partnership –

Transitional housing and supportive housing

Conversations on shelter vs. housing first approach

3.3 Summer Programming

Rob commented that stay-at-home order may be extended to end of June

Y is looking at programming in other municipalities

Sue commented that Stingers is in the same position

232 activity kits are being distributed every 2 weeks.

Resources are included in each kit

Lesley commented that in person programming is planned for Brockville,

Prescott, Kemptville and Gananoque

Connect Youth -- have funds to purchase an RV to provide services. Looking to partner with other agencies

Need a single platform for receiving/coordinating information.

Jeremy recommended having a central place for kids to go; one account that multiple people can link into

Sue suggested that we can plan what it would look like and be ready when restrictions are lifted.

3.4 Work plan review -- focus of next meeting.

4.0 Roundtable/Other Business

4.1 Chair going forward

Don reported that he will no longer be able to chair this committee due to his new role at the school board.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 17, 2021

Agenda items: