

Community Youth Initiative

AGENDA

August 11, 2020, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Welcome/Introductions

In attendance: Jeremy Zeran Brockville Youth Advisory Committee; Victoria Robertson Connect Youth; Sue Poldervaart RNJ Youth Services; Emily Farrell Brockville Library; Debbie Jonkman FCSSLG; Sonya Jodoin Victim Services; Don Lewis UCDSB (Chair); Trevor Holme UCDSB; Mara Garnett Gananoque Youth Steering Committee; Charlotte Sherwood Gananoque Youth Steering Committee; Lorena Crosbie CMHLG; Chantel Ehler Gananoque Youth Steering Committee; Margaret Fancy EKIOC; Cameron Wales Brockville City Council; Trish Buote United Way LG

1.0 Review and Additions to Agenda

No additions

2.0 Review of July 21, 2020 Meeting Notes

Approved

3.0 Gananoque Update

Chantel introduced Charlotte and Mara who are part of the initiative to bring “a safe space for youth to come to” in Gananoque

Mara is the prospective director for the space.

Chantel reported that the group is looking at the former TR Leger (old MacDonald school). Rent is a little over \$3000 a month.

The group is looking to approach Town Council for funding of a position and possibly space.

Councillor Matt Harper is bringing a motion to Council at the August 11 meeting.

The group is also looking to gain non-profit status

The space would be a hub for youth in the community.

Don reported that the space has 2 classrooms, a glass wall, elementary sized gym, a place to prepare meals and a shower

Trevor reported that intervention plans are in place for the 6 to 12 youth involved in incidents of bullying/harassment. Police have stepped up their presence.

MDS has met with Chantel. This group includes two youth representatives. MDS has been collecting a lot of data around supporting youth as part of prevention pillar. Municipal Council has a rep on this committee. The groundwork has been laid through this committee.

Kim Marshall (Health Unit) has offered to assist with planning support for the group.

Sue suggested that to fill a gap in the short term each community partner could potentially identify offer a piece of support. We need to determine how each can help. She mentioned Stingers as a model for this type of support.

It would be like a Mobile Service Club.

Lorena spoke about the Youth Mental Health Club in North Grenville. It initially isn't bricks and mortar, but a way of working together to address unique needs. She suggested Connect Youth as a group that can link with kids on a neutral turf.

Trish indicated that United Way has a small pocket of funding

Engaging Youth

Sue mentioned that a number of youth surveys have been conducted in the area that could be shared.

Jeremy underlined the importance of getting youth involved and taking a collaborative approach. He suggested a pilot programme, perhaps with designing video games as an initial activity.

Moving Ahead

Sonya suggested that the group needs a plan. Clients need to be surveyed and community information gathered. Rushing will lead to failure.

Sue suggested building on Youth Activities Project by promoting the activity kits in the area. In addition mobile services could be provided with each community partner contributing a piece.

She suggested a calendar of "What's On When" developed by CYI.

There needs to be coordination between community partners and local steering committee activities.

Next Steps

Mara will be the liaison between CYI and the steering committee.

Sue/Margaret will share youth surveys with group.

Chantel will continue to work with MDS to develop a plan.

CYI members will work on a calendar of events/activities for youth

Each CYI member asked to identify what they could offer

Continued promotion of activity kits in Gananoque area
Margaret/Trevor/Sue will attend steering committee meetings.
CYI will continue to look to Brockville for lessons learned from Hardy Park event.

4.0 COVID-19 Response and Planning (deferred)
- other needs/updates?

5.0 Roundtable/Other Business (deferred)

Next Meeting Date: August 25, 2020 1-3
- Agenda items: Next steps from Workplan