



Education, Policy and Programs Working Group

Thursday April 16, 2009, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Host Location: Associated Youth Services of Peel
120 Matheson Blvd. E., Ste 103, Mississauga, ON

Minutes: Charmaine Blair

Present:

Sandra Payne – Associated Youth Services of Peel, Anne Burke-Gauthier – Community Member, Valerie Arnold-Judge – Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, Sheila Wilson – City of Mississauga Recreation & Park, Charmaine Blair – Peel Health, Dorothy Fetterly – Peel Health, Patricia Raposo – Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Regrets:

Gayle Woods – Youth Justice Services, Linda Andrews – Peel Health, Bill Stewart – Peel Regional Police, Adrian Adore – Peel Regional Police, Allison Van Wagner – Peel District School Board, Lina Lacobucci

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	Action
1. Introductions	Introductions were done around the table and the group welcomed Patricia Raposo as a new member.	
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes from February 12 th were approved.	
3. Dorothy's updates	<p>Families: The group is currently running their third set of Parenting workshops at Allen Drive Public School in Bolton.</p> <p>The group is also working on a parenting tool kit and has prepared a survey for parents to complete so that they can determine the best way to move ahead. Peel Health will be doing a presentation at the Meadowvale West Credit Secondary School through the Meadowvale partnership, and the survey will be distributed to parents there to get their response.</p>	

Uprooting Youth Violence: Community forum has been postponed not cancelled. Dr. Alvin Curling and Roy McMurtry are not available due to a change in schedule.

On April 16th, a resolution will also be presented to Regional Council on behalf of the Network, to have representation on a Secretariat that will follow through on the recommendations laid out in the Roots of Youth Violence Report. This resolution will be presented to all of the cities in Peel Region. The hope is to give youth the support for a call to action that they will present at Queen's Park on May 6th.

A number of youth from different agencies are representatives on a panel that will present their concerns.

Youth Services:

The Youth Advisory group will be meeting this Thursday, April 16th and all youth who expressed an interest were invited to join. The group is youth driven and they will determine what areas or topics they want to work on.

Ursula asked what kinds of kids attend the youth advisory group and whether or not they were high functioning. Dorothy confirmed that the kids were average kids that may not be facing some of the same challenges as "at risk" youth, but they have identified that they themselves have friends who may get into trouble and they will work at encouraging them to participate.

Ursula mentioned that she is doing research on the number of expulsions from Lincoln Alexander School in Malton and asked if funding would be available for research of this type. Dorothy responded that this cannot be supported at this time.

The Youth Services working group also looking at a **community forum called "Once Voice – One Hope"** that will encourage playing together as a family. It would be held in the fall, hopefully at the Mississauga Civic Centre and then to Pladium, and they would like to

encourage other working groups to lend their support. There is the possibility of looking to make this a Community Violence Prevention Day.

Diane mentioned that the Malton Community Project has a group of 10 kids who may be interested in joining the youth advisory group.

Community Development Group & Education Group: Last meeting was cancelled. Nothing to report.

Peel Poverty Action Group: Dorothy made a presentation to this group on Thursday, April 9th.

Connect2ENDviolence:

Website launched today as part of the Peel Regional Police and Police Services Board. A way to encourage open dialogue around all areas of violence including domestic, bullying, cyber-bullying, etc.

There are links to many community agencies and programs. Community events will also be posted.

Brampton Safe City:

Official launching and open house is on May 4th. Contact is Brigitte Sayers brigitte.sayers@brampton safecity.ca (905)793-5484, Ext. 225

Drop-in from 10am – 5pm, and reception from 5:00pm – 6:30 pm

Other:

Peel Health/CDIP has officially moved.

155,000 kids in the schools. Tracking those statistics would prove to be fruitless. If kids are threatened with being suspended or expelled, they are moved to programs

	<p>The reason why looking at this is that there is very little at Lincoln Alexander</p>	
<p>4. Success by 24</p>	<p>Dorothy provided information on what is now called the Peel Children and Youth Initiative that will look at addressing the needs of youth up to the age of 24 years, and is based on the model of Success by 6.</p> <p>Ursula questioned how we know that Sx6 is successful, and Dorothy explained that a great deal of evaluation is being done with this group, including research in various communities throughout Peel.</p> <p>The question was raised as to whether or not the Peel School Boards have something set up if parents want to know the amount of expulsions in their kid's school? Is that posted anywhere and is there a way for parents to access this information? There is intense interest in Municipal government. Freedom of information shows a vast gap. A school can claim excellence and a progressive discipline system.</p> <p>Valerie explained that the alternative programs have played a vital role in ensuring that no child stays out of school if suspended or expelled. There has been no need to make this information public and the privacy of the students still has to be respected. It was agreed that posting this information will serve no purpose at this time.</p>	
<p>5. Working group status</p>	<p>There was discussion on the length of time the group has been meeting and the lack of progress. The group has faced a number of challenges which has prevented them from accomplishing some of their work plans, and based on where they are now, consideration needs to be given to the idea of merging with the Families working group.</p> <p>Ursula stated that she initially thought the purpose of the group would be to take a look at policies and advocate on behalf of youth. It was also to consider looking at legislation and prevent bad things from going through and be aware of policies that are counter-productive to</p>	<p>Dorothy to meet with chairs of Families and Education working groups to decide on merger.</p>

	<p>what police are trying to do. If possible, she would like to become a voice for youth and lobby the Provincial and Municipal governments.</p> <p>Regarding policies, it would likely be the Steering Committee's role and responsibility to advocate on the behalf of the network and the youth.</p> <p>If the group chooses to fold, Ursula will not object to the group folding. She posed the question as to whether or not people can make deputations to the Steering Committee. The chair would need to respond to that.</p> <p>Families group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The next two meetings will be held at the Community Policing Station at 499 Ray Lawson. Once the chairs have met, information will be sent out to the members.</p>	
<p>6. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Thursday June 18th, 2009 (pending) Associated Youth Services of Peel 1:30 – 3:30 pm 120 Matheson Blvd E, Ste 201 Mississauga, ON L4Z 1X1</p>	