



**Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network
Steering Committee Planning Meeting
10 Peel Centre Dr., Suite A
Chairman's Boardroom 5th Floor
Thursday October 22, 2009
8:15a.m. – 9:25 a.m.**

Members Present:

Vice-Chair, Katie Mahoney – Regional
Councillor Gael Miles – Regional
Councillor
Marolyn Morrison – Mayor, Town of
Caledon
Emil Kolb – Chair, Region of Peel
Janette Smith – Commissioner of
Health Services
Larry Zacher – Brampton Safe City
David Green – Peel District School
Board,

Shelley White – United Way of Peel
Region
Sophia Graham - Peel Public Health
Rosanna Armata – Peel Public Health
Valerie Arnold-Judge – Peel District
School Board
Larry Gagnon – Peel Regional Police
(replacing John Betts)
Janet Menard – Commissioner of
Human Services
Cathy Granger – Peel Public Health

Regrets:

Pat Saito – Regional Councillor (due to illness)
Tony DaSilva – Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Teresa Burgess-Ogilvie - Safe City Mississauga
Greg Sweeney – Caledon OPP
Charmaine Blair – Peel Public Health
Sue McFadden – Regional Councillor
Allison Van Wagner - Peel District School Board

Guests: Gurpreet Malhotra – Peel Human Services (invited by Janet Menard);
Shranna Jaggernath – Peel Public Health (standing in for Charmaine Blair)

Minute Taker: Shranna Jaggernath

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am

1. Welcome and Introductions

Katie Mahoney welcomed everyone and individuals introduced themselves.

2. Review of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed by all and there were no objections to moving item 5.2 ahead in the agenda as Shelley White had to leave early. Janet Menard added that she wanted to share a memo written to Mayor Hazel McCallion regarding the Youth Drop-in Centre losing its space in Square One.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2009

Deferred.

4. Approval of Minutes of Planning Meeting of September 28, 2009

Katie would like the minutes to reflect that Ursula Keuper-Bennett videotaped a portion of the meeting even after her request to videotape had been denied by the committee. Gael confirmed that she had spoken to Ursula after the meeting and Ursula deleted the recording. No addition to the minutes was necessary.

Minutes approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Discussion:

Shelley commented that she was inspired by Cathy Sempler's presentation of Bramalea Secondary School's success with the Urban Schools Priority Funding. She also stated that these presentations are valuable when advocating for funding as they are proof of the program's long term impact.

Emil commented that the media, more specifically talk radio, has been promoting the opposition of police involvement in schools. He suggested having the Chief of Peel Police provide counter commentary on one of these talk shows. David explained that the opposition is fuelled by the media portraying the Toronto police as aggressors and bullies. In Peel, he added, we rationalize police involvement with education and support systems for students. Shelley commented that if the group was to move forward with the commentary, it would be best to speak to the comprehensive nature of the program rather than focusing on police presence. She recommended stressing that police presence is only one component of an entire program.

Action:

Gael suggested that the Committee draft a letter to Dalton McGuinty and MPP's to outline the success indicators of the Urban Schools Priority Funding while also mentioning the gaps that exist within Peel.

Larry mentioned that the Youth Crime Report was posted on the connect2endviolence website. In the region, there was a six percent decrease in youth violence, yet there was no mention of this in the media. David recommended also using these statistics when advocating for future funding.

Action:

Invite Peel Police to do a presentation on the Youth Crime Report at our November meeting.

5.1 Review of 2010 Action Plan – Confirmation of Goals and Priorities

Gael suggested a review of the plan to see if our current funding supports these goals.

Action:

Janet Menard and Janette Smith will capture the goals that can be achieved with the existing funding and will identify the gaps at the next meeting.

Discussion:

Janet commented that the Ministry of Education omitted Peel Region when it allocated funding for the Access to Schools program. She is concerned that the Ministry does not recognize Peel as a growing community with funding needs. Shelley explained that the high risk areas in Peel are not concentrated in identifiable locations as they are in Toronto i.e. Jane and Finch. Therefore, when the analysis was done for Peel's application, its need was not recognizable.

Marolyn recommended connecting with the community leaders as they are aware of the high risk areas and should be advocating for funding and resources. Katie agreed. Shelley added that the MPs should be informed of the committee's work so they can advocate more knowledgeably. Janette suggested the possibility of involving epidemiology to map out the pockets in the region so it can be presented to the Ministry.

5.2 Overview and alignment of Roots of Youth Violence Recommendations, Making Cities Safer Report and Network Action Plan – Shelley White

Shelley presented a comparison chart of the three strategies. She pointed out that there is a significant amount of alignment between the three strategies and that fact alone can substantiate our advocacy.

6. New Business

6.1 Update on Youth Conference – Sophia Graham

The Youth Conference took place at Playdium in Mississauga. Four hundred and fifty wristbands were given out to youth and Brampton Safe City provided fifty volunteers. Buses were arranged to pick up youth from specific neighbourhoods and were also available at major transit stations including Bramalea City Centre. The event featured guest speakers and Team Flow, and food and prizes were provided. The conference cost six thousand dollars inclusive of promotion items and flyers. Prizes were provided by sponsors.

Laptops were stationed at the event for feedback from the attendees. Sophia and the working group will be assessing the feedback to establish the next steps.

Action:

Gael Miles to thank Mayor McCallion for her donation to the IMPACT group while highlighting how the donation contributed to the success of the event.

Gael suggested that for future events we should consider starting later in the day and alternating locations by hosting the event in Brampton. Gael also noted that the Councillors could provide a venue in Brampton at no cost.

6.2. Discussion arose regarding an incident at Fletcher's Meadow S.S. involving 300 youth in a fight. Larry Gagnon commented that only a small group of these youth were actually involved in the incident and that we should target the bystanders who watch when these disputes arise.

6.3 Letter from Mayor Hazel McCallion regarding Square One Youth Centre – Janet Menard

In the memo, the Mayor questioned funding a new location for the Youth Drop-In Centre since the purpose of the centre was to prevent youth from loitering around the mall. Janet commented that the decision to move the Drop-In Centre has been finalized however the new location has not been confirmed yet. However, there's a possibility that they might be moved to the Public Library.

7. Announcements and confirmation of 2010 meeting dates

Cathy recommended changing some of the meeting times to the evening to accommodate the attendance of youth.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

**Next meeting: November 12, 2009
8:15 – 9:30 am
Chairman's Boardroom, 5th Floor
10 Peel Centre Dr.
Brampton**