



YOUTH MATTERS

A subcommittee of the Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee

Meeting Minutes

(February 13th, 2014) – 9:00-10:30am

Co-Chairs: Collette Bohach (BBBS) and Natalie Karam (CSCL)

Recorder: Natalie Karam

Present: Collette Bohach, Jennifer (Practicum Student at BBBS), Brandy (Practicum Student – Youth as Gate Keepers), Raina Siou, Margaret Sigsworth, William Sheridan (Participated in Challenge Day), Karen Steegstra, Kristy Vandastarren (Participated in Challenge Day), Michelle Reilly, Jeff Gates, Kevin Craig, Salvina Sharp, Kathryn Plotnikoff, Cathy Preibisch

Absent: Melanie Voth, Steve Andrews, Julie Pariseau,

Welcome & Introductions

Updates

1. *Presentation to school board* – Youth initiated

- a. Update on how the meeting went at the school board meeting (Jan. 14th, 2014)
- b. Mt. Slesse has started up a Challenge Day Group within their school already.

2. *Update on application for Middle School Challenge Day*

- a. Kevin Craig and Helen Plummer (Rosedale Traditional Community School) are completing the application for Challenge Day.
- b. Kevin has connected with the Youth Workers at CMS and ADR to let them know about Youth Matter's.
- c. Brief explanation of how the application process works for Challenge Day.

3. *Funding and Finances*

- a. Asking the CYC about the option of opening a bank account. Karen S presented that there is a new grant – through "Viper".

ACTION: Karen Steegstra will forward more information about this grant.

4. *SEAY Update* (Sexual Exploitation Awareness of Youth) – Karen S provided update

- a. ***SOLO's*** ("Safe Online Outreach Society" Merlyn Horton) presented on 'Chat Roulette' and how to be safe online. "Tell your kids to never ever take a sexual picture of you" ...once it's online – it remains online.
- b. ***Rally at the Court House*** – well attended. Did a march around the block. In the afternoon Jassy Binder from RCMP spoke about laws of human trafficking. Trisha Baptist spoke (formerly in the sex trade) and told her story of how she got involved in the sex trade. Cyrus Centre in Abbotsford (Faith based) – Youth Shelter. They are planning to open up a Cyrus centre in Chilliwack by April. It will be opened 24 hours/day. A safe place for Youth to go to when they need assistance.

5. *CYC Consultation:*

- a. Date: April 4th, 2014
- b. There will be Guest Speakers
- c. There will be TED Talks Sessions
- d. The Youth Matter's Committee has been asked to speak at the CYC Consultation around Youth Engagement (specifically around Challenge Day). TED TALKS style → 10-12 minutes to present.



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- e. Committee agreed that being able to take a few youth that participated in Challenge Day from the schools to participate in the CYC consultation's presentation would be great (have them answer a few questions, show a brief video on Challenge Day).

6. *National Conference (May 2014)* – Karen S provided information

- a. Conference will focus on “what is family smart”? Chilliwack is starting to have that conversation about “What is Family Smart”.

Discussion Topics

1. *Meeting times & location- Accommodate youth engagement*

- a. Youth Matters Committee members go to meet with students at the schools (at their “Be the Change” Committee’s). Opportunity to connect with the Youth, Opportunity for Youth Matters members to be connected with the Youth.
- b. After a few meetings with the youth, create a survey, pass out to the schools, have a meeting afterwards to present the survey results to the Youth (did we hear you right), and then move forward from there.
- c. High School Youth that participated in Challenge Day could be “Youth Volunteers” for the Challenge Day for Middle Schools this year.
 - o Having the High School Youth wear a t-shirt that identifies them as a Youth that has been through Challenge Day in the past

2. *Youth Matters Committee focus- Challenge Day / Other youth initiatives*

- a. Karen S suggested bringing in guest speakers to speak at the Youth Matters Committee Meetings. (Ie: Cyrus Centre, Chiefs Coalition – Antonia).
- b. Getting people at the table or community partners to speak about their services (a quick overview/re-cap of what each service offers).
- c. Youth being connected to their community...youth have the greatest chance of success when Youth are connected to their community.
 - i. How can we as a community get Youth connected to their community?
 - ii. What are the barriers for Youth?

ACTION: Look at inviting Antonia from Chiefs Coalition to join the committee.

ACTION: Cathy Preibisch will invite Brandy Miller to join the committee.

Action items

- 1. Send out thank-you cards to community supporters & funders for their time and donations for Challenge Day.

ACTION: Karen Steegstra will send out the “Thank -You” emails to the community supporters.

ACTION: Collette and Natalie will send all the contact information and Challenge Day Report to Karen.

- 2. Invite all Middle schools to attend Committee meetings this year (Focus on bringing Challenge Day to Middle Schools in November 2014)

GW Graham (confirmed)	Rosedale (confirmed)	Chwk Middle (no confirmation)
AD Rundle (no confirmation)	Vedder Middle (confirmed)	Sto:lo (confirmed)
Chance Alternate (confirmed)	Mt. Slesse Middle (confirmed)	

ACTION: Salvina Sharp will speak to CMS about Challenge Day.

ACTION: Cathy Preibisch will speak to ADR about Challenge Day.



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3. Adult/Youth Get-Together

- a. Kathryn P shared that she had discussed this possibility with the Youth at GWG and the Youth politely declined the get-together.
- b. Committee Members discussed the option of letting the adult volunteers know that if the adults wanted to write a letter to the Youth (specific or generic) they could do that.

Next Meeting (NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR THE MARCH MEETING):

March 13th, 2014 @ 9:00-10:30am

Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)

Chilliwack Senior Secondary School (46363 Yale Road)