

Lanark County Community Justice Program

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday April 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Algonquin College, Perth

MINUTES

Present: Scott Ferguson, Brian Peters, Margo Bell, Bob Chaplin, Christine Peringer, Beth Peterkin (E.D.)

Regrets: Murray Long, Betty Jo Dean, Benda Reinkeluers, Tim Campbell (United Way rep)

Guests: Andrew Lynch (Community Animator), Sheri Halladay (Program Coordinator), Rina Poulos (SSW Student)

1. In the absence of the Chair, Brian Peters (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with a quorum of 4 Directors present. Brian posted the “circle rules” as he has used in classrooms and asked each person present to share what they were looking forward to for spring.

2. Agenda was amended to include an item under the Closing Round to set a Board meeting date for June 2016. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Scott, seconded by Bob. Carried unanimously.

3. Minutes of the Board meeting of February 22, 2016 were approved with one amendment. Item 5, a presentation by Jacqui Robertson was added. Jacqui spoke about her work as a caseworker for the Lanark County Homelessness Prevention Initiative of which LCCJP is a collaborating partner. It was agreed that LCCJP will not use any of their allocated funds for staffing and will re-allocate any surplus funds under this grant to one or more of the other partners. Moved by Bob, seconded by Margo to approve the minutes as amended. Carried unanimously.

4. Restorative Moment

Christine presented her thoughts about the importance to utilize restorative methods in our Board meetings to maintain the integrity of our values. She suggested that once the Governance committee is established, it can develop some appropriate wording to govern Board meetings. *(full report is attached to these minutes)*

5. E.D. Report (as distributed)

Beth wished Rina well on her future career path and expressed appreciation for all her work over the past 8 months. In reviewing her report, Beth highlighted a meeting held today with Inspector Derek Needham and Officer Steve Brown at the OPP office. The meeting covered the following items: (1) the LCCJP referral form; (2) decreased numbers of pre-charge referrals in the past year; (3) scheduling meetings with the OPP officers at shift change to remind them of

the work that we do; (4) an overview of our school program; and (5) LCCJP to provide a report on outcomes of forums.

The other item brought to the attention of Board members was a recommendation under “Administration” that LCCJP moves to a process of EFT deposits for payroll. It was agreed to defer this recommendation until the Finance Committee had the opportunity to review and comment.

The Board appreciated the new format of the ED Report but suggested that a list of the Strategic Plan objectives be attached to the report for ease of reference. There was also a comment made that LCCJP use Twitter as well as Facebook.

6. Program Coordinator’s Report

Sheri led the Board through a summary of the workshop she attended led by David Gustafson. The Board had the opportunity to listen to the CBC presentation of Debbie’s Story - Healing After Trauma. Discussion followed.

7. Community Animator’s Report

Andrew presented a verbal overview of his progress to date and the research and data collection that he has underway. He spoke specifically about the “inclusive communities” concept. With reference to the black box of what the program will look like, he advised that it is still too soon to tell. The Board expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of his methodology in this process.

7. SSW Placement Student Report

Rina reported on a summary of the activities she has been involved with in the past 2 months of her placement. She highlighted the workshops she has attended as well learning about health and safety and the Mail Chimp e-newsletter. Rina has applied to Carleton University to study criminology in the fall.

8. Board representation on committees was deferred to a future meeting.

9. Annual General Meeting

Beth provided a verbal update. Venue at the Carleton Place Canoe Club has been booked, Leatherworks is providing the catering, Baobab Tree from Ottawa will lead the youth in a drumming circle, and the speaker is the youth diversion worker from the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club.

10. Finance Reports

Beth reviewed the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting, the Q-4 MAG Schedule C report and the Q-4 Operating Report Pre-Audit. A short discussion followed. All three reports were moved by Bob and seconded by Scott for acceptance. Carried unanimously.

11. New Business

The Terms of Reference and the Sustainability Plan were deferred to a future Board meeting when more Board members could be present. The creation of an Ad-Hoc committee to look at developing some restorative language for our Abuse Policy was also deferred.

Christine presented a verbal report for the Nominating Committee indicating that Brenda Reinkeluers and Bob Chaplin have both opted to leave the Board as of the AGM in June for personal reasons. Board recruitment is underway and follow-ups completed with potential candidates who had expressed an interest in the past.

15. Next Board Meeting Date is May 17, 2016. There is a tentative date for a Board meeting on June 21, 2016, dependent on the availability of new Board members.

16. Closing Round

Brian used his feather talking piece for the closing round and appreciation was expressed for everyone's input and the restorative nature of the meeting.

17. Adjournment – moved by Bob to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

These minutes are declared to be a true and accurate record of the Lanark County Community Justice Program Board of Directors meeting of April 19, 2016.

Signature – Brian Peters, Vice Chair

Signature – Bob Chaplin, Secretary

Restorative moment – April 19, 2016

What does “Restorative” mean?

“Restorative” means approaching things with a collaborative rather than competitive or punitive mindset.

When we don’t like something that has happened, we often find ourselves responding by asking: What rule was broken? Who is to blame? (It’s not my fault!) Right/wrong; blame; finger-pointing.

Restorative approaches invite us to look at the same situation and ask: What happened? (without judgement) Who was impacted? What is important to everyone here? How can we move forward together stronger in the future?

Better learning, better decisions, stronger community.

Experience at meetings recently –

I have felt sad leaving meetings the last few months ... sense of offensiveness/defensiveness. I have wondered about it relating to the increased pressure our program is under as it doubles in size for a few years? It’s sapping my energy. And not aligned with the message we are trying to spread in the world. This isn’t good for us doing our best work, for board retention or for integrity with our mission.

How does it apply to our meetings?”

Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools –

"... collaborative approaches for being in community. These approaches validate the experiences and needs of everyone in the communityThese approaches allow us to act and respond in ways that are healing rather than alienating or coercive."

So it is a mindset and a process.

So how does it apply to us: Let’s deliberately welcome, listen, and consider all opinions in coming to decisions. Let’s not let the clock have us cut short meaningful exchanges. If we find ourselves in us:them or judgemental thinking, let’s take a breath and listen for the value in what others have said and try to incorporate what has been said in a way to move forward.