



KFACC Membership Meeting

Thursday June 3, 2020, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Kim Irvine-Albano (Resolve), Brea Hutchinson (SACK), Carolyn Rice (KPF), Michele Arsenault (V/WAP), Theresa Metcalfe (KIH), Nilani Loganathan (Queen's), Lisa Fox (KIH), Jane Lewis (KHSC), Leigh Martins (KIH), Paula Laughlin (Victim Services), Laurie Rabbie (Ontario Works), Riffaa Carter (KAVAC), Lisa Kirkby (CFT), Terri Kennedy (KPF), Lousanne Rode (FACSFLA), Kim Graham (SACK), Deb Wood (Purple Posse), Julie Langan (JHS), Barb Lotan (Queen's), Antonia Racz (SHRC)

Regrets:

Deirdre Reddick (KAVAC), Susan Potvin (KFL&A Public Health), Kevin Raison (Resolve), Jackie Smith (HARS), Tammy Wright (Youth Diversion), Angela Watson (Kingston Home Based), Alicia Audet (Supervised Access Centre), Kathy Reid (KHSC), Mhairi Knapp (KPF), Ellen Heinke (ISKA), Kate Melendy (CFB Kingston), Kelly Rathwell (Justice), Colleen Fairholme (KMFRC), Kathy Cabral (Ontario Works), Kathy Thompson (Resolve), Alicia Dornan (FACSFLA), Nancy (ONWA), Debbie Klassen (Ontario Works), Amanda Lane (EFry), William Hebert-Vendramini (QLAC), Robert (KPF), Jennie (KHSC), Cheryl Monk, Laura Jantzi (ISKA), Anya Brooker (SLC), Mabel Delaney (KAVAC), Elizabeth Stevenson (ILCK), Rebecca McLaughlin (EFry), Tracey McCallum (ODSP),

1. Welcome and Introductions: *Brea Hutchinson, SAC Kingston, Co-Chair KFACC*

2. Acknowledgement

"To begin, let us acknowledge that Kingston is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory. We are grateful to be able to be live, learn and play on these lands."

To acknowledge this traditional territory is to recognize its longer history, one predating the establishment of the earliest European colonies. It is also to acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it – people whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Approved with addition - 6.D. Discussion "Signal for Help" by the Canadian Women's Foundation in Response to COVID-19

4. Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2020

- Approved with no changes

5. Call for Conflicts of Interest / Respectful Communication

- No conflicts announced

6. New Business

6. A. Issues Early Releases Are Having On Intimate Personal Violence

- Early release on promise to appear; Quinte was full at the beginning of Covid-19 and they continue to do a lot of releases since due to the pandemic. Bail is now more involved
- Concerns - what is the new process?
 - Is it prioritised around DV?
 - Clients are being put in danger as perpetrators are being released without warning

Discussion:

Carolyn Rice (KPF)

- Jails were overcrowded and then Covid-19 happened.
- Direction from Justice was to release anyone they could, including DV cases; Police have no choice in the matter
- Only the most serious cases are going to bail when prior to Covid-19 almost all DV cases went to bail. They are starting to send more but it is still not at regular levels

Lisa Fox (KIH)

- There is a bit of a disconnect from release from KPF to the other agencies
- This leads to gaps which put women at risk
- The system we had in place is no longer really in place

Julie Langan (John Howard)

- If you have specific cases you would like to bring forward please contact me. We will investigate and work on a strategy
- We can increase case management

Michele Arsenault (VWAP)

- Bail safety and interviews are still happening, KPF gives VWAP bail #'s daily and we still have a commitment to reach out to people
- There is more of a delay from OPP cases
- 45 – 60% have always been released from the station historically
- We are still doing high risk reviews via tele-conference and electronic

Lisa Fox (KIH)

- The concerns regarding Covid-19 and DV are known and seen. Victims are being isolated and the potential level of risk is of high concern
- Police are responding and laying charges and then the perpetrator is released. This is getting worse in quarantine/isolation and people are in danger

Paula Laughlin (Victim Services)

- Changes have been made in our program to increase access to services
 - VQRP+ has increased the dollar amount to help provide housing and services
- We have funds if the shelters are full; there is money for hotels, food etc.
- We are ready to roll out the mobile tracking system in the next week. 15 are available and provide a direct link to KPF

Lisa Fox (KIH)

- I will refer to Victims Services as the shelter has decreased numbers to promote social distancing
- This is important information and we should continue to have these discussions. We need the community to increase communication and this meeting has helped; we need to make a commitment to keep meeting as a community.

6. B. KFACC Social Media Allied Response to Violence in our Community (EAC)

- **KFACC Allied Response to Violence in our Community - Social Media Campaign to address IPV during COVID**

Still Here for You YGK tagline

Create a multi-faceted strategy, including online news and social media platforms, to raise awareness of services throughout our community that address domestic violence and sexual assault. The main message that we want to get across is that the agencies are open for business so that SA/DV victims know that they can still access services.

Platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whig Standard, Kingstonist etc. posting information as well as using paid/promoted ads on these online platforms

Using the major agencies in Kingston i.e. KIH, SACK, Resolve, KPF, KHSC, FACSFLA, Victims Services (if people contact these agencies they will be able to direct them to the correct service provider for their circumstances), develop a “snapshot” document that can be shared online. All of the agencies will share on their platforms as well across KFACC.

- Doctors' offices
- Contact the Whig & the Kingstonist regarding ads and potential articles
- Arrange for paid ads on social media
- Other potential areas: buses, posters downtown on boards, laundromats etc.
- **Anna to send the social media documents out to all of the Agencies**
- Anna will develop further social media documents on request from other agencies. Any agency who would like them developed should email info@kfacc.org directly.

6. C. KFACC Workgroup Budget/Timelines and Budget Usage Cut-off Date

- We need the Workgroups to send in their budget/timelines as we have only received the EAC Workgroups to date.
- Workgroups must utilize their budgets by December 1st, 2020 or the money will revert back to the main budget.

6. D. “Signal for Help” from Canadian Women’s Foundation Campaign

- The social isolation measures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic are making it more difficult for those who are at risk of abuse or violence to safely reach out for help.
- “Signal for Help” is a simple one-handed sign someone can use on a video call. It can help a person silently show they need help and want someone to check in with them in a safe way.
- <https://canadianwomen.org/signal-for-help/> link to the site for further information and what to do if someone sends you the signal outlining how to check in the person safely

Discussion

Louanne Rode (FACSFLA)

- FACSFLA is often the first contact making cold calls. If we see the signal and call the police are we taking their choice away?

Lisa Fox (KIH)

- The sign means “I’m not safe right now”
- If on Zoom ask on the chat...”do you need emergency services?” Work out a basic risk assessment and ask “what can we do?”
- If they say yes call the police as they are in danger
- If they cannot gauge, go there

Rifaa Carter (KAVAC)

- The signal is not meant as a 911 call. It is meant to say please check in on them

Nilani Loganathan (Queen’s)

- The community thinks it’s a 911 call

Barb Lotan (Queen’s)

- The TV/Internet ad is out, but how do you respond? The community at large does not know. Service providers do.

7. Budget

- The 2020/2021 budget has not been confirmed by MCCSS but we have been told that it will be the same as last year

8. Community Updates

9. Next Meeting

Thursday July 2, 2020 @ 9:00AM - 10:30AM

Via ZOOM

Open Discussion Meeting