

Community Supports for Young People - 9/20/23

Present: Jen Audley (FRCOG/CHIP), Ricia Elwell-Socci (CAYWDP), Megan Richardson (TBH), Kat Allen (FRCOG/PfY/CTC), Hannah Bertrand (TBH), Jamie Cleveland (NQCC), Aaron Hellem (GCC), Rachel Bowles (CAYWPD), Kristin Baker (Mary Lyon Foundation), Vega Johnson-Bouchard (CAYWPD), Jennifer Webster (BBBA), Nafeeza Castro (CAYWDP), Beth (MSW intern - HEROES), Holly Rueger (HEROES), Jenna Weld (PEER Ambassador, Family Center), Olivia Gilbert (PEER Ambassador, The Brick House)

Ricia opened the meeting and got us started with introductions and an invitation to share “one of your “Why’s” - why you do the work you do?” (This was a warm-up for the activity we did later on, so if you are catching up by reading these notes, think about what you might have said, and then)

Jen brought us up to date on conversations and decisions made about the direction and structure of this workgroup. The plan is for the Community Supports for Young People workgroup to be open to anyone with personal or professional connections to young people in our area. Our focus for this year (Sept 2023-Aug 2024) will be on providing space and time for local youth workers to strengthen relationships with one another and to build collective knowledge about how community-based supports can support young people’s well-being.

Ricia Elwell-Socci of Community Action and Megan Richardson of The Brick House will co-chair the group this year, with support from CHIP and/or CTC staff.

More details on CSYP’s page on the Communities That Care (CTC) website:

<https://communitiesthatcarecoalition.com/workgroups/csyp/>

How will young people themselves be involved?

Seeking input from young people and acting on it is a core value of this group, and people of all ages can be members. Whenever we see opportunities to consult with young people we will do so, but we recognize that young people may not share our interests. Whenever young people choose to tell us about their experiences, needs, and concerns, we will strive to listen well and to be guided by what we learn. This year we also plan to have some young people play a defined representative role in the group.

Okay, what specifically will CSYP do this year?

1. We will host monthly meetings online on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:30-2:30PM. These will alternate between spotlighting specific programs and focusing on professional development and relationship building for the group.

Schedule

Sept 20– Present our plan for the group this year + do a [reflective activity that kicks it off](#)

Link to this document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BbStR3x5SrjXFk_5YMziM2PzQ9i8Ao4HbO2NwUsC_gQ/edit?usp=sharing

Oct 18 – Focus on a place/program. These meetings will be online and could be a case study or a virtual visit. (In Oct we will virtually visit [The Brick House Community Resource Center](#)!) We will encourage visits IRL after the virtual intro - details to come!

Nov 15 – Relationship/shared knowledge/trust-building activity

Dec 20 – Focus on a place/program.

Jan 17 - Relationship/shared knowledge/trust-building activity

Feb 21 - Focus on a place/program.

March 20 - Relationship/shared knowledge/trust-building activity

April 17 – Reflect on learning and accomplishments so far – start deciding what to share with the world from this year

May 15 - Focus on a place/program.

June 19 - Relationship/shared knowledge/trust-building activity

July 17 - Focus on a place/program.

Aug 21 – Review past year and adjust plan as needed for next year

2. This year we will add a “site visit” element to complement our online gatherings. We want to encourage workgroup members to visit places that provide services or supports for young people in our region. To document this and make it fun, we will develop some sort of passport/guestbook activity that will help us track our travels.
3. We will build a reflection/sharing element into each online meeting – so everyone will contribute to an end product we build together over time.
4. We'll create and host an opt-in directory of members that is viewable online and editable.
5. We are discontinuing our Slack channel since it hasn't taken off.

Longer term vision and goals:

CSYP is a Communities That Care (CTC) Coalition workgroup and CTC is updating its action plan for the next 3 years now, so there is a description of our group that is intended to give us room to grow and evolve over the next few years in that document.

So please have a look at the

[DRAFT CTC Community Action Plan 2023.pdf - Google Drive](#) to learn more about CTC, review how our group is represented, and send comments/suggestions for changes/corrections to Kat Allen - kallen@frcog.org

The official approval for this plan will be on October 27, at the coalition's fall meeting, which will be in-person, 11AM-1PM (with lunch!) in Greenfield. More details to come, but please save the date and invite others - it would be great to have you there!

Here is a link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/CommunitiesThatCareOct2023>.

Recent Moments that reminded us of our 'Whys'

Link to this document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BbStR3x5SrjXFk_5YMziM2PzQ9i8Ao4HbO2NwUsC_gQ/edit?usp=sharing

We used a Padlet to collect reflections and share about recent experiences that reminded us why we do what we do to support young people. You can check it out and add to it here!

<https://padlet.com/csypworkgroup/recent-moments-that-reminded-us-bfzfna8k2yuu01lt>

Link to this document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BbStR3x5SrjXFk_5YMziM2PzQ9i8Ao4HbO2NwUsC_gQ/edit?usp=sharing