

COVID-19 Weekly CoP Calls - Agenda

May 5, 2020 / 11 AM EST

Conference Call Information: Zoom Meeting - url: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87969131959> dial-in: +1 587 328 1099 ID: 879 6913 1959

Links to materials for meeting:

- **April 28 CoP Call Notes:** https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cpqyE9nCV2WCAu9lehy20a7Uo2sRtaid7FuD4OA_u7A/edit?usp=sharing

Upcoming Webinars:

- May 21, 2020, 2:00 – 4:00 pm EDT: [Sex Trafficking, Consent, and Healthy Relationships: Risks and Vulnerabilities during the Pandemic](#)
- May 5, 7:00–7:45am: [Mental Health & COVID-19 Best Practice Public Health Information Campaigns](#) (United for Global Mental Health)
- May 5, 1:00–2:00pm: [Practical considerations for buprenorphine/naloxone induction in primary care settings - precipitated withdrawal & home induction](#) (British Columbia Centre on Substance Use)
- May 7, 11:00am–12:30pm: [Combating Social Isolation for Seniors during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - US-based)
- May 7, 11:00am–12:30pm: [Helping People With Addiction Stay Connected During COVID-19](#) (National Academy of Medicine - US-based)
- May 7, 1:00–2:00pm: [Implementation of Digital Mental Health for Serious Mental Illness: Opportunities and Barriers](#) (SMI Advisor - US-based)
- May 8, 11:00am–12:00pm: [Mental Health Providers and Vicarious Trauma During National Emergencies](#) (Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network - US-based)
- May 11, 4:00–5:00pm: [Trauma-Informed, Resilience-Oriented Leadership During a Pandemic](#) (Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network - US-based)
- May 12, 7:00–7:45am: [Mental Health & COVID-19 Beyond Face to Face: Digital and Other Ways to Provide Mental Health Service Delivery and Support](#) (United for Global Mental Health)
- May 13, 12:00-1:00pm: [Sleep and COVID-19: The Importance of Sleep during a Pandemic and its Relationship to Mental Health](#) (Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network - US-based)
- May 19, 7:00–7:45am: [Mental Health & COVID-19 Particularly Vulnerable Groups: Providing for People in Institutions, the Elderly, Children and Youth](#) (United for Global Mental Health)
- May 22, 9:00am–12:00pm: [Psychiatric comorbidities and addiction during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Alberta Health Services)

This call is designed to support all frontline staff from youth serving organizations across Canada to troubleshoot ideas, discuss how you are coping, share information, and learn from one another. A safe space for practitioners to come together, identify the issues you and youth you

support are facing, seek guidance, ask questions and learn from others in the youth sector. Secondly we will share emerging information and most relevant resources that can support your work during this pandemic.

If there are topics beyond what is listed below that you would like to raise, please feel free to do so, as the purpose of the call is to support you and your teams.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
Youth Focused COVID-19 Response - We Are Better Together Survey Second Survey has now been released. Have you received it?	Did you complete the second survey? - Survey Link: https://yorkcoh.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bHGfAvyDSd3CMAAd Signed up for the Hub newsletter? - Newsletter Link: https://us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=61233be4a0bcc87d8977b631e&id=dbc0a7bb5b Did you share the second survey with your colleagues and other youth serving organizations in your community?	If you have follow up questions you want to address on the second survey, please email David (dfrench@awayhome.ca), Heidi (hwalter@awayhome.ca), or Orpah (ocundangan@awayhome.ca)
David Information sharing - What is new since our last newsletter	Housing Portfolio - Adam Vaughan putting together a housing portfolio to help you acquire those housing options - Do you have existing housing options for young people that have been adapted to meet your needs in response to COVID-19? - Includes not just existing housing options, but housing projects that you feel would benefit the recovery response to COVID-19, those are being included in the housing portfolio too - Working with partners to develop 3-pagers	Reach out to David French (dfrench@awayhome.ca) if you have housing options you want included in the Housing Portfolio, or if you have questions about what can/should be included
Barriers and Gaps that your program, agency	Engaging with youth and ensuring their safety when they aren't isolating in place/in shelters	

or community are currently facing?	• Where are people staying when they aren't in shelters? How can we support their safety? • Mandy (YSB, Ottawa): ◦ Practice has shifted towards providing youth with bagged lunches at drop-in centres ◦ Many shelters also limiting intakes • Sarah (Lethbridge Wood's Homes): ◦ Since COVID-19 hit, intakes have increased ◦ Working together with Children's Services to try and keep youth at home ◦ Drop-ins operating similarly, with providing bagged lunches at the door, etc • Cecile (Dans La Rue, Montreal): ◦ At Dans la Rue, drop-in remains open (not just for youth), lunch bags provided, between 35-65 people accessing every day which is less than usual ◦ Have hotels, etc for housing options, considering creating hotel option for youth only however this is not ideal for youth ◦ Discussion with team who works with young parents - led to plans to do meetings face to face while socially distancing ◦ It's been challenging to reach youth who had previously been on committees, etc ◦ Working with a friend who is developing a communications platform that is secure and private (similar to WhatsApp, Messenger, but without having to plug in private information to access)	
Emerging Trends	Cecile (Dans la Rue, Montreal): • The 30-60 people accessing drop-in are mostly in crisis, youth who we haven't seen will be negatively impacted due to lack of services they previously had access to (help with schooling, employment, etc), expecting new youth CERB • Youth accessing even though they may not qualify • How do we have these discussions with youth who haven't filed income tax but want to apply for CERB and could have to pay fines afterwards?	

	• Misinformation being spread about CERB as a just a means to get money • Will government go after income assistance if youth wind up receiving CERB who shouldn't have? • Tied into increase in substance abuse - need to be prepared for this too	
Recovery & Afterwards With great challenges comes opportunities	How has your organization started to think about this? Thinking ahead of the need Being ready for our youth – What does this look like What do you believe youth in your community will need afterwards? What do you want to see happen after COVID-19? Any supports that AWH can support with to start having this conversation? Are there pieces that your organization has implemented that you want to continue? Prioritizing youth in crisis response plans: • Tanya (Sunrise House, Grande Prairie): ◦ A lot of planning around adult homelessness, not a lot of planning around youth homelessness ◦ Need to advocate for youth in terms of being planned for ◦ Lesson learned: Need to make sure youth homelessness is on the table and prioritized right at the beginning of planning pandemic response • Lessons learned will be important here - around adaptations and innovations happening that can be carried forward to respond to crises more effectively ◦ What future collaborations need to be in place? What conversations have you had to have? What are you hearing from youth? • Tanya (Sunrise House, Grande Prairie): ◦ Giving youth access to information has been pivotal in helping them understand why responses are the way they are, how pandemic is impacting people across Canada and across the world • Jamie (Youth table, Kelowna)	

	○ Checked in with a group of youth - most youth acknowledging the need for future planning/recovery phase, as they understand COVID-19 and its impact ○ Anecdotal hearing about new youth who may experience homeless - need to be intentional in outreaching to these youth Youth mental health ● Leticia (Friends of Ruby, Toronto): ○ Continuing to think about mental health needs of youth ○ One of our previous challenges had been how to provide youth with safe and private options to access services - implemented counseling/checking in through text and chat, which will continue Strategies for engaging youth ● Caitlin (YES Shelter, Peterborough) ○ Staff decided with youth to FaceTime so they could do chores together Harm reduction response in BC ● Kathleen ○ Huge shift towards recognizing the humanity of people who use ○ Discussion with Portland Society around supporting people who can move from smoking to taking a pill to meet their needs	
How can AWH help?		Add lockdown lifting as an agenda item for next week, as people move closer towards this and are needing to plan for it
Justice for Children and Youth		

Practice Sharing - Organizations that want to share how they are engaging young people and families during this time	Recent successes Sarah (Lethbridge Wood's Homes) • Collaboration with McMan to allow youth to self-isolate out of shelter • Alberta Quarantine Act will now be changed to say youth do not have to self-isolate at shelter (can go to family residents, isolation centres, etc)	
NEXT STEPS		