

Family Engagement Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, March 27, 2023 6:00pm-7:30pm on Zoom

Vision: People with developmental disabilities live their best life.

Mission: CLGW connects people with disabilities with opportunities for them to realize their goals.

Values: Nurture Potential – Respect Uniqueness – Uphold Accountability – Pursue Excellence

Recruitment Update 363 contacts were emailed about the opportunities on the FEC, with follow-up emails sent as the application deadline was approaching Focus areas for recruitment included demographics, the type of support services being accessed, and an open-ended question to allow applicants to explain the reason for wanting to join FEC Five complete and two incomplete applications were received. The incomplete applications did not include any contact info, so those applications were removed from the selection list To keep the process fair, the five applications were redacted before being presented for review by the recruitment committee The hope was to get some representation from outside Guelph but unfortunately all applicants were from Guelph We currently have four openings for family members/caregivers on the committee. The decision was made to fill just three positions at this time, leaving one spot open in case someone from outside the area comes forward Person-Centred Workshop A person-centred workshop will be offered in the near future, with details to follow once a date has been confirmed This workshop will address person-centred support, how we do it, why staff do things the way they do, and why this approach is so important to us Roles & Responsibilities Chart Finalization of the roles and responsibilities chart has been delayed pending the arrival of our new service director. Once they are on board and settled in their role we will work with them to finalize this document

"Show Us Your Community" Project The "Show Us Your Community" project has been paused to address some conflicting, more urgent tasks. Once those tasks have been completed, focus will be directed back to this project An overview of the FEC and the role of this committee was provided for the guests on the call: o FEC provides ideas and feedback to CLGW staff o FEC is not a decision-making body, they do not deal with operational activities or issues FEC's work is currently focused on: Housing Forming a local family network Sharing expertise, resources, and best 6:30pm | FEC Updates **Strategic Plan Update** Strategic Plan Update Committee members who attended the strategic Family Network Group Report from planning project day shared that the day went very well. There was a sense of optimism, hope and **Inaugural Meeting** positivity as we face the future – the best is yet to Housing Update Discussion: Resources & other info to share come! General Discussion / Q&A There was a high level of engagement from everyone in attendance – family members, people supported, staff, and board members There was a shared commitment across the various roles and relationships within the organization. Lots of good, healthy conversations A lot of effort has been put into ensuring the strat plan is very clear Three strategic directions have been identified After the retreat, the draft plan was reviewed by the project planning steering committee and then the senior leadership team (SLT). The draft will now go to the board for approval **Family Network Group Report** The family network group committee has been busy developing the family network group It was noted that the family network group is not part of CLGW. CLGW can offer support re. communications, funding for snacks, etc., but it is a separate entity The group is looking at having in-person get togethers for family members/caregivers, people supported, and siblings. These social gatherings (with ice cream) will take place in Guelph and in the north At the get togethers, people will be invited to write down topics that are of interest to them for future presentations/discussions Workshops will be 100% on Zoom, but get togethers will be in person The goal of the family network is to share ideas,

resources, and best practices

It was noted that Waterloo Region Family Network (WRFN) is a great resource. WRFN is a huge network

		 offering all kinds of online sessions/speakers, including Zoom groups that address topics such as housing and employment. We are welcome to take advantage of their sessions The kick-off meeting for our family network group will have no formal agenda, it will just be an opportunity to connect We are looking at holding this at the end of May, when temperatures are hopefully a little warmer
		 Housing LIGHTS TO is an organization that helps people with disabilities find a home so they can live independently (https://www.lights.to/) Lights is reaching out to a lot of communities in Ontario to see if they want to replicate this model of making housing affordable LIGHTS fundraises to support person-centred independent living situations To get a better understanding of this program, a Zoom/Teams meeting with a LIGHTS rep will be arranged Radical Housing Corp is a social impact initiative in Guelph, they partner with homeowners to build basement apartments to provide affordable housing
		to people with disabilities. The apartment build is done at no cost to the homeowner, with Radical Housing Corp managing the process from beginning to end (from permits, etc., to finding tenants) - www.radicalhousing.ca - Some discussions took place about housing at CLGW. We have 155 tenants living in approximately 36 homes across Guelph and Wellington. Many have lived in the same home for years. Turnover is extremely low, we only have 2 or 3 vacancies a year. There are 140 people on the waitlist - In an effort to create more spots for people, we are looking at how we could expand housing and what that could look like - When people apply for housing they are applying to all organizations in the area, not just to CLGW
7:08pm	Thank You/Excuse Guests	 Guests were thanked for attending the meeting and then left the call so we could proceed with the next discussion
7:10pm	2023-2024 FEC Recruitment Recommendations Discussion	 The recommendation was accepted that the two potential members who joined the meeting be accepted as new FEC members The third applicant did not attend this meeting, they will be invited to attend the June meeting. If they decline to join the committee then the fourth applicant will be offered the opportunity An important reminder was shared with all new and existing FEC members: they represent the general population as members of this committee, not just their own family A follow-up with all applicants will take place

7:27pm	Meeting Evaluation	 Was today's meeting useful? Did we talk about all the things we need to talk about? Who needs to be aware of any of the discussions or decisions we made today and who is going to connect with them?
7:30pm	Adjournment	