

**Thrive Counselling
Board of Directors Meeting
December 10, 2019
Halton Regional Police-Constable Henshaw Blvd
Burlington, ON
5:30pm**

Present:

Sue Biggs – Vice Chair
Patrick Copeland
Loraine Fedurco – Minute Taker
Kate Graham
Celso Mata
Andre Rodrigues
Chondrena Vieira-Martin – Executive Director

Regrets:

Al Albano – Chair
Chris Jasiewicz

Guests:

Connie DeForest
Jocelyn Chadwick – prospective board member
Adriana Halliwell - prospective board member
Kayla Jourdan - prospective board member

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Sue welcomed the participants and called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Introductions around the table :

Connie with Thrive PAR and Caring Dads;

Jocelyn Chadwick, Adriana Halliwell, Kayla Jourdan – prospective board members invited to observe our December meeting;

Andre Rodrigues – new board member appointed November 2019.

2. Approval of Agenda/Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- change meeting date of 2nd Tuesday to Jan 14th, 2020, noted

- Declarations of Conflict of Interest : none

Kate moved and Patrick seconded; all approved

3. Approval of Minutes of November 2019

Patrick moved and Sue seconded; all approved the minutes

4. Staff presentation on PAR/Caring Dads -

A presentation was provided about both programs by Connie to our board members and guests. Discussions focused on areas such as sessions, success of programs, feedback, timelines and procedures involving the court system. The information to the board was valued and very much appreciated.

5. Business Arising

Discussion Sue, Patrick and Chondrena

- A letter of response from CRA was shared by Patrick to THRIVE's concern for the significant amount of time and effort needed to compile the requested information by the CRA despite the program's closure. Previously, the CRA requested various information and documents regarding the Credit Counselling program as they still wished to proceed with this matter given that they indicated they would likely offer training as a remedy (which would have limited benefit at this point as the program was discontinued).
- The CRA wishes to continue with the matter regardless and a board extension is granted, a minimum of another 45 days, until the end of January 2020.

6. Report from HR Committee

Discussion Chondrena

- With 4 new members interested in joining the board, a matrix review was passed around as next steps.
- Round table summary was shared by current members of their backgrounds and their years of service to the board, as well as, new members' background.

7. Board Training

Discussion Chondrena

- See ED notes (below) about opportunities being offered through CanCode for employees.
- For board members, a live webinar series is being offered by Family Services Organization (where Chondrena sits on the committee); 1.5 hours at \$150 pp each month, for 3 months, vs weekend retreat training session. Cost can be absorbed by THRIVE. Webinar option to be explored further.

8. Financial Report

Discussion Chondrena

Still in a surplus situation with not much change anticipated.

9. Fundraising

Discussion Chondrena

- Thursday January 30th, 2020 has been confirmed for a small fundraiser via Blaze Pizza in the Burlington Mall; 20% of proceeds donated to THRIVE.
- Patrons must present the app or flyer advertisement when visiting the pizzeria.
- Staff email, advertisement via the mall email , THRIVE website and posting in the office for the clients were suggested to spread the word.

10. E.D Report (reference attachment below)

Discussion Chondrena

- Big news is Ontario Health is incorporating Halton Health Care team, Joseph Brant Hospital team, and Connected Care; Chondrena continues to be signed on as a collaborator only. Funding is still the unknown.
- CanCode via Siemens Grant (Federal funding); not a money maker/should break even, raise our profile of services. Intent is to reach out to those who are not as fortunate to be part of coding camps . the grant will provide the connection, facilities, laptops, expanding to youth K-12.

11. In-Camera (6:41 pm – 6:44pm)

Minutes compiled by Loraine and sent via email to Al

6:45 pm Adjournment

- Chondrena provided calendars and pen to the members
- Patrick moved, seconded by Kate; all approved.

Next Meeting Tuesday January 14th, 2020

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ED Report – December 2019

STAFFING, HR - We are currently posting for some counselling hours externally to fill some internal changes and to utilize the recent MCCSS funding. Currently interviewing for an MBA coop placement from McMaster DeGroote to assist the ED with various projects. We are also recruiting some facilitators for the CanCode project.

MCCSS – Have revised Serious Occurrence Reporting procedures to allow more anonymity for Violence Against Women clients and to be reflective of routine operations in our sector and particularly, non-residential services.

Sexual Assault Advisory Committee – We have taken on a Master's student for project work. We will be submitting another grant proposal to the Canadian Women's Foundation to provide some support for some of our initiatives. This proposal is due January 7, 2020.

Family Service Ontario – The member services committee is planning to offer a series of Webinars on Board Governance starting this winter which will be beneficial to the Boards of family service organizations.

Credit Counselling – We have submitted a response with guidance from the Board to see if we can have a reprieve from proceeding with the CRA review of this now closed program. All of the family service organizations offering credit counselling are facing this review. The CRA is now taking the stance that financial counselling to individuals is not a charitable activity. This substantiates our decision to close the program as we were primarily engaged with individual work. The sector is very disappointed in this stance given the impact of finances on well-being and relationships.

Ontario Health Teams – Both the Burlington and Halton Health teams have been chosen to move ahead to become Ontario Health Teams. Thrive will continue to participate in the development process and assess the level of our involvement with these initiatives.

Walk-In Clinic – Things are functioning well within the clinics.

Fundraising - Blaze pizza has agreed to a fundraising date of Thursday January 30th on which customers making a purchase with their physical or digital Thrive/Blaze flyer will have 20% of their purchase donated to Thrive.

CanCode New Programming – We have met with our partners from Mindfuel who flew in from Calgary to meet with their Ontario partners. We will be training program facilitators in mid – January with a potential program start of early February. We have decided against the day camp

model as it would incur too many additional expenses. We have been very fortunate to have Siemens through the United Way donate 12 refurbished laptops to the agency which we will use for this program.