

**Niagara Poverty Reduction Network (NPRN)**  
**September 19, 2018 9:00am @ NCDSB Office Rice Rd. Welland**

**Present:** Melenie Neamtz, Sandi Day, Melanie Wessel, Lidia DiLorenzo, Brandon Agnew, Cassie Ogunniyi, Alyssa Zandivyk, Stacy Elia, Julie Gregory, Jennifer Trozzi, Vanessa Rapanaro, Aidan Johnson, Ron Walker, Sam Messier, Jennifer Sauve, Diane Corkum, Laura Ciccone, Ashley Chiarello, Natalie Chaumont, Lori Kleinsmith, Greg Shupe, Erin Walters, Anne Watters, Barb Van der Heyden, Michael Mondloch, Deb Ogilvie, Pam Swick Janjac

**Regrets:** Glen Walker, Marc Todd, Tamara Coleman-Lawrie.

	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>WELCOME, AGENDA &amp; MINUTES</b>	<p>The meeting minutes for May 25, 2018 were approved as written</p> <p>The agenda was approved as written</p>
<b>Coordinating Committee Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current bank account \$6040.26</li> <li>● Encouragement to NPRN members to engage with the work of the task groups. This is where the real work of the Network happens. All members encouraged to participate and/or if there is someone at the agency you represent who could bring a skill set/passion to a Task Group, please connect so we can make that happen.</li> <li>● Melenie reminded the members there is \$ available if the Task Groups have financial needs. Also, members can request \$ for support for training expenses. Request through Coordinating Committee then to Network Table and if money is made available, the individual participating in the training is asked to come back and present to the Network Table after in order to share the knowledge.</li> </ul> <p><b>SARN Spring Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lori Kleinsmith gave an overview of the SARN - Social Assistance Reform Network of Niagara is a network of front line agencies, organizations, Churches and individuals who together have been working to promote the welfare reforms of Judge George Thomson’s Transitions document since 1988.</li> <li>● Lori explained the SARN Spring Forum over the past number of years with a variety of topics and speakers. SARN is looking for support to plan the Spring 2019 Forum and have reached out to NPRN.</li> <li>● Lori circulated a sign-up sheet for any interested members in working on a planning committee to discuss further and work with the SARN Network. Pam will ensure names are submitted to Marc Todd and those interested will be contacted to move forward with discussion around Topic? Venue? Date?</li> </ul> <p><b>Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Endorsement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Melenie gave an overview on the request from GNCC asking for NPRN Endorsement for their Poverty Strategy. There was some discussion and a question about how services would be provided throughout the Region, but Natalie Chaumont reassured and referred to the line that indicates their intention was to have “resources be directed where they would be best utilized and most needed.”</li> <li>● Barb Van der Heyden raised a question, “what does NPRN get from GNCC for the endorsement given?” The majority of the support was toward ensuring NPRN was at the tables where work will be discussed and decisions made. Melenie Neamtz explained the work of the Not for Profit Council of the GNCC and indicated Glen Walker already sits at that table as ED of Positive Living, but had also indicated he would be representing NPRN there as well!</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melenie also encouraged the Network, stating the increased involvement would hopefully lead to more regular contact with the Chamber(s) as we have seen slowly happening over the past 6 months. Also, that this may help to build the bridge we need between NPRN and Businesses.</li> <li>• <b>The request for endorsement was passed as the majority of members present voted to endorse the GNCC as long as ensuring above requests.</b></li> </ul>
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	<p>Lori Kleinsmith discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Media and how NPRN is engaged with regular posting and follow-up. Also, encouraged individuals and agencies to become engaged in promoting the work of NPRN and access to the information through Social Media. Facebook gives an opportunity for information to be on the feed for a little longer and the opportunity to post on our personal and or agency Facebook pages as well as others sharing. With Twitter you can re-tweet. In both situations, we can encourage our contacts (personal and professional) to share, read the info and comment, and repost!</li> <li>• You can follow NPRN Social Media accounts here: <a href="#">NRPN Facebook</a>, <a href="#">NPRN Twitter</a></li> <li>• Lori encouraged members to connect whoever it may be at their agency responsible for social media.</li> <li>• <b>CHALLENGE: Lori is challenging all members of NPRN to work to have our Facebook Likes increase to 1300 by November and Twitter currently at 2956 to 3000 by November.</b></li> </ul>
<b>EVERYDAY ADVOCACY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley Chiarello presented and explained all the Elections Task Group has been working on and what and how individual members/member agencies can become engaged in the upcoming Municipal Election, and encourage clients/patients/others they work with to also become engaged.</li> <li>• She explained the “Vote in the Election” card. Hard copies were available for members to take from the meeting and will also be sent in an email as a copy attached and they can both print off and/or share via email with clients, patients, members to circulate through their network. There will also be a link to the Shared Prosperity Document prepared through NPRN as well as links to Social Media.</li> <li>• Greg Shupe encouraged discussion on how to share with clients and how to encourage engagement between the candidates and the people!</li> <li>• Ashley acknowledged agencies and others who are reaching out and making connections in neighbourhoods/wards across the various municipalities.</li> </ul>
<b>TASK GROUP UPDATES</b>	<p><b>Affordable and Accessible Childcare:</b> No Report. Next mtg. TBD</p> <p><b>Anti-Stigma and Marketing:</b> No Report. Next mtg. TBD</p> <p><b>Business Engagement:</b> Melenie reported the Task Group met recently and will focus on “low hanging fruit”. To reach out to +work with businesses/agencies who are expressing interest in more info on Living Wage. (showing openness to Living Wage) Also, will continue raising awareness around the PEPIN report and in general encouraging businesses and agencies.</p>

	<p><b>Elections:</b> Ashley update earlier in meeting through Everyday Advocacy.</p> <p><b>Health Equity:</b> Erin reported the Task Group is supporting the Heart Project. Health through Art for people with lived experience of homelessness and their experience with the health care system, specifically with mental health and the Emergency Departments. There is a proposal being submitted for a pilot project with support of the NHS.</p> <p><b>Housing:</b> No report. Next mtg. TBD. (recent increased interest from members to become involved in the Housing Task Group!)</p> <p><b>Speakers' Bureau:</b> No report. Contacts being forwarded to respond to Speakers' Bureau and Pam will be approaching through member agency contact to see if we have more "volunteers" willing to become active on behalf of the NPRN to be referred to these requests and present the work of the Network.</p> <p><b>Wages and Work:</b> Lori reported numbers have been submitted for cost of living for Living Wage update for 2018-2019. Discussion around Niagara staying with 2 cars in calculation rather than car + public transit. Work is being done and Lori encouraging a consistent methodology. November 5-9 is Living Wage Week and Lori discussed planning a breakfast for employers who are currently Living Wage Employers for recognition, media exposure and also the launch of the new living wage for Niagara at the event.</p> <p><b>Youth Strategy:</b> Status Quo. Next meeting scheduled for Tues. Sept. 25th</p>
<b>ROUNDTABLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder to all NPRN Members to engage and help clients/patients/individuals engage in the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Election.</li> <li>• Erin mentioned the follow-up currently happening following the provincial election and NPRN has reached out and arranging a meeting with Sam Oosterhoff. Giving NPRN opportunity to bring our voice to the table where decisions are being made</li> <li>• Replies from other MPPs will also be followed up</li> <li>• Some members shared information and all are encouraged to continue to bring the "lived experience" to the table whenever we are can. Pam will be approaching members to follow-up with this specifically as part of her work plan to encourage specifically involvement with NPRN and all Task Groups through NPRN. (Brandon Agnew (Region Public Health) has opportunity as does Diane Corkum (Project Share) and Pam will follow-up with both of these contacts to arrange to attend client engagement.</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<p>Next meeting is Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 9:00-11:30 a.m. @ Niagara Catholic District School Board Office. <u>Reminder:</u> Transportation assistance is available, contact <a href="mailto:info@wipeoutpoverty.ca">info@wipeoutpoverty.ca</a> for further information.</p>