



**Dufferin Parent Support Network Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes January 14, 2013**

**Present:** Paula C. (chair) Pat G. (recorder), Barbara H., Kolleen McI, Laura L., Phyllis N.,  
Guest: Jan Pettigrew (potential board member and PIC member) Stacey D- Report Update

**Regrets:**

**Stacey Dittman: Summary of Environmental Scan report**

Copies of the environmental scan were shared at today's meeting and it is also available in electronic format. Stacey outlined the methodology used for data collection (pg 4-5) and the analysis is found on p 6. Results indicate that those surveyed were satisfied with the level of information available on services but less satisfied with their *access* to services. Report included information in chart format on parent rating of how they would like to receive information on parent programs/services. Dufferin parents prefer a high touch rather than the tech touch to reach them, meaning for example, that social media as an avenue to receive information was not highly rated. Having said that, due to the small sample size- it is hard to make assumptions.

Findings indicate that parents' awareness of DPSN and other service providers is higher than the actual use of service providers. The gap between awareness and use may be something to consider.

Some discussion re the use of kiosks to reach parents who we don't normally engage as they are already being used in the community, e.g., Compass church has recently put one in. Cost could be a barrier for DPSN, the Town or DuCK may be better able to support this sort of thing than DPSN. This may be something we could tap into so could support this idea in the community. Technology may be a good way to reach the harder to reach parents.

- Talk in Clinic- point of contact for parents, could be referral source to our programs
- Parental involvement-
- Blended families need support- protecting kids from adult issues
- Multiple homes
- Grief support for children-
- Parent support needs to be seen as an advantage
- Teen support to assist with transition to adulthood
- Some high school guidance counselors didn't know what we did- this is an area for improved communication.

Service provider survey focused on the members of DuCK. Highlights- many programs offered for middle school age children but the supports are not all for the broad population. Few services consider the whole family. A more "whole family" approach might engage more parents and would allow us to address more issues in one family.

5/7 survey respondents chose increased academic performance as an intended outcome when asked about literacy outcomes. DPSN could develop relationship with MOE/UGDSB as a long term solution to issues in school aged kids. It is not just the marks-DPSN can play a role in other aspects of life that impact the academics.

Recommendations:

- 1) Annually update and review the parenting education courses and programs offered by Dufferin service providers. Could connect with Duck members prior to planning each year to see what is being offered.
- 2) Investigate use of information kiosks as a way to engage hard to reach parents. Is there a way to work with FTP on campaigns such as the current one for “dads and daughters” as a way to normalize parenting skills?
- 3) Increase awareness of front line workers of the services DPSN provides and how to access e.g., high school PHN’s
- 4) Appropriate referral from partner agency programs, e.g., Talk-in clinic
- 5) Adopt a whole family approach- child care is a barrier to use of parenting program (can we build on what is happening at Alder street youth nights? is this an opportunity to reach parents?)popular, single session would work under these circumstances.

**Action:** Paula and Barb to review and pull together final statement for funder detailing monies spent.

Waiting to hear from Chris Mudge before final changes.

Stacy will talk to DuCK.

**Action:** Will need to follow up on actions from report- Laura has already added CYC and principals to mail out lists.

Discussion as to how to best reach school staff with our program info etc.

**Action:** Pat will give names of high school PHN’s to Laura.

Youth Justice – Tanya Rooney connection

Stacey and Paula will be presenting to DuCK in near future

1) **Call to Order:** called to order at 2:00pm.

2) **Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2012:** To accept the minutes of the meeting as presented with one change: Phyllis will send thank you notes to the Community First Foundation *not* ‘community service partners’.

M: Phyllis S: Pat

3) **Strategic Planning: Spring fundraising evening;** we had hoped to have Kirstie Franklin attend briefly today to update us but she was unable to come.

**4) Coordinator Report:**

a) Ask a Parent-

- February column on resolutions- Barb will do.
- March topic to be healthy relationships- touch base with FTP facilitator who is doing workshop to see if they would like to write a column to promote the April workshop- Laura?
- April-Mother’s day- Paula will do
- May- topic on children’s mental health issues – possibly Sarah Cannon with Parents for Children with Mental Health( PCMH),
- June –have article ready early in June to have for father’s day – Kolleen will have ready for end of May so it can be in with time to spare
- Fall article – something on Santa/fairytales/ and how to handle childhood myths

b) Workshop Report for fall

c) Spring Workshop: 9 workshops tentatively booked.( 2 Positive Parenting, 2 through Kerry’s Place, Healthy relationships, parenting the spirited child, Anger, Parenting and You, How to Talk, & Unconditional parenting). Will check with Sonja re potential workshop on internet safety as this one was previously cancelled.

e) Website/Social Media- Peel has PHN posting on social media- we are not at that point yet as it takes time

**5) Reports**

a) **Treasurer-** Phyllis reported that Community First foundation has given \$5700 to DPSN upon closure of their account. . After paying Stacey, there is currently \$13000 in the account, as well; approval has been received from the United Way for \$10000 for a total of \$23000. Plus, there is \$8000 coming from the County.

The United Way lunch is Feb 11 which is the same day as our next meeting- could change meeting time to 3pm to accommodate attendance at the lunch.

b) **Fundraising-** Paula reported that things are in good stead for now. Next United Way application will be in March. We are eligible for 3 year funding for the next round.

**Action:** Barb will look into Canada Post Foundation one time initiative funding.

**8) Risk Management-** continuance question re Not for Profit: legislation will be declared this month and there will be 3 years to make changes. This can be an opportunity to make bylaws simpler. No need to actively pursue at this time but should keep on back burner for now.

#### **9) New Business**

a) **Facilitators-**Paula will follow up with DuCK and Family Education Centre re facilitator training. Report to follow at next meeting. Paula attended Triple P two day workshop attended- information collected.

b) **Social Media-** No final decisions on this at this time. Laura attended two smaller sessions –very helpful. Jan P. might be interested in doing this. She will give some thought to this and come to next meeting with ideas.

**10) Next Meeting- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> as change of date, 1-3pm (Barb and Paula will go to United Way lunch)**

**11) Adjournment: 3:05 pm**